

[Shri Banka Behary Das]

to a certain extent had helped us. But whenever the monsoon did not help us, deficit financing had been a problem to us. In this Budget speech again, the Finance Minister like an astrologer—I do not know whether he has read astrology—has said that in the coming year there will be a good monsoon and that monsoon will help him to have a stable economy in the country.

Madam Deputy Chairman, here I want also to say a few words about the taxation proposals because I am sure, after this deficit financing to the extent of Rs. 290 crores, we are going headlong towards a crisis which is already there. When the question before us is either to accept the theory of growth with inflation or growth with stability, the Finance Minister again has chosen the path of growth with inflation which has created this havoc in the country. I am not going to discuss the affairs of other countries, but all economists of the present-day have told us that some other countries, some Latin American countries, who believed in this growth based on inflation, had to suffer the same consequences that the Indian economy is suffering from to-day. That is why I want to warn the Finance Minister that this deficit financing is going to create conditions of inflation again and the slight fall in the consumer index should not be too optimistically viewed. I want to remind the Finance Minister that if we go into the wholesale prices index from October since when there is a slight tendency for falling, we will find that the index for foodgrains has fallen, but the index for raw materials has not fallen to that extent. There is a very minor fall in the case of some goods but if the Reserve Bank Bulletin

is to be relied upon, there has been a fall in the prices of manufactured goods.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN :
You may continue after lunch. The House stands adjourned till 2 P.M.

The House then adjourned for lunch at one of the clock.

The House reassembled after lunch at two of the clock, the DEPUTY CHAIRMAN in the Chair.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER A.E.- BLAZE IN THE RIVER GANGA NEAR MONGHYR IN BIHAR

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND OF SOCIAL WELFARE (SHRI K. RAGHU-RAMIAH) : Madam, I had earlier given the House information that was then available about the fire that took place in the river Ganga on 3rd March, 1968 and the contamination of the water supply at Monghyr, Bihar. Apart from the administrators and experts who have thereafter inspected the affected area, I have personally visited Patna, Monghyr and Barauni to get acquainted with the events that took place. Since it is necessary to determine beyond any doubt what actually happened, to allocate responsibility, where necessary and to devise steps to guard against such events in the future, Government have decided to order a full investigation into all these matters. This investigation will be conducted by a three-member Commission appointed under the Commission of Inquiries Act. It will be headed by a retired Judge of a High Court and will have two experts in public health engineering as members; one of these two experts will be a

person nominated by the State Government of Bihar. The terms of reference of the Commission will be generally as follows :

(a) to determine the correct facts of the contamination with oil of the river Ganga near and down stream of the Barauni Refinery during last week of February or earlier and first week of March, 1968;

(b) to determine to what extent the Barauni Refinery has been responsible for the happenings;

(c) to recommend the steps that must be taken to prevent the recurrence of such happenings in the future;

(d) to advise on whether there has been any negligence or carelessness on the part of the Refinery management and staff in the discharge of their prescribed duties;

(e) arising out of (d), to recommend the further action, if any that must be taken;

(f) to report on the loss or damage to the public caused by the pollution of the river and to recommend what, if any, restitution the Indian Oil Corporation should make in that connection to those adversely affected;

(g) generally, to report on any other matter that is relevant in the opinion of the Commission. We are requesting the Commission of Enquiry to try and complete its deliberations as expeditiously as possible.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA (WEST BENGAL): Sir, I have a submission to make with regard to the terms of reference. First of all, according to our information, it appears that 2,000 tons of aviation petrol was found below standard and it was a problem for these

authorities there in the Refinery to get rid of this thing and to remove all traces of such kind of production in the Refinery. Therefore, they decided to throw this into the Ganges in order to avoid detection that such below-standard aviation petrol had been prepared. They did it on two grounds, according to our information. Firstly they had known that the Refinery had produced such below standard aviation petrol which would bring bad name to the Refinery and people will haul it up. Another reason was that naturally there would be investigations as to how such below-standard aviation petrol could be produced there. In order to cover that up they decided as between themselves to throw it into the Ganges. This is very important, Madam, and the terms of reference do not give any indication about this thing. And also, Madam, some officer, Mr. Balwant Singh or so, was to have been transferred to some other place.

SHRI ABID ALI (Maharashtra) : On a point of order, Madam. If the hon. Member has any particular suggestion for expanding the terms of reference, he can make it. But I think to say all those things that he is saying would not be proper.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: I am suggesting that these things should be included in the terms of reference. Madam, will you kindly ask that gentleman who has not got enough in his head to understand things not to interrupt me? It is a serious matter. It is of public interest, not of party interest. If the Enquiry finds that what I am saying is wrong, then that is a different matter. The terms of reference do not indicate this thing, which is an open secret. As you know, they are producing aviation petrol also, apart from other things. Now the complicity of the Administration is

(Shri Bhupesh Gupta)

very, very important. This gentleman Mr. Balwant Singh, was also to have been transferred to some other project. But when, the Centre came to know of these things, it has been sloped for the time being. Madam Deputy Chairman, it is a serious matter and I am not at all satisfied with the terms of reference, the way they have been drawn up. Therefore in the light of what has come to our knowledge, to the knowledge of responsible people in Parliament it is not so simple as all that—my submission is that this statement should not be given effect to. The proposed terms of reference should be sent back to the Cabinet and the Prime Minister should hold consultations with all who may have some information with regard to this matter and on the basis of these discussions new terms of reference should be drawn up and a Commission should be appointed in order to find out what exactly happened. There is a good deal of corruption, manipulation and also an attempt to conceal things and also destroy certain books. They want to remove all traces that this 2,000 tons aviation petrol was produced.

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA (Chitrakoot): Madam, the Commission consists of two experts in public health, two representatives of the Bihar Government with a Chairman. It does not include anybody who is an expert on natural gas or natural oil. The leakage that incurred has nothing to do with public health; it has to do something with an expert who knows about natural gas. They have conveniently excluded him from the Commission. How can public health engineers and officers supplied by the Bihar Government go into technical details of this nature, as to how the oil leaked from the Refinery? That is No. 1.

Secondly, Madam, my suggestion again is that officers belonging to these public sector enterprises should not be allowed to make public statements or newspaper statements unless they have a clearance from the Minister himself. There was a statement immediately after the Barauni incident which appeared to be very lively and only because of that I have a suspicion in my mind that there was something wrong with the Refinery. But for that statement, probably I would have taken things as they were. That statement was made from Bombay by their senior officer who did not have any knowledge about these things.

SHRI T. RAGHURAMIAH : Madam, I am sorry Mr. Bhupesh Gupta has thought it fit to say some, unfortunately, unhappy things. I thought he would be happy with a judicial enquiry that has been ordered. Actually it was not done with any ulterior motive; it was done with the plainest motive to find out the bare truth. I had myself gone there, seen things for myself and I came to the conclusion that it was a fit case for a thorough investigation, and that is exactly what we are doing.

As for the terms of reference, it is very clear that there are two aspects of it one, how far the Barauni Refinery is responsible for the pollution. There may be various suggestions. Certainly it is open to the enquiry to go into all those things. It will be the duty of the Commission to find out who is responsible for it, in what manner it has been done and then also to pinpoint, if it comes to the conclusion that Barauni is responsible, on whom the responsibility rests. That is also covered by these terms of reference I would be very much obliged indeed to Mr. Gupta if he can tell me what is it that is to be added

to this which will cover more adequately what he has in mind. We are as anxious to find out the truth as he is perhaps much more and we are trying to do it to the best of our ability.

Regarding the other friend, who mentioned about why we are associating Public Health Engineers, actually technical experts can give evidence. The Commission could have been manned only by a Justice. That is good enough because after all, he can have any number of persons who will assist him by way of evidence. Technical evidence can be given. No evidence is shut out by anybody and because there are hundreds of aspects to it, are we to have LOO members' Public Health Engineers are added because we are particularly conscious of our responsibility to the people of Monghyr and the downstream people who are drinking that water. We have a special responsibility to them and therefore we have added them but that does not prevent at all any technical evidence being given and I would like to reiterate that we are very anxious to get at the root of the matter.

As regards the third point as to the statement made by officers, I remember to have stated, I believe in the House as well as in the other House if my recollection is right, that it is unfortunate that officers should have made a statement. They should not have made and I said that and I repeat it and I hope they will not make any longer such statements.

Srim N Jitendra Kumar (West Bengal): I am not satisfied with the terms of reference. We have seen in what way Barauni is responsible for the deterioration in public health. That does not cover this particular aspect that sub-standard aviation fuel, as Mr. Gupta was saying, was produced.

I would also tell you that an excise duty per tonne is levied. If 100 tonnes of aviation petrol were produced the Refinery was to pay an excise duty to the tune of Rs. 10 lakhs and that was not advantageous.

So in

the log book 5 per cent was.

It really entered as a figure coming into the Gangas. So they decided to throw it be aviation petrol in a dump and into the Ganges. That is they manipulated the logbook. If it is shown that it is 1 per cent, wastage instead of 5 per cent, wastage, then 2,000 tonnes of aviation petrol is flown into the Ganges. That is eradicated and no trace is left. So these terms of reference do not cover it. Again there has been report in the press that at Mathura-pur station in the Eastern Railway, in Bihar, near Barauni, there was a leakage in the pump itself and the pump runs along the banks of the Ganges. The officials rushed to the spot and somebody managed that. Before that I would tell you that a 1/2 mile stretch of the pump had been dug up for which Bechtel company is responsible the American Company. Mr. Nayak is the Secretary, whose two sons are getting educated at the expense of Bechtel Company and he is in collusion with that company. He is the Secretary of the Petroleum Ministry and is trying to cover up and hush up this entire thing. This is a collusion and this is fishy. So the terms of reference should cover the leakage at Mathura pump station and also between Haldia and Macheda in between 12 miles have been dug up and also the relationship of Mr. Nayak with the company of Bechtel. A damage of Rs. 10 lakhs has been caused and you should ask the E. X. I. to bear that loss due to the leakage.

Then the terms of reference should cover all that and I would say that non-official Members also must be

[Shri Niren Ghosh | inducted into the Committee. Not only official persons only but two or three non-officials should be there so that a comprehensive enquiry is made into these charges as well.

SHRI K. RAGHURAMAI VII: First, I am very sorry that an officer of our Ministry has been attacked by various allegations, an officer who is not present here to defend himself. If my friend knows any such facts, it is his duty to write to us with fuller details so that we can enquire into them.

As regards the terms of reference, may I ask my friends to listen to me carefully when I read out because I heard all these allegations when I went there and without admitting the truth or otherwise, because I do not know myself, it is exactly to investigate into matters like those that we have appointed this Commission and I thought the terms are wide enough to cover any allegation whatsoever and to go to the very root of the pollution of the river, whether somebody has drained up or not, whether it has leaked involuntarily or not, whether by human failure or failure of the machinery, whether any pump leaked or not—these are matters which go to the pollution of the river. It says: 'To determine the correct facts of the contamination by oil in the Ganges'. Whatever has been said for the last 15 minutes goes to this pollution of the river Ganges and nothing more. Therefore, I am quite clear in my mind that the wording of the terms of reference are wide enough to cover that and any other allegations which may be made and I repeat we are more anxious than anybody else to find out the real truth in this matter.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Das. I would like you to be very brief and ask only for clarification.

SHRI BANKA BEHARY DAS

(Orissa): I want to know from the Minister, just like other States, that Bihar Government must have the River Pollution Act and, if so, what lies under that Act the water of the Ganges which has been polluted—now the holy Ganga has been polluted by the Government also has been analysed in their laboratory? May I also ask whether that water has been analysed, in the laboratory of the Ministry also and, if so, what was the result? Was it much more than what has been provided in the River Pollution Act? May I know whether a regular analysis was being made throughout this period and, if so, what has been the result?

SHRI K. RAGHURAMAIAH: May

I say that some of these things have been taken samples have been taken by the Bihar Government Police Authorities and others. Would you like me to express an opinion on the analysis or shall we leave it to the experts?

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Shri Rajnarain :

श्री राजनारायण (उत्तर प्रदेश) :

माननीय, इसके पहले भी जब मंत्री महोदय ने मदन में वक्तव्य दिया था तो मैंने एक प्रश्न किया था कि लागवुक जो पुलिस ने जाना चाहती थी उसको क्यों नहीं ले जाने दिया गया और लागवुक में जो बहानों के कमचारी एन्टर करने थे तो भी उनको मना किया गया था, जिस अधिकारी ने मना किया था, उसके ऊपर अब तक कोई कार्यवाही हुई या नहीं। मंत्री जी ने कहा था कि वहाँ से लीटकर आने पर इसकी सूचना देंगे।

इसके अलावा, जैसा इन्होंने अभी कहा, लीकेज का प्रश्न है, प्रतिरिक्त मात्रा में जो बहानों गन्दगी जमा थी उसको छोड़ने का प्रश्न है, इसी के साथ साथ जो कमीशन एपाइन्ट हुआ

है, मंत्री जी उस कमीशन को इतना सफाईशिएंट क्यों समझते हैं कि वह कमीशन उचित निर्णय पर पहुँच पाएगा जबकि वहाँ के जो जानकार हैं नानभाषीधियलम जिन्होंने हमको खबर दी, जिनकी खबर को पाकर हम घटनास्थल पर गए उनमें से किसी को उसमें नहीं रखा गया ? मैं आपके द्वारा एक निवेदन कर दूँ, भोसारजी भी बैठे हैं, मंत्री जी भी बैठे हैं। दो-तीन घटनाएँ हमारे सामने हैं। थड़े थड़े इंजीनियर फ्रेम हो गए, लेकिन वहाँ के स्थानीय लोगों ने जो सूचना दी वह सत्य मानी गई। इंजीनियर तो दूरबीन से देखते हैं कि कहीं का निवल ऊँचा है, कहीं का नीचा है और बांध बना देते हैं, इसी तरह से उन्होंने एक बांध बना दिया, बाद में सब घर, गाँव डूब गए, हजारों लोग नचाह हो गए तब दूसरे इंजीनियर में कहा कि यह बांध बनना ही नहीं चाहिए था। जो यहाँ के बुजुर्गों ने, ५०-६० साल के लोगों ने, बताया वही मामला ठीक था। इसलिए मैं चाहूँगा कि कमीशन के स्कोप को बढ़ा दिया जाय, उसमें कुछ ऐसे लोगों को भी भर्ती किया जाय जो वहाँ के जानकार हैं और जो कुछ कानून के भी जानकार हैं और कुछ राजनीति के भी जानकार हैं। वह यह भी देखें कि इसमें कुछ राजनीतिक तत्व भी तो नहीं घाया है। यह मेरा निवेदन है आपके जरिये माननीय मंत्री जी से।

SHIM K. RAGHURAMAIAH : Madam Deputy Chairman, I have been a Member of this Parliament for fifteen years and I have always seen that both the Houses have always been most anxious for a judicial inquiry more than any other inquiry, official or non-official. And viewing this matter in that light we have decided on this judicial inquiry, and I thought that my honourable friend here, like his counterpart in Lok Sabha would have greatly liked it, and I am sure nothing in these terms of reference prevents non-officials to come and give evidence before the Commission, or associate themselves

as much as possible with the Commission's inquiry.

As regards the log book and oilier things, it is exactly in connection with these things that I went there. I have talked to the Chief Minister of Bihar, I have talked to the Chief Secretary of Bihar, I have gone to Monghyr and talked to the municipal chairman, and various other non-officials. I have seen the records for myself and have gone through the whole thing. Only thereafter I came to the conclusion that it required a probe.

SHRI BHU : PESH GUPTA : It is a 11 officials who have been made members of the Commission.

SHRI K. RAGHURAMAIAH : [met the municipal chairman of Monghyr. If my honourable friend wants to know about public men, a Member of Parliament accompanied me throughout. A lot of other non-officials there met me; nearly ten to fifteen of them met me.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: In the Commission as constituted there is no non-official, says Mr. Bhupesh Gupta.

SHRI K. RAGHURAMAIAH: When it is a judicial inquiry, it is more than enough. That itself is an assurance to this House that the inquiry will proceed along judicial lines.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : It is a judicial inquiry no doubt. Here it is the oil from the refinery contaminating the river water. Judges do not know refining. It is not a matter of law alone. Of course certainly an inquiry of this kind will be useful in probing into the matter and sifting the evidence. I am not denying it. But this requires expert knowledge, advanced scientific knowledge in the particular line. But there is no such non-official. Therefore I submit that a competent, scientific non-official man should also be included as a member of the Commission.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : That will do. It is a suggestion for action. Now Mr. Chordia.

श्री राजनारायण : जुडीशियल इंक्वायरी के माने क्या यही है कि जो जज है वही उसमें हों। माननीया, नागबुक देखने का धायदा कर के गए थे कि सरकार देखेगी कि नाग बुक में क्या गन्दी है।

उपसभापति : वह सब तो कमीशन के सामने होगा।

श्री राजनारायण : माननीया, कागज ही नहीं रहेगा तो कमीशन करेगा क्या ?

श्री विमलकुमार मझसालजी शौरङ्गिया (मध्य प्रदेश) : माननीय मंत्री महोदय ने टर्मम थाफ रेफरेंस का बताया और जो मेम्बर हैं उनका बताया। उन्होंने दो पब्लिक हेल्थ इंजीनियरिंग के सदस्यों को उसमें रखा है। उपाध्यक्षा महोदया, यह प्रश्न केवल गंगा के जल को दूषित करने तक ही सीमित नहीं है। इसमें यह बात भी आती है कि लीकेज हुआ है या वहां पर गंगा में तेल बहाया गया है। तो इन सारी बातों को आने के लिए एक टेक्निकल आदमी की अत्यन्त आवश्यकता है। क्या कारण था कि दो आदमी पब्लिक हेल्थ इंजीनियरिंग से सम्बन्ध रखने वाले रहे गए और क्यों नहीं उसमें एक इंजीनियरिंग डिपार्टमेंट वाले को रखा गया। उसमें एक इंजीनियरिंग डिपार्टमेंट वाले को रखा जाना था जिससे कि यह सास्पेक्ट भी जो जज माहव इंक्वायरी करके निष्पत्ति करने वाले हैं, उनके पास पूरा था बाय। तो वह यह कर सकते थे।

दूसरी बात यह है कि इसमें है कि पानी भाग से नहीं चिगड़े लेकिन यह तो कोई कॉन्डि-
न्यूअस प्रोसेस है नहीं कि हमेशा रिफाइनरी उसमें तेल डाला ही करेगा, पानी बिगाड़ा ही करेगा। इसमें, टर्मम थाफ रेफरेंस में, लिखा है "नेगलिजेंस" और बगीची की रिफाइनरी कहां तक रिसर्पांसिबिल है। उपसभापति

महोदया, पान दि फंस यह शीखना है कि यह सारा का सारा बगीची रिफाइनरी की गवर्नी की वजह में हुआ है, इसमें रिसर्पांसिबिलिटी बगीची रिफाइनरी की है ही, उसकी भाषा में फर्क हो सकता है। ऐसी स्थिति में, इसमें डेलिबरेट सिम्बीफ तो नहीं है, इसका उत्प्रेक्ष माना चाहिए था। तो ये दो बत्तों में जानना चाहता हूं कि इसमें इंजीनियरिंग के विशेषज्ञ क्यों नहीं रखे गये और इसमें डेलिबरेट सिम्बीफ करने वाली बात क्यों नहीं आई ?

SHRI K. RAGIURAMAIAH : As I have ;i heady mentioned, it involves so many technical points, and if we go on adding for every technical point one man, one man from the petroleum institute, one man well versed in pipe-laying and one man each for the rest of the points, there will be practically no end to adding such people to the Commission. All the same the assistance of all technical experts can be obtained by the Judge, and the only reason why we have added two public health engineering representatives is because alongside the functioning of the refinery, we are anxious that the health of tin¹ people of Monghyr and the people in the neighbourhood, the pe >ple who live down-st ream, is well protected and is not injured in any manner. That is why public health engineering becomes important. That is why we have put two public health engineering representatives.

SHRI J3HUPESH GUPTA : Along with public health engineering representatives there should be an oil expert.

SIUM K. IJAGHULAMAIAH : There are so many other technical aspects too.

(Interri.ij)tions.)

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA : Madam Deputy Chairman, since the honourable Minister is so adamant

about this thing I do not think he really means to bring out facts from this occurrence. If he is so sincere about it. Madam, what is his difficulty in conceding on this point, in having a non-official expert who knows nix ml gas? Obviously, he wants to absolve his own Ministry. Madam. The idea of not having a non-official expert is to absolve his own Ministry. That is what is in his mind. Because all the evidence would be one-sided evidence tendered by his Ministry to the Judge. either the Judge or the public health engineers will not be able to scan it or to go into it and to come to the real judgment. That is why he has all the time been avoiding this issue.

SHRI K. RAGHURAMATAH : I am so7-ry it is insinuating me since it is put that way, and it is very unfortunate. I do not want to give any room for it. I shall certainly consider this aspect.

SHRI NIREN GHOSH : Mr. Nayak should be brought to book.

(Interruptions)

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : He is not divulging many things because the management is not asking the people of that particular company to repair this thing as a *quid pro quo* for their doing something else.

SHRI P. C. MITRA (Bihar): While I agree, Madam, that, the terms of reference are all right and meet most of the points raised by Opposition Members, but I fail to understand why the honourable Minister is refusing to accept the suggestion made by my friends that an expert on petroleum and gas should be included in the Commission. If that is not possible, at least I expect him to accept this suggestion that an adviser should be there with the Commission, who has expert knowledge of petroleum and gas.

I think it is a very good suggestion that was put forward by the honourable Mr. Lokniiath Misra, (ind when he is ready to accept two public health engineers, what is the harm if he accepts the suggestion, that one person having knowledge of petroleum and gas should be on the Commission?

SHRI K. RAGHURAMAIAH : I am afraid my honourable friend perhaps has not heard what I said a few minutes ago. Unreasonably allegations have been made against the Ministry, as if we are suppressing som thins. In view of this I have said that we shall consider all these suggestions. I just now said it, but I may add. Madam Deputy Chairman, that it. is not mere I v a question of a gas expert or an expert on petroleum products; it involves so many other technical aspects too. Anyhow we shall carefully go through all the various views expressed by honourable Members.

SHRIMATI YASHODA REDDY (Andhra Pradesh) : Just for clarification I just would like to say this. It is very unfair on the part of the opposition to attribute motives in this matter when everybody is concerned about it. And if any other commission had been appointed, they would have demanded a judicial commission. And now when a judicial body has been appointed, they want an experts body. It is a political game they are playing in this. I would like to know from the honourable Minister whetier I am correct in saying this that, if it is a judicial body which has been appointed, they can certainly ask for advice or expert opinion from anybody and everybody who is an expert in the line, take the evidence of that person or whatever opinion is needed on a technical point. And the same is possible in this case too.

SHRI K. RAGHURAMAIAH : My answer is in the affirmative.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Now we pass (ni) to the next item.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : No, no, we are suggesting that a full-fledged member should be on the Commission to contribute his expert opinion or expert knowledge to the Commission. We know this, Madam, that anybody can go and give evidence. This much we all know that anybody can be called to give his evidence or can be asked to give his opinion. We need him here in order that the judicial mind over this specific matter can be properly brought to bear on the issue here. This is the demand we make. Of course we have a lot of other things to say, corruption, manipulation, favouritism. And the Americans are very much on the scene.

SHRI ABID ALI : I have a submission to make. Now that suggestion has been made, and if the honourable Minister accepts it, perhaps he may have to appoint someone from amongst the public sector officials. And then these friends will say that Government has taken their own man. That way also it will be difficult; they should remember.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : I think we have had enough discussion now. It seems that there is unanimity about the suggestion made to the Minister and the Minister has accepted that the suggestion will be considered seriously and I think we shall leave it at that. Now, Mr. Banka Bchary Das.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : For the present we leave it at that.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : That will do, Mr. Gupta.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : All right, Madam. I accept and say for the present we leave it at that.

SHRI ABID ALI : No, no. Don't leave it at that. Go on digging the *prw* and bury yourself.

THE BUDGET (GENERAL), 1968-69—continued SHRI BANKA BEHARY DAS :

Madam, I was referring to the wholesale price index and saying that it is clearly seen that except in the case of foodgrains there is no tendency for a fall in the prices of other commodities, either raw materials of industry or industrial products. There is deficit financing to the extent of Rs. 290 crores and I do not know if it will not go up still further towards the latter part of the year. So this will have a very adverse effect on the price level in the country.

Next I come to the question of taxation. I have already submitted that Finance Ministers, whenever they want resources they try to have more taxes and the incidence of those taxes is on the common man and at the same time they pamper the capitalists and the vested sections of society. In this Budget also we find the same thing. Out of the total additional taxation to the tune of Rs. 62-75 crores, about Rs. 10 crores are from direct taxes and the rest is to be through indirect taxation. Here also you will find that in the name of revival of the capital market, the tax burden on the richer sections of society is being lessened. You know what has happened to the dividend tax. The annuity deposit scheme which is a favourite scheme of the Finance Minister has also been given the go by. On the other hand you will find what has happened to the indirect taxes. I agree that certain luxury goods have been taxed. I have nothing to say against that and I welcome it. But certain other categories of commodities have also been taxed which go to raise the consumer price index. Here I would particularly refer to the postal rates. The Finance Minister in the other House said that the increase in the postal rate is not going to affect the common man. I am astounded to hear