

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: I never said. I said it is a controversial Bill, and a horrid one.

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA: He said it is an important Select Committee and that of course implies that unless the Bill is important the Select Committee cannot become important.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: No . . .

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA: I do not want to excite the Member but we have taken all these factors mentioned by him into account, I mean the suggestion regarding the time-limit and I think we will be able to finish our work by this time. So I am unable to accept the amendment suggested by the Member.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The way you have moved the amendment was not procedurally correct. Anyway I permitted it but I do not want it to become precedent for future occasions. Are you pressing it?

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Yes.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That in the motion, for the words 'the first day of the next session' the words 'the first day of the first session in 1968' be substituted."

The motion was negatived.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That this House concurs in the recommendation of the Lok Sabha that the Joint Committee of the Houses on the Bill to provide for the constitution and regulation of a Force called the Central Industrial Security Force for the better protection and security of certain industrial undertakings, be instructed to report by the first day of

the next session of the Rajya Sabha."

The motion was adopted.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: We go to the next business—Short duration discussion. Mr. Chordia.

2 P.M.

SHORT DURATION DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 176 Re. (I) PROBLEMS OF THE JUTE INDUSTRY; AND (II) COTTON PRICE POLICY FOR 1967-68

श्री विमलकुमार भट्टाचारजी
चौरङ्गिया (मध्य प्रदेश) : उप सभापति महोदया, दिनांक 10 अगस्त, 1967 ई० को राज्य सभा में जो वक्तव्य उद्योग मंत्री ने दिया उस पर मैं अपनी चर्चा प्रारम्भ करता हूँ। इसमें दो बातों पर विशेष ध्यान दिया गया है, एक तो जूट उद्योग के लिये और दूसरे कपास के उद्योग के लिये। पहले मैं जूट के उद्योग की चर्चा करूँगा।

जूट का उद्योग हमारे देश में बहुत महत्व का स्थान रखता है। लगभग 22 प्रतिशत विदेशी मुद्रा हमारे यहाँ पर इस उद्योग से आती है परन्तु हमारी कांसेम सरकार की ऐसी योजना चली कि जिसके परिणामस्वरूप हमारा जो निर्यात बढ़ना चाहिये, जिससे विदेशी मुद्रा अधिक प्राप्त होनी चाहिये उसमें हम लक्ष्य के अनुसार तो सफल हुये ही नहीं बल्कि उसमें पहले से भी उत्पादन घटा और उसी प्रतिशत में निर्यात घटा और विदेशी मुद्रा के अर्जित होने में भी बहुत कमी पड़ गई। 1951 ई० में हमारा जितना नेशनल प्रोडक्शन था उसका 6 परसेंट हम निर्यात करते थे और 1966 ई० में वह केवल 4 परसेंट रह गया, तो इस दृष्टि से हमारे यहाँ पर निर्यात की कमी होती जा रही है और उसका प्रभाव हमारे जूट उद्योग पर भी पड़ा है। संसार के निर्यात

[श्री विमलकुमार मन्नालालजी चौरड़िया]
व्यापार में हमारा हिस्सा 1950-51 में 1.5 प्रतिशत था और 1965 ई० में वह 9.9 परसेंट रह गया। इस तरह से आप देखें कि हमारी प्लानिंग कौन सी दिशा में हुई है और इसका यह परिणाम हमको देखने को मिल रहा है।

[THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) in the Chair.]

उपमहाध्यक्ष महोदय, जूट का हिसाब ही आप देखें तो मंगार में जूट की सामग्री की खपत 1950 ई० में 1.5 मिलियन टन थी और 1960 ई० में वह 2.66 मिलियन टन हो गई और इस तरह से 77 प्रतिशत उसमें वृद्धि हुई है लेकिन हमारा उत्पादन 1950-51 के मुताबिके में यदि औसत हिसाब से देखा जाय तो उस हिसाब से केवल 8 प्रतिशत बढ़ा है और गत वर्ष तो उसमें कमी होने की वजह से यह औसत और भी कम हो गया। वास्तव में होना यह चाहिये था कि जब संसार की जूट की खपत 77 प्रतिशत बढ़ी तो हमारा निर्यात व्यापार भी उसी दृष्टि में बढ़ना चाहिये था, मगर हमारी सरकार की कुछ नीति ऐसी चली कि जिसके परिणामस्वरूप हमारा निर्यात व्यापार बढ़ा नहीं, बल्कि हमने इसमें अपने प्रतिस्पर्द्धी कायम कर लिये और उसका सब से बड़ा उदाहरण पाकिस्तान है। हमारी सरकार ने ऐसा सोचा कि जूट ऐसा उद्योग है जिससे कि अधिक से अधिक आमदनी ली जानी चाहिये, सभार में हमारे सिवाय और कोई विशेष माल बेचने वाला है नहीं, तो उस दृष्टि से हमने बहुत सी एक्साइज ड्यूटीज लगा दी और ड्यूटीज लगाने का परिणाम क्या हुआ कि जिस तरह से अगर किसी इंडस्ट्री को प्रोटेक्ट करना होता है तो देश के बाहर से आने वाले माल पर हम ड्यूटी लगाते हैं उसी तरह से हमारी सरकार द्वारा जो ड्यूटी लगाई गई उसका परिणाम

यह हुआ कि पाकिस्तान ने उसी लाभ उठाया, पाकिस्तान ने लाभ उठा कर अपने यहाँ पर इंडस्ट्री का निर्माण किया और निर्माण ही नहीं किया उसको विकसित भी किया और वह आज इस स्थिति में हो गया है हमारे से बाद में चलने के बाद भी, कि हमें बाजार में नीचा देखना पड़ता है और हम पीछे हटते जा रहे हैं। जो आकड़े हमें उपलब्ध हुये हैं उनके हिसाब से देखा जाय, 1963 ई० से अभी तक का हिसाब देखा जाय, तो 1963-64 में हमारा जो निर्यात होता था वह 9 लाख 13 हजार 100 टन होता था जूट की सामग्री का और 1966-67 में वह रह गया 7 लाख 34 हजार 200 टन, तो इस तरह से तो हमने अपनी प्रगति उल्टी दिशा में की और पाकिस्तान का जहाँ व्यापार 1963-64 में 2 लाख 44 हजार 700 टन था वह 1966-67 में हो गया 3 लाख 70 हजार 600 टन का तो उसका व्यापार बढ़ा है और हमारा व्यापार घटा है। इसका कारण कौन है? हमारी सरकार। इसके कारण के लिये हम प्रकृति पर दोष नहीं लगा सकते क्योंकि जो वमी भारत वर्ष के लिये है लगभग वही कमी पाकिस्तान के लिये है और जो व्यवस्था भारतवर्ष के लिये है लगभग वही व्यवस्था पाकिस्तान के लिये भी है, फर्क इतना ही है कि वहाँ पर मोरारजी भाई या टी० टी० कृष्णनाचारी जैसे फाइनेंस मिनिस्टर नहीं है जो कि यह चाहे कि सोने का अडा देने वाली मुर्गी है तो जितने सोने के अडे एक साथ निकाले जा सकें वह निकाल लिये जाय और उसका परिणाम यह हुआ कि हमारी नीति के परिणामस्वरूप पाकिस्तान जीत गया। पाकिस्तान ने जूट की इंडस्ट्री को विकसित किया और हमारे कम्पीटिशन में खड़ा हो गया। अब यह जो आरम्भ की हुई गलती है वह अब एकदम से सुधरने वाली नहीं है इसका हमें लम्बे समय तक फल भुगतना पड़ेगा और वह हमें भुगतान पड़ रहा है। अभी हमारी सरकार ने थोड़ा सा कुछ किया है जो

बजट में प्राविजन था उसमें संशोधन किया है कि 150 रु० से 750 रु० प्रति टन की इयूटीज कम की है, उससे कुछ लाभ जरूर होगा मगर जो जूट का व्यापार करने वाले हैं उनका मत यह है कि अभी भी हम को बाहर के कम्पिटिशन में ठहरने में दिक्कत है, हमारा जो अमेरिका में व्यापार है उसको प्राप्त करने में जो भी इयूटीज अभी लगी हुई है वह घातक होगी और उसमें वह और भी कमी करना चाहते हैं। मैं चाहूंगा कि सरकार का उद्योग विभाग और फाइनेंस डिपार्टमेंट दोनों बैठ कर इस मामले में तय करें कि कौन सा ऐसा प्वाइंट है जिससे कि हमारा व्यापार भी बढ़ सकेगा और हमारी इयूटीज भी आ सकती है, केवल उद्योग विभाग अलग रह कर या फाइनेंस डिपार्टमेंट अलग रह कर चर्चा करें और आपस में बैठ कर कोई निष्कर्ष पर नहीं पहुंचे तो उसका परिणाम यह होगा कि हमारे देश का व्यापार घटेगा। इसलिए मैं सब से पहले अपने मंत्री जी से प्रार्थना करूंगा कि वह फाइनेंस वालों के साथ बैठ करके उस प्वाइंट को देखे कि किस प्वाइंट पर टैक्स लगाने में देश का व्यापार भी बढ़ेगा और फाइनेंस को भी हानि नहीं होगी और उस दिशा में वह निर्णय लें।

जहां तक प्राइस पालिसी का सवाल है हमारी सरकार कहती है कि हम सपोर्ट प्राइस देना चाहते हैं जूट का उत्पादन करने वालों को और इसी दृष्टि से जो पहले के भाव थे आसाम बाटम के कलकत्ता में 33 रु० प्रति मन के उसी के अनुसार उन्होंने कहा कि 40 रु० प्रति मन सपोर्ट प्राइस की दृष्टि से कर दिया। उपाध्यक्ष महोदय से

निवेदन करूंगा कि वास्तव में जो कीमतें चल रही हैं उनको देखा जाय तो यह जो सपोर्ट प्राइस की संज्ञा सरकार ने दी है वह अपने आप को धोखा दिया है और जो किसान वर्ग है, जो पैदा करने वाले हैं, उत्पादन करने वाले हैं, उसको धोखा दिया है। आप देखें कि 1964-65 में मैक्सिमम प्राइस 49.50 रु० प्रति मन थी और मिनिमम प्राइस 31.50 रु० प्रति मन थी, और 1965-66 में मैक्सिमम प्राइस हुई 68.50 रु० और मिनिमम प्राइस रही 40.00 रु० और 1966-67 में मैक्सिमम प्राइस रही 73.00 रु० और मिनिमम प्राइस रही 44.00 रु०। अब आप देखें कि उनका मिनिमम 44 रु० चल रहा है और हमारी सरकार मिनिमम प्राइस 40 रु० रखना चाहती है तो फिर यह सपोर्टिंग प्राइस कैसे कहलायेगी, यह तो उनकी मजबूरी का हमारी सरकार फायदा उठा कर कहना चाहती है कि उन्हें नफा पहुंचाने के लिये सपोर्ट प्राइस दे रहे हैं जो कि वास्तविकता से बहुत परे है। यह सरकार की नीति है। सरकार को यह साफ करना चाहिये कि यह सपोर्ट प्राइस नहीं है और उनको कहे कि जब लेने वाला नहीं मिले और जब जो 44 रु० प्रति मन का भाव है वह और गिर जाय तो हम तुम्हें 40 रु० प्रति मन का दे देंगे लेकिन उसे सपोर्ट प्राइस की संज्ञा दे यह कभी भी न्यायसंगत नहीं हो सकता।

उपन्यायक महोदय, इसके साथ साथ हमारे यहां जूट का आयात भी होता जा रहा है। 1963-64 में जो हमारे यहां पर आयात हुआ था वह था 1 करोड़ 85 लाख रु० का राँ जूट, इतने रु० के राँ जूट का हमने आयात किया और 1966-67 में वह हो गया 52 करोड़ 82 लाख रु०

[श्री विमलकुमार मन्नालालजी चौरङ्गिया]

का, तो यह भी हमारे लिये विदेशी मुद्रा के बाहर जाने का कारण है। इसका कारण हमारी सरकार बता मन्ती है कि हमारा मांसम खराब था लेकिन यह भी है कि इसका एरिया जो घटता गया वह इस कारण से भी कि इसमें उसका उत्पाद घट रहा है और इसका प्रमुख कारण खाली वर्षा का न होना नहीं बल्कि यह भी है कि हमारा आर्थिक नियोजन ऐसा चल रहा है कि जिसमें परिणामस्वरूप जो हमारे उत्पादन करने वाले हैं उनको उसका लाभ नहीं मिल पाता है और वह इसको और आकर्षित नहीं हो पाते।

इस वर्ष वर्षा अच्छी हुई है, इसमें कोई संदेह नहीं है मगर यह जो सपोर्ट प्राइस आपने दी है वह उनको आकर्षित करने वाली नहीं है। अब आप सपोर्ट प्राइस 40 की जगह 60 रु० भी कर दें तो भी किसान आपको जूट नहीं दे सकता, उसका समय निकल चुका है, वह तो पहले से तय करना था। तो मेरा निवेदन है कि यह जो इसको सपोर्ट प्राइस आप कहते हैं यह उनको आकर्षित करनेवाला नहीं है। तो सब से मोटी बात इस सारे जूट के व्यवसाय में जो है वह यह है कि हमारी सरकार उस नीति का पालन करे जिससे कि जूट का उत्पादन बढ़े। राँ जूट का उत्पादन बढ़ाने के लिये यह जो 40 रु० की प्राइस हमारी सरकार ने मिनिमम तय की है यह बहुत कम है और जो आप स्टेट ट्रेडिंग कारपोरेशन और जूट बफर स्टॉक एपॉसिथेशन वगैरह के माध्यम से काम करना चाहते हैं वह इतना थड़ा है कि लोगों में उत्साह नहीं पैदा होगा, इसलिये आप इसकी कीमत बढ़ायें, पहली बात। और दूसरी बात यह कि जो मिल वाले हैं वे यदि अपना रिंग फार्म कर लें और रिंग फार्म कर के ऐसी स्थिति का निर्माण कर दें कि किसानों को मजबूर हो कर जो माल 44 रु० या 50 रु० में बेचना चाहिये वह

उसके बदले 40 रु० प्रति मन में ही बेचना पड़े, ऐसी स्थिति पैदा कर दें, तो मैं प्रार्थना करूंगा कि आप मिनिमम प्राइस को 40 से बढ़ा कर कम से कम 44 कर दें जो कि असल में थी और व्यापारी लोग रिंग बना कर कुछ गड़बड़ी करने का प्रयत्न करें तो खुद मार्केट में आ कर सारा ट्रेड करें और दूसरी बात यह कि हमारे आयात को भी कम करना तभी सम्भव हो सकेगा जब कि जूट का उत्पादन करने वालों को अधिक आकर्षित कीमतें देंगे, यह पहले से तय होनी चाहिये जो कि नहीं हुई है और यह भी आयात को रोकने के लिये जरूरी है। निर्यात के लिये यह है कि हमारा जो कम्पीटीटर है वह पाकिस्तान है जिसके कारण हमको बाधा है और धीरे धीरे हमारे जो और कई मार्केट हैं उनको भी पाकिस्तान कैप्चर करता जा रहा है, केवल जूट की दृष्टि से ही नहीं काटन की दृष्टि से भी कैप्चर करना जा रहा है और उसका एकमात्र कारण है कि हमारी सरकार का ऐसा सारा आर्थिक नियोजन है कि जिसके परिणामस्वरूप हमारे यहां पर चीजें, सामग्रियां मंहंगी होती गईं, दूसरे विकसित होते गये और हम अपने यहां की इंडस्ट्री को प्रोटेक्ट करना तो दूर रहा उस पर ड्यूटी लगा कर हम ने पाकिस्तान की इंडस्ट्री को प्रोटेक्ट किया और उसे तथा मार्केट दिखाया। इस दृष्टि से मैं प्रार्थना करूंगा कि जहां तक जूट का सवाल है हमारी सरकार इस नीति का पालन करे मगर जहां तक सूती कपड़े का सवाल है, हमारे यहां 613 मिलें हैं। 613 मिलों में योजना के अन्त तक हम को 8,504 मिलियन मीटर कपड़ा उत्पादन करना था, मगर हम लक्ष्य को पूरा नहीं कर पाये और कपड़ा भी हमारे पास सर्व्स पड़ा हुआ है, उस लक्ष्य की पूर्ति ठीक कर लेत मगर वह लक्ष्य तब सिद्ध होता जब हम विदेश में सामग्री निर्यात कर सकते। अपनी गलत नीति के परिणामस्वरूप हमारा माल गोदाओं में पड़ा रहा, बाहर हमारा माल बिक नहीं

सकता, बाहर कंपीटीशन में हम खड़े नहीं हो सकते, जहां हमारा मार्केट था, सूडान और पर्शिया में वहां पाकिस्तान घुसता जा रहा है, हम पुराने जानने वाले, पुराने उद्योगपति होने के बावजूद बाहर के मार्केट में पहुंच नहीं सके। यह अत्यन्त आवश्यक है कि हमारी सरकार अपनी नीति में पुनः विचार करके परिवर्तन लाये। तो हमारी जो समस्याएं सूती कपड़ा उद्योग से संबंधित हैं, सबन पहले तो आज की दृष्टि में कपास की कमी है। कारखाने बन्द पड़े हैं, पैसे के अभाव में, पुरानी मशीनरी के कारण; कुछ इसलिये बन्द पड़े हुए हैं कि उनको कपास बराबर नहीं मिल पा रहा है। हमारी सरकार ने बड़े प्रेम के साथ घोषित किया कि हम उनको सपोर्ट प्राइस देने वाले हैं और इसमें अपेक्षा की: It is hoped that as a result a much better and larger crop will be reaped this year. यहां पर कुछ किसान भाई भी हमारे संसद् सदस्यों में बैठे हुए हैं, उनसे पूछ लीजिये, शफी साहब क्या कपास बोने का मौसम है? बढ़िया कपास ज्येष्ठ के मौसम में बोयी जाती है, पुराने पानी की कपास ज्यादा अच्छी फसल देती है। इसके बावजूद ज्येष्ठ भी निकल गया, आपाड़ भी निकल गया, सावन भी निकल गया और आप आशा लगाये हैं कि किसान कपास बोने लगेगा। या तो आपके डिपार्टमेंट वालों को खेती का ज्ञान कम है और व्यर्थ ही अने आप को भ्रम में फंसा कर आप अपेक्षा करते हैं कि हमारी घोषणा का किसान स्वागत करेगा और बेटर क्रॉप हमको मिल जायेगी। तो ऐसी कल्पनाएं करना बिल्कुल निराधार और बेवृत्तियाद है, केवल टेबल पर बैठ कर हमारे आफिसर सोचने रहेंगे कि हमने यह घोषणा कर दी इसलिये हमारा किसान ज्यादा उत्पादन करने लगेगा वह अपेक्षा पूरी होना मुश्किल है। आपको चाहिये था कि यदि आप इसको सपोर्ट प्राइस देने वाले थे तो आप ने पहले ही बैगाब के भास में या ज्येष्ठ के भास में घोषित कर देना चाहिये था और उसके बाद आप बादलों का,

मौसम का, हिमाव किताब करके कपास बोने देते। दो वर्ष हमारे यहां पानी की कमी पड़ी उसकी वजह से उत्पादन नहीं हुआ वह तो है ही लेकिन सबसे बड़ी आवश्यकता यह है कि जो आप सपोर्ट प्राइस देना चाहते हैं उसको ठीक समय पर घोषित कर दिया होता।

दूसरी बात यह है कि हमारे यहां लगभग 25 मिलें अब भी बन्द हैं। 1960 में 39 थीं, अब करीब करीब 25 मिलें बन्द हैं। जैसा कि मैंने पूर्व में बताया उनको चालू करने के लिये हमें प्रयत्न करना चाहिये। उनको चालू करने के लिये जो प्रयत्न करने थे उसमें एक सबसे बड़ी बाधा यह है कि अगर मशीनरी बदली जाय, मैकनाइजेशन किया जाय, तो लेबर यूनियन्स कहती हैं हम मजदूरों को हटा रहे हैं तो सब से बेसिक आवश्यकता हमारे देश की यह है कि हमारा आर्थिक नियोजन ऐसा किया जाय कि हमारे यहां के लोग बेकार नहीं रहें। जो दो हाथ लेकर इस संसार में पैदा हुआ है वह अपना पेट पाल सके, यह हमारी सरकार की नीति होनी चाहिये, जिससे सबको काम मिल सके। जो आलरेडी काम पर लगे हुए हैं उनको काम से छुड़ाया जा रहा है, नये लोगों को काम हम दे नहीं सकते। अगर संसार में कंपीटीशन में हमें चलना है तो मैकनाइजेशन करना ही पड़ेगा लेकिन मैकनाइजेशन करके हम अपने लोगों को बेकार नहीं छोड़ सकते। इसलिये हमको काम के दूसरे एवेन्यूज खोलने पड़ेंगे, दूसरे मार्ग प्रशस्त करने होंगे जहां लोगों को काम धंधा मिल सके। मगर हमारी आर्थिक नीति इस मामले में असफल रही, इस दृष्टि से हमें कुछ न कुछ करना चाहिये।

जो हमारे यहां कपास का आयात किया जाता है उसमें बड़ी गड़बड़ होती है। उसमें जो

[श्री विमलकुमार मन्नालालजी चौरङ्गिया]

सुपरफाइन बनाने वाले हैं उन मिलों को आयात किया हुआ माल मिल जाता है जिसको हम कन्ट्रोल्ड रेट पर देते हैं लेकिन उन पर इस बात का नियंत्रण नहीं रहता कि किस भाव पर बेचें किस भाव पर न बेचें; उसका परिणाम यह होता है कि वह आर्थिक लाभ उठाते हैं। यह जरूर है कि फाइन और सुपरफाइन कपड़ा होने से पैसे वाले उसको खरीदते हैं लेकिन मुनाफा एक सीमा पर मिले और वह अनुचित मुनाफा न कमाते रहें इस दृष्टि से सरकार को कुछ न कुछ नीति निर्धारित करनी चाहिये।

मैं प्रार्थना करूंगा कि मेरे इन मुद्दाओं के अनुसार हमारी सरकार अपनी नीति में कुछ और परिवर्तन करके हमारे देश का व्यापार अधिक से अधिक बढ़ायेगी जिससे हमारा निर्यात अधिक से अधिक हो सके और इस उद्देश्य से फाइनेन्स डिपार्टमेंट, आपका डिपार्टमेंट, उत्पादन करने वाले, मिल वाले सब मिल कर बैठ कर कोई नीति निर्धारण करेंगे तो ज्यादा अच्छा होगा बजाय इसके कि सरकारी नौकर आई० ए० एस० के आफिसर उस नीति का निर्धारण करें जो कि पूरी तरह सार्थक नहीं हो सकता है।

श्री आर० पी० खेतान (बिहार) : उपसभाध्यक्ष जी, यह जो हमारे वाणिज्य मंत्री जी ने वक्तव्य दिया है जूट की पालिसी के बारे में और काटन की प्राइसेज के बारे में, मुझे उसके विषय में यह कहना है कि यह जो हमारी जूट की इन्डस्ट्री है यह वर्षों पुरानी है, जूट की जो हमारी कृषि है वह एक जमाने से फारेन एक्सचेन्ज अर्न कर रही है और यह हमारा सबसे ज्यादा फारेन एक्सचेन्ज पैदा करने का साधन है। इसका नम्बर एक में आता है। करीब 200 करोड़ से ऊपर रपया इसके द्वारा फारेन एक्सचेन्ज के रूप में आता है। इसमें सैकिंग हेसियन कार्पेट बैकिंग

का एक्सपोर्ट होता है। हमारे यहां इस समय 6 लाख 74 हजार 642 स्पिन्डल्स है उनको लेकर हम काम कर रहे हैं, जिसका प्रोडक्शन करीब 1 लाख टन महीने का होता है जो कि सालाना 12 लाख टन आता है। उसमें से 9 लाख टन हम एक्सपोर्ट करते थे लेकिन गये साल हमने करीब साढ़े 7 लाख टन एक्सपोर्ट किया उसका कारण यह है कि डिवैल्यूएशन के उपरान्त उनके ऊपर ड्यूटी लगा दी गई जिससे कि हम लोग पाकिस्तान के कम्पटीशन में नहीं ठहर सके। पाकिस्तान आज भी अपने यहां एक्सपोर्ट्स को इम्पोर्ट इन्टाइटलमेन्ट देता है जिसमें 30 परसेंट के करीब उनको मिलता है आज भी उसे उस इन्डस्ट्री को इतना बड़ा फायदा है कि वह कम्पटीशन में और भी ज्यादा आगे हो रहा है। हमारे यहां जो सैकिंग बनता है उसका स्टॉक दिन पर दिन बढ़ रहा है। पहले हमारे यहां 40 हजार के करीब स्टॉक रहा करता था। इस साल जुलाई के अन्त में 61,000 टन का स्टॉक हो गया है, करीब 21,000 टन का जो स्टॉक ज्यादा रह गया है उसको निर्यात करने से ही हम लोग उसको कम कर सकेंगे। अगर हम निर्यात करने की योजना नहीं बनायेंगे तो दिनों-दिन पाकिस्तान हमसे यह बिजनेस लेता चला जायेगा। पहले करीब 20,000 टन एक्सपोर्ट हो रहा था, वह अभी 15,000 टन हो गया है। पहले जब जौइन्ट हिसाब था तब हमारे यहां से बहुत ज्यादा एक्सपोर्ट होता था, पर अब घट कर 15,000 टन पर सैकिंग का हो गया है। अगर हम एक्सपोर्ट को बढ़ाना चाहते हैं तो हमें चाहिये निर्यात की ड्यूटी जो 450 रु० टन की है उसे कम करना पड़ेगा और जब तक हम यह निर्यात की ड्यूटी कम नहीं करेंगे तब तक पाकिस्तान के साथ हम कम्पटीशन नहीं कर सकते हैं। हमारे यहां कार्पेट बैकिंग के ऊपर 300 रु० टन की ड्यूटी घटाई गई है। जो 300 रु० टन के हिसाब से घटाया गया है उस कार्पेट बैकिंग में, जो उसमें करीब 1,000 रु० से 1,200 रु० टन

[श्री आर० पी० खैतान]

का मुनाफा है। तो इस समय हमें यह चाहिये कि अगर हमें निर्यात से ड्यूटी लेनी है तो वह 300 रु० टन की ड्यूटी घटाई गई है उसे फिर से लगा देना चाहिये और मेकिंग में घटा देना चाहिये। अगर हम सैकिंग की ड्यूटी को घटा देते हैं तभी हमारा एक्सपोर्ट बढ़ेगा और उसमें मेरे हिसाब से करीब 8 करोड़ का फारेन एक्मचेंज भी ज़ादा आ जायेगा। तो मैं मंत्री जी से आपके द्वारा निवेदन करूंगा कि वे इस मुझाव पर विचार करें। आज भी हमारे मुकाबले पाकिस्तान का प्रोडक्शन दिन पर दिन बढ़ रहा है; अंदाज़न करीब 4 लाख टन उन का प्रोडक्शन हो गया है। हम लोगों ने जो टार्गेट आगे के लिये रखा है उस पर हमें पहुंचना है और हमारा जो जूट का क्राप 85 लाख टन इस साल होने वाला है उस को हमें खपाना है और उस के लिये हमें कुछ करना है तो हमें दूरदर्शिता के साथ सचेत हो कर कार्यवाही करनी होगी जिस से कि हमारा एक्सपोर्ट ज्यादा से ज्यादा बढ़ सके।

हमें अपने प्रोडक्शन का भी डाइवरसिफिकेशन करना है क्योंकि बहुत सी चीजें सैनेटिक की आ रही हैं। इसलिये इन्डस्ट्रीज वालों को चाहिये कि वे डाइवरसिफिकेशन करें और मशीनों को भी माडर्नाइज करें। इस के लिये उन्हें जितने धन की आवश्यकता हो वह सरकार को देना चाहिये।

हमारे 1963-64 में टोटल एक्सपोर्ट 9 लाख 13 हजार टन का हुआ था और 1966-67 में 7 लाख 34 हजार का हुआ है जबकि पाकिस्तान का एक्सपोर्ट हमारे मुकाबले में बढ़ रहा है।

मिल वालों को यह कहना है जैसा कि अभी मंत्री जी ने अपने वक्तव्य में कहा कि स्टॉक जमा होने की वजह से वे हफ्ते में एक दिन बन्द करना चाहते हैं। इस सम्बन्ध में मैं यह कहना चाहता हूं कि अगर इस तरह से

मिलें बंद होंगी तो प्रोडक्शन कट हो जायेगा और कास्ट आफ प्रोडक्शन ज्यादा होगा। हमारे मंत्री जी ने इस के लिए कदम उठाये हैं और उन को बन्द करने की इजाजत नहीं दी है। वह ठीक है। दूसरा उपाय स्टॉक घटाने के लिये हमें निर्यात को बढ़ाना होगा और उस के लिये हमें ड्यूटी घटानी होगी। जो बफर स्टॉक की योजना है अगर वह हम कर ले तो मैं यह नहीं समझता हूं कि उस तरह के बफर स्टॉक करने से हमें कोई फायदा होगा। अगर हम इस तरह का बफर स्टॉक करेंगे तो फारेन वालों को मालूम हो जायेगा कि हमारे पास कितना माल जमा है और उस को लेने के लिये वे नीचे दाम देने की चेष्टा करेंगे। इसलिए मेरा निवेदन यह है कि हमें इस तरह स्टॉक जमा नहीं करना चाहिये क्योंकि इससे हमें ही नुकसान होगा। हमें तो पहले ड्यूटी को घटाना चाहिये ताकि हमारा एक्सपोर्ट ज्यादा से ज्यादा हो सके। हमारा जो लोकल कंजप्शन है उसमें गवर्नमेंट बड़ा हिस्सा लेती है। मैं यह कहना चाहता हूं कि गवर्नमेंट को इस तरह की योजना बनानी चाहिये कि जं. स्टॉक पड़ा हुआ है उस में से वह कुछ ले लेवे। तो बाजार कुछ हल्का हो जायेगा और इंडस्ट्री पर भी इतना भार नहीं रहेगा। अगर ऐसा किया गया तो इस से एक्सपोर्ट भी ज्यादा होने लगेगा।

इस समय पाट की आम्दनी का सीजन शुरू हो गया है। इस साल हम ने उस की सपोर्टिंग प्राइस 40 रु० मन रखी है। तो मैं यह निवेदन करना चाहता हूं कि हमें इस प्राइस को कायम रखना चाहिये और कोई ऐसी कार्यवाही नहीं करनी चाहिये जिस से यह प्राइस और नीची चली जाय।

कारपेट बैकिंग का साल में एक लाख टन का एक्सपोर्ट होता है और उस के ऊपर जो 300 रुपये की ड्यूटी की छूट दी गई है उसके हिसाब से 3 करोड़ रुपये का फर्क पड़ता है। हमारे मिलों को माडर्नाइज करने के लिये और हमारे पुराने स्पैन्डल जो करीब

[श्री आर० पी० खैतान]

2 लाख हैं उन्हें बदलने के लिये काफी रुपये की तथा फारेन एक्सचेंज की जरूरत होगी। अगर हम इन को माडर्नाइज करते हैं तो हमारा प्रोडक्शन काफी बढ़ जायेगा और कास्ट आफ प्रोडक्शन भी कम होगा। इस के लिये सरकार को चाहिये कि वह इस के लिए मदद करे। कम ब्याज में पैसा दे कर सरकार इन मिलों की मदद कर सकती है।

(Time bell rings)

अगर माननीय मंत्री मेरे इन सुझावों को देखेंगे और उन पर ध्यान देंगे तो इस से हमारा एक्सपोर्ट बढ़ेगा और इस समय जूट इंडस्ट्रीज में जो समस्याएँ पैदा हो गई हैं वे नहीं रहेंगी।

काटन के बारे में मुझे यह कहना है कि जो इम्पोर्ट होती है जिन की फाइन काउंडे की मिलें हैं उन को मिलता है, उन्हें ही सब दे दिया जाता है। पहले जो कपड़ा एक्सपोर्ट करते थे उन्हें ही यह काटन इम्पोर्ट करने को दे दी जाती थी मगर डिवेल्यूशन के बाद यह प्रणाली नहीं रही। परन्तु अब इंडियन काटन मिल फैडरेशन वाले 200 रु० प्रति गांठ की लैवी ले लेते हैं। और उस के ऊपर उन को करीब सात या आठ करोड़ रुपया आ जाता है। मैं समझता हूँ कि इस सात अठ करोड़ रुपये को रिसर्च के काम में लगाना चाहिये जिस से हम लोग आगे जा कर इस तरह की रूई का इम्पोर्ट कम कर सकें। अगर हम ने ऐसा किया तो फिर यहां पर रूई पैदा होने लगेगी या जो सिक मिल यहां पर पड़ी हुई है वह रुपया इन पर उपयोग किया जा सकता है।

हम ने सुना है कि जो काटन इम्पोर्ट होती है उस में 40 प्रतिशत प्राइस का नफा है। उस हिसाब से 20, 25 करोड़ रुपये का मिल वालों को मुनाफा होता है। अगर यह रुपया रिसर्च के काम पर लगा दिया जाये तो मैं समझता हूँ कि हमें इस समय जो रूई इम्पोर्ट करनी पड़ती है वह नहीं करनी पड़ेगी। इस का असर यह होगा कि दो तीन वर्षों में ही हम इस तरह की रूई अपने

यहां ही पैदा करने लग जायेंगे और हमें जितनी रूई की दरकार होती है वह हम सब अपने ही यहां उत्पन्न करने लगेंगे। मैं आपके द्वारा मंत्री जी से निवेदन करना चाहता हूँ कि वह इस विषय में सोचें जिस से हमें बाहर से रूई को इम्पोर्ट न करना पड़े।

मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से यह भी कहना चाहता हूँ कि हमारे यहां जो मिलें सिक पड़ी हुई हैं जिन के बारे में उन्होंने ने यह कहा है कि वे एक कारपोरेशन बनाने जा रहे हैं मैं उन से यह प्रार्थना करूंगा कि वे जो कारपोरेशन बना रहे हैं उन में इस तरह के आदमी रखे जाने चाहियें जो इन मिलों को अच्छी तरह से चला सकें। सरकार ने अभी जिस इंडिया यूनाइटेड मिल को अपने हाथ में लिया था उस को 3 करोड़ का घाटा हो गया है। तो मेरा निवेदन है कि जब कभी सरकार इस तरह के मिलों को अपने हाथ में लेना चाहती है तो उसे इस बात का ख्याल रखना चाहिये कि उन में ऐसे आदमी रखे जायें जो इस काम के जानकार हों ताकि इन मिलों को घाटा न उठाना पड़े। बिहार में दो मिलें बन्द पड़ी हैं और बिहार में मिलें नही के बराबर हैं इसलिये मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से यह निवेदन करना चाहता हूँ कि भविष्य में वे जो कारपोरेशन बनाने जा रहे हैं जिस में नई काटन मिलों को बनाने की योजना भी है उन में बिहार को पहले प्रिफरेंस दिया जाना चाहिये। यही मेरी आप से प्रार्थना है और मैं आशा करता हूँ कि इस कारपोरेशन द्वारा बिहार की मिलों को प्रिफरेंस दिया जायेगा।

SHRI BANKA BEHARY DAS (Orissa): Mr. Vice-Chairman, in India there are three traditional industries which are very important for the economy of this country and they are also based on agricultural production. One is jute, the next is cotton and the third is sugar. We know that all these three industries were well-developed industries even before independence, but their problems are different. And I am sorry to say that after three Plans we have

not been able to develop an economic policy on these three industries up till now. Whenever any crisis comes, then only we think about the matter and try find an *ad hoc* solution to the entire problem. So, from the start I want to submit that whatever measures have been taken concerning jute and cotton are in the nature of corrective measures only and those corrective measures are to solve the problem in a very *ad hoc* manner.

If you go into the history of the jute industry, you will find that four States in India are virtually supplying all the raw jute to this developed industry, viz., Assam, West Bengal Bihar and Orissa. If you go into the crises of production and price of raw jute, especially after independence, you will find that the variation is so great that it has not given any impetus to the agriculturist, nor has it stabilised this industry. I will just give a few examples. In 1947-48, when we got independence after partition the price of raw jute was Rs. 33.44P. for Assam Bottom and this year the Government is going to have a support price of Rs. 40. In 1950-51 the price per maund was Rs. 54.33P. In 1954-55 it came down to Rs. 26. Then in 1960-61, it went up to Rs. 50 and then it climbed down to Rs. 28 in 1962-63 and to Rs. 35 in 1966-67. Now, we are having a support price of Rs. 40. This I am stating to emphasize only that though about 15 years ago those of our agriculturists who were producing raw jute were getting Rs. 54 per maund, after 15 years we are having a support price of Rs. 40. I am not advocating whether it should be Rs. 54 or not. My entire purpose is to say that the way this jute policy has been developed in this country, it has resulted in price variations to such an extent that whereas 15 years ago the agriculturist was getting Rs. 54 and only 6 years ago he was getting Rs. 50, this year he will get Rs. 40. Not only that, there is a tendency of the manufacturers also to a certain extent to fleece these agricultu-

rists. You know this year the jute harvest is comparatively better and the support price has been fixed at Rs. 40. But the jute industrialists have entered into a conspiracy to see that even this ruling price in the market is not stabilised at Rs. 40. That is why you know that only one month back the entire jute industry decided to close their mills for extra one day in a week so that there will be more of jute in the fields and they can allow the prices to go still further down. That is why I am earnestly requesting the Minister not to go by these *ad hoc* measures only to meet a situation that comes up for that year only. Last year when the jute was less, we had to import from other countries. This year the jute is more. So there is a tendency of lowering the price even if the Government fixed it at Rs. 40. There also a wrong procedure is being followed always because you know whenever this Government fixes the prices of jute, they fix those things at Calcutta point only. The support price is not for the agriculturist. The support price is for those persons who will deliver the goods at Calcutta only. Take the case of an agriculturist in Assam. Take the case of an agriculturist who is in Orissa. He is completely at the mercy of the middlemen, and I know with this Rs. 40 as support price at Calcutta point, an agriculturist in Orissa or Assam will hardly get Rs. 25 or Rs. 26, which is much below the cost of production of jute. That is why I am here advocating that this support price absolutely has no relevance to the interest of the agriculturist. Unless we develop a price policy which will give a guaranteed price to the agriculturist at near about his door, you are not going to solve the problem.

The second problem in the jute industry has been always this. You will find that whenever the price of jute went up to Rs. 50—during the Korean war, the next year, all the agriculturists tried to shift from food-

[Shri Banka Behary Das.]

grains to jute in all those eastern regions. As a result the next year prices came down to Rs. 20 or Rs. 22, and the agriculturist was paid only Rs. 15 to Rs. 16. That has been our personal experience in Orissa.

That is why I want to say here that unless the support price is guaranteed at the door of the agriculturist, there is absolutely no meaning whatever of the buffer stock purchase or Association, or whatever you are going to do. That is why I want to know from the Minister whether he is prepared to have a long-range policy about the jute industry taking into consideration the interest of the agriculturist, the interest of the industry itself and also the interest of our foreign exchange earnings and our foreign trade. Three aspects are involved here. Unlike cotton, in jute about 60 per cent of the production is meant for export and hardly 40 per cent is meant for internal consumption. So, the question of foreign trade also is involved here. That is why I want to say here that because of this vacillation, because of these *ad hoc* measures that the Government is pursuing from year to year, the entire jute industry is facing crisis after crisis year after year. Here also I want to mention that in that very study on jute and mesta which was conducted by the Planning Commission two or three years back, they categorically stated about developing a long-range policy on jute and also about the fixation of minimum prices for jute. They said that the first consideration should be, before we calculate the remunerative price for the agriculturist, we should decide about the parity of price between raw jute and paddy. As you know, about six or seven years before there was a tendency for foodgrain growers to go over to jute because jute was most remunerative. But after this development of hybrid seeds of wheat and paddy particularly where it is more remunerative, there is a tendency for shifting back to foodgrains. So, there is a chal-

lenge from that. When you fix the prices of jute, you do not take into consideration the production and the prices of foodgrains. Because of these hybrid seeds that have been developed, your policy will not be correct.

The second consideration should be the fair price relation between raw jute and jute goods, because you know that about 60 per cent of the cost of jute goods is raw material, and the third factor should be an assured return to the agriculturist. So, unless these three factors are taken into consideration, I am sure whatever policy you may adopt on an *ad hoc* basis, you are not going to further jute industry.

In this connection also I am to say something about cotton, because the same crisis is developing in the cotton industry which is a very highly developed industry in India. Though we depend upon it for internal consumption, we see here also last year when there was less of cotton, the Government had fixed a price for cotton and they had to import cotton to run the industries. There is a chance of cotton being grown in a larger area this time because of the weather. But here also we have no planning about the cash crop of cotton because there is a challenge and the Maharashtra Government as far as I know has intimated the Government of India that because of the challenge from the foodgrains, because of the hybrid cereals, the growers have a tendency to go back to foodgrains because that is more remunerative now in certain sectors. Here also I am astonished to find that this year the Government has given a go-by to the ceiling prices and is now banking on support prices. That means whenever it suits a particular occasion they go in for support price, and on another occasion they go in for ceiling price. I want to advocate that if you want to have a long-range policy taking into consideration the interest of the industry itself, the interest of

the growers which is very vital and the interest of the market either internal or external, then you will have to go in for a policy of support price and also ceiling price. You cannot give a go-by to one and welcome the other from year to year. That support price I want to say should not be the price at the factory point or the town point. It is the same case about cotton also. I want to see that the agriculturist, on whose labour only the textile industry is to thrive, not only should get a remunerative price but to give him a remunerative price the support price should be so guaranteed that that price becomes the price for the agriculturist only and not for the trader. That is why both in the case of jute and in the case of cotton I want a support price which will be equivalent to the minimum price, but that price should not be fixed at the gate of the industry but at the door of the farmer himself.

One thing I will say and I will finish. From the statement that the Minister made both about jute and cotton you will find that they are trying to meet the situation that has arisen this year only. But it is not a question of one year. That is why I want to know from the Minister; instead of going in for *ad hoc* policies, he must have a long-range policy so that there will be sufficient cotton and jute in this country, not varying from year to year with a glut in the market this year and a scarcity in the market next year, but a steady flow of cotton and jute to the industries so that these two industries can grow.

In the end, I would only say about the customs duty policy or the excise duty policy of the Government on jute and cotton. You know, Sir, that whenever we say that our customs duty should be so fixed on jute it is not only in the interests of the industries here but in the interests of foreign trade also. And I am one with my

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friend who said about this carpet making. I know that by giving this concession in the Budget you are going to give an additional advantage of Rs. 3½ crores to the carpet makers, hardly a dozen or so, in this country. I do not understand this; when the carpet itself is getting a good market outside, is bringing much profit to the industrialists even with the present trend, why did the Finance Minister think it necessary to give more concessions to the carpet-making industry? My calculation is that they are going to get about Rs. 1,000 net profit per tonne of production though they were getting hardly Rs. 700 and Rs. 700 were enough for them. In deciding this policy, I do not know whether there was any co-ordination between Finance and Commerce. But this carpet-making aspect of the jute industry has been given more of a consideration so that they will get more of a price at the cost of the agriculturist and at the cost of the revenue of the State. Either that concession should be withdrawn from them or something should be done so that that money comes back to either the State Exchequer or the agriculturist. With these words, I am to request the hon. Minister that if you want to develop these two industries which are highly developed not because of the mercy of the Government or not because of planning but because of the continuity of these industries for pretty long period, you will have to have a long-term planning, looking to the interest of the agriculturist, his prices, acreage, production and also the internal and external markets.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI (Maharashtra): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, the policy has been announced by the Government as regards cotton, one of the two major industries of this country. It is an industry concerning a vast number of agriculturists because in this country we have got a very large acreage under cotton. But, unfortunately, the yield is the minimum. We know that agriculture is the raw material of any industrial activity.

[Shri A. G. Kulkarni.]

And unless the agriculturist gets an incentive price, industry and agriculture will never be stabilised. It is interesting to know here that from 1952 onwards, if we take the price index of cotton in 1952 as being 100, up to the last year, the price index of cotton was 130 and very recently, in 1967, it is 150. As against this, you know the enormous rise in the price index of industrial manufactured goods, and you will see the folly of connecting the prices of agricultural products to the industrial products. You will also be surprised to know that the indices of food industry and other industrial products have gone up to 300 or 400 per cent. In this connection, is it not an utter folly that up to now, for the last 25 years, the Government has not been prudent enough to decontrol cotton and give more incentive to the cotton growers? But now, Sir, at this stage, though a half-hearted measure was taken by the Commerce Ministry, I congratulate the Commerce Minister at least for taking a bold decision and giving a bold direction to the cotton policy, though I am not satisfied with the fixing of the floor prices.

You will be very much surprised to see that only recently cotton was sold known as Baramati C02 and Lakshmi at Rs. 2,100 in open market against which the ceiling price of this type of cotton is something between Rs. 1,500 and Rs. 1,600. Please see the utter unrealistic policy of the Government in fixing the cotton price. In this respect, may I tell this House that the biggest culprit seems to be the Agricultural Prices Commission as it is called. I was really very sorry to see the Report of this Agricultural Prices Commission because I honestly thought that they would be helpful to the agriculturists and the growers. The Agricultural Prices Commission fully supports this policy of decontrol but they feel that the present floor prices are far below and they need to be increased by Rs. 100 to Rs. 150 per candy. You will please see that

an increase of Rs. 100 to Rs. 150 per candy as recommended by the Commission comes to about 6 to 8 per cent. Since the last three or four or five years, all the prices of the inputs, fertilisers, raw materials, agricultural labour and others have gone up to such a tremendous extent and, if this paltry amount of Rs. 100 is going to give any incentive to the grower, I do not understand any relation between cost of production and floor price.

Moreover, I am really against these so-called experts in Commission who actually do not know anything practical about agriculture but who are giving opinion on a problem which is vitally connected with millions of farmers in this country.

Another folly of this Agricultural Prices Commission is its utter incompetence in recommending to the Government on cotton agricultural prices. Their practices seems to be this. They are obsessed with one idea whether the textile industry will get the cotton at a cheaper price. They are also obsessed with another idea and that is why they have said on page 3 of the Report:—

"It may be contended that the prices fixed for the controlled varieties of cloth should provide the basis for fixing the cotton ceiling price."

They are proceeding from the wrong end. They have taken the cloth price to the consumer as a basis and are calculating back, using the multipliers as to what should be the cotton price suitable for producing that cloth. We are bound to give incentive to the cotton growers so that it may yield useful results. We have got the lowest yield in the world, 112 pounds per acre, as against 500 pounds in the USA and in Egypt. For that purpose, if the Agricultural Prices Commission is going from a wrong end, on the basis of that what will be the consumer resistance to the cloth price? And they are calculating back and they

are advising such cotton price and recommending it to the Government of India. And I utterly pity the Commerce Minister who has believed in the Agricultural Prices Commission's Report who has advised the floor prices. They say further:—

"Moreover, the determination of cotton prices on the basis of cloth prices and *vice versa* involves circular reasoning. In this connection we would suggest prethetically, that maximum cloth prices should be consumer tolerance prices rather than cost-plus prices."

Here, I am basically opposed to this. What is the final price that the consumer wants to pay? On that basis, they want to advise the Government to fix the price of cotton. Am I not correct in saying that if they had gone on cost-plus basis, on the basis of cost of production of cotton per acre and on the basis of what are the present prices of the inputs of fertilisers and the labour involved, they would have been real agricultural experts? But I think they are only quacks and not doctors, who do not know what agriculture is.

Going into another problem, this increase as recommended by them, from 6 per cent to 8 per cent, it is utterly low and I do think that unless the Government is bold enough, as they have already become bold, to decontrol cotton, it is no good; they must, in the interests of the farmer and in the healthy interests of the textile industry, give a more incentive price. I think, Sir, nothing below a 25 per cent. increase in the present floor price will satisfy any progressive agriculturist to grow cotton because, as my friend, Shri Banka Behary Das, has rightly pointed out, cotton as against food products does not make any appeal to the agriculturists. I do understand the difficulties of the consumers that they will pay for the cloth price. But here, Sir, it is a defect in the Government policy. The entire policy on the textile industry has to be reviewed because it is not the cotton grower

that has to be blamed and made a scapegoat in seeing that the consumer pays a fair price for his cloth. Here it is the textile industry which has to be blamed. I can rightly understand that the textile industry has got its problem. I am not making any sweeping remark that the textile industry is entirely to be blamed.

Sir, in the textile industry the problem seems to be that 30 per cent. of the mills are utterly outdated with regard to machinery. They must be scrapped. There is no other way; otherwise we will be purchasing a white elephant through this Textile Corporation which has been created by the Government, which they cannot maintain. Out of the balance of 70, 25 of the mills are on the border side where the management is a little bad, where the machinery is a little out of date which has to be balanced by modernising the machinery. This effort has been made in the U. K. where they have modernised the textile industry, and after modernisation, they have found, the textile industry competes in the world market Japan is doing the same thing

Sir, while I am arguing in favour of increased price for cotton, is it not a fact that Japan purchases cotton from India, that England takes cotton from both Egypt and India and produces and sells cloth in the international market? Naturally, for our shortcomings, the blame will be with our textile industry. I should like to say that more fiscal concession, more liberal credit for modernisation must be afforded to the textile industry so that it is able to stand on its own legs. They should get incentive to modernise.

Sir, about the new policy of the textile industry there will be ample opportunity to speak. But let me mention here that in the textile industry there is another element here which is mostly speculative and that is why, Sir, this industry is not growing in its proper, healthy perspective. So many magnates, who have grown rich over-

[Shri A. G. Kulkarni.]

night on speculation and black market, have purchased controlling interest in the various branches of the textile industry in Calcutta and Bombay. That is why their mentality seems to be more and more speculative. They are not very much interested in the industry, in efficient management of the industry as such. They are naturally interested in getting their commission on selling cloth, in getting their commission on cotton purchases, in getting commission on stores purchases. In this way the industry will never grow and this country will never be benefited.

This is another point. In regard to cotton policy, it is vitally important that our exports should be encouraged. But on this matter also I will speak at a later stage because here I want to touch a little bit on jute. I am thinking of my friends who are really interested in the farmer-oriented policy about jute. With all the experience at my command, may I request them to let us have a co-operative apparatus in the economic activity in this country, where agricultural produce is connected with the industrial activity? In the Maharashtra State, as you know, a chain of co-operatives has been established with 27 co-operative spinning mills where the cotton grower is the only member. Similarly, may I request the Government that they should really and positively take interest in organising co-operative jute industries, co-operative jute mills where the jute growers' interest will be protected? I am quite sure, as you know, the sugarcane growers, the cotton growers are getting more and more benefited in co-operative processing. That is why I suggest to my friends on that side, friends who are really interested in the jute growers, that they must organise a jute growers co-operative spinning mill where all the jute growers are shareholders of this organisation. Thank you.

SHRI NIREN GHOSH: (West Bengal): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, we

expected from Shri Dinesh Singh a radical statement. But he has completely disappointed us. In fact, he has not been able to go beyond the bounds set by the jute and cotton magnates and the big chaos created in the cotton trade. I will take the two industries separately. Let me first of all take the jute industry.

There was a token strike by 240,000 jute workers some time ago about their own conditions. One of their demands was that in order to put this industry on a sound footing the entire trade in raw jute and finished jute goods should be taken over by the State; it should not be left to the tender mercies of these magnates who play ducks and drakes with foreign exchange and deposit huge amounts of foreign exchange in foreign banks. Now, what happens? Suppose the peasant gets Rs. 30 per maund. The managing agency which is controlling a number of jute mills through *benamdars* or through their own mills buys the raw jute directly through the middleman at the village level at Rs 30 per maund, and the same jute he sells to his own mill which he runs at Rs. 60-70 and raises a furore that over 50 per cent. of the cost of production is made up of the high prices of raw jute, and therefore he cannot compete in the world market. Sir, they are minting millions and millions of rupees literally through these double agencies. With one agency they control the mills and with another they control the entire trade. It is also not unknown to the hon. Minister that jute and cotton are sold to the cotton traders or jute traders. He ought to know. He is not unaware of it. Yet nothing is done, to save the jute or cotton grower. Literally nothing has been done. No statutory price has been fixed. The peasantry is demanding just Rs. 60 per maund as an economic price. Instead of the State co-operatives purchasing it, he is left to the tender mercies of the jute growers and the speculators completely. Everything is linked up with this process. Then there is the jungle law in the jute industry.

The Minister ought to know that more than 50 per cent. of the workers are casual workers. There are about 1 lakh casual workers. I am not dealing with labour conditions here. But the jute magnates are guilty of, what is called, under-invoicing and denying the exchequer a huge amount of foreign exchange. Between the American purchaser and the shipper there is agreement and a lower price is quoted. In the invoice a particular price is noted down, but actually a higher price has already been agreed to by them. Suppose for jute goods, it is noted that it is being sold 3 P.M. at Rs. 1,000 per ton, it will actually be sold at anything between Rs. 1,500 and Rs. 1,800. That is not entered. That is shared between the shippers and the producer and the whole money is deposited in the foreign banks. That is how this practice is going on. Now they are crying that there has been a fall in the export trade and all that. But actually through these underhand means, there has not been a fall in profits, although on the published balance-sheets they will show that they are incurring losses. This is the problem of the jute industry. Now it is a big absurdity not to fix statutory prices and make it obligatory for the Government to purchase at that price. That price should be fixed at not less than Rs. 60. Though the peasantry is demanding Rs. 90 in Bengal, I am not pleading for that figure. But at least some modicum of incentive should be there and the price should not be less than Rs. 60. Then the jute export trade should be taken over by the State. Otherwise, this industry could never be put on a sound footing. They will play this game with the growers and the labourers and also with the country's fortunes. Now the Government have acceded to the wishes of the Indian Jute Mills Buffer Stocks Association, which is made up of the jute magnates, nobody else is involved in that. So is the case with the Jute Goods Buffer Stocks Association. Everything has been conceded to them; everything has been left in the hands of the monopolists who are notorious

for hundreds of years for all sorts of anti-social and anti-national policies. I think a high-power committee should go into the affairs of this industry from the raw jute stage to the finished goods stage. Otherwise, we would never be able to put this industry on a sound footing. So much for the jute goods. It is deplorable that Shri Dinesh Singh has left it to the jute magnates to manage everything. Nothing, I dare say, will come out of this measure. And then, future trade has been banned for one year. Why for one year only? Why for all time future trade has not been banned? One does not know. You cry that there is a decline in exports, and at the same time you are allowing future trade and you ban it for only one year. For a number of years, all the democrats have been insisting that future trade in jute goods should be prohibited and it should be banned by law.

AN HON. MEMBER: Who says that?

SHRI NIREN GHOSH: Every party in Bengal, every trade union is making this demand. But the Government does not listen to their voices. They listen to the voices of the Indian Jute Mills Association, the British-Marwari combination.

As regards the cotton trade, he has said that he is going to give reliefs to the cotton growers and to the consumers, while, in fact, he is denying everything to the cotton growers and to the consumers. The consumers of cloth have been denied everything for the benefit of the cotton traders and the textile magnates. It is a fact. There is a sort of what is called rivalry also between some cotton textile units and the cotton traders. A major part of the cotton is already with the traders before it is grown in the fields, through mortgage and other things. It is a fact. Now they do not even fix a statutory price. While the demand is that either the State Trading Corporation or the Government should purchase the entire cotton, they have left

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it in the hands of the cotton traders who are cornering all stocks. They say that measures should be intensified to requisition stocks. But how much raw cotton stock was requisitioned? It is a paltry little amount; the figures tell us. Then there is another thing, this notorious Bell Mission. They have said that India should divert cotton acreage to foodgrains and buy cotton from America under P.L. 480. We can buy cotton from the U.A.R. It has been found that there can be a Rs. 20-crore trade annually. But nothing is done. We do not buy from the U.A.R. because there is a ban from America. It will be a profitable trade worth Rs. 20 crores, but we do not buy from the U.A.R.

Now whatever control was there, that has been lifted. The credit curb should be intensified. But as soon as cotton comes into the market, precisely at that time when the cotton trader would require money, he is going to be supplied money. Instead of putting a curb on any credit to the cotton trader, he is allowed credit precisely at the time when he would require money for speculation and cornering of stocks. There are certain big cotton textile mills which have cornered and hoarded stocks. The Birlas have done it. Others have done it. They sell cotton at fantastic prices, even at 300 per cent higher rates. So they are not interested in cotton production. At the same time, what is the position with regard to the consumers? For the consumers, the prices have not been lowered. Now for how many months, the industries have been closing for one day in a fortnight? How many fortnights have been added to that by the Government? There are certain Kanpur textile units which are demanding that they should be allowed to work a full week. But they are not being allowed to do so. At the same time, some of the cloth stocks are accumulating. It is bound to. A sort of consumer resistance is developing. So when it is necessary that this entire raw cotton trade should be taken over by the State and cotton made available to all the textile units and

when prices should be lowered for the ordinary consumer, nothing is being done. The prices have been kept fixed there and the stocks are accumulating. So you have denied any relief to those sections of the community who are vitally concerned—the growers and the consumers. Whom are you benefiting? The textile magnates and the cotton traders and the speculators. Also you obey the dictates of the Bell Mission. You go and purchase from America. Why not develop it in Punjab and other places? Long-staple cotton can be developed. We can buy from the U.A.R. on rupee payment basis. Why should we be tides to the Americans and buy it from them? It would do immense harm to the country if you do away with statutory prices and control on jute and raw cotton. It is for the S.T.C. and the Government to purchase them. All cotton traders should be thrown out of this raw cotton market completely because they are cornering and hoarding stocks. Some big mills hoard stocks and then sell at fantastic prices and thus make black money. So in order to do away with this, stringent measures should be taken and a clamp should be put on credits to the traders. You must also lower the prices of cloth for the consumers. Also you can go in for trade with U.A.R. for our cotton requirements. It is a friendly country, but you are not going in for trade with them under a dictate from another country and because of P.L. 480 and all that. And you are decontrolling. So I think your statement is a sort of an eye-wash. It is an eye-wash and it is complete surrender all along the line to the speculators and to the big magnates both in the jute and in the cotton trade. Unfortunately, Shri Dinesh Singh has not come out with proper measures. We do not expect radical measures from this most radical Government; they call it radical. But at least some moderate measures should have been taken to safeguard the interests of the country, the trade, the growers and the consumers. This should have been done. This is what I want to submit.

SHRI M. M. DHARIA (Maharashtra): Mr. Vice-Chairman, at the outset even though I am not thoroughly satisfied with the policy announced by the Minister, I would like to congratulate the Minister and his colleague for breaking the vicious circle that has been existing since long. In this country I am aware that this textile industry is an age-old industry. We know that at present there are 613 units and there are 168 lakhs of spindles, nearly 2,08,000 looms in the composite mills and nearly 2 lakh power-looms and 30 lakhs of handlooms. Nearly 2 crores of acres of our lands are under the cultivation of cotton. In spite of the fact that 2 crore acres are under cotton, it is indeed a matter of great concern that this country has to import nearly 8 to 9 lakh bales per year even to-day. I feel that if proper efforts are made in this direction, if proper remunerative prices are paid to the farmers, proper inputs are made available and irrigation is made available, I have no doubt whatsoever that it is possible for this country to change the present cotton crisis. It may be possible for us to export also. I may not be believed but I will have to say here that it will be possible for this country to export nearly 40 lakh bales of cotton every year. Our average yield to-day of cotton is too low. In Pakistan per acre they get 253 pounds, in the U.S.A. they get 517 pounds, in the U.A.R. they get 576 pounds against our average of 128 pounds. If we try to double that we reach 258 pounds per year. It is possible for us to produce instead of 55 lakh bales that we have been producing nearly 110 lakh bales every year in this country. It is also possible to produce various varieties of cotton. It will not be proper to say that it is not possible for this country to produce long-staple cotton. Efforts were made by the farmers in the Ahmednagar District of Maharashtra but proper prices were not available. I know hundreds of acres of land under cotton had to be diverted for some other purpose because there was no helping hand from the Government and it is from this

point of view that I would say that while appreciating the efforts of the Minister to lift the controls, the present support prices are not remunerative prices for the farmers. The present ceiling prices should be the floor prices. When there is no ceiling, it should be the proper support price for the farmers. If these ceiling prices are treated as the support prices, I have no doubt that this policy will go a long way in this country for the production of cotton and our brave farmers, in whom I have great faith, in whose confidence I have no doubt whatsoever, will be able to produce not only that cotton which is required by this country but much more which can be exported to foreign countries. It may be said that if these prices are accepted, perhaps the prices of the cloth may go up and the consumer may suffer. I am not here to make any plea that the consumer should suffer but may I draw your attention to the huge profits of some of the composite mills? Here is a chart for the year 1965-66 and I am going to give the rise in the profits of some of the mills. For Gokak Mills Ltd. the rise in the profit was to the tune of 100 per cent. during these two years. For the Swadeshi Mills the rise was 80 per cent, for the Gold Mohur Mills it was 67 per cent., for the Bombay Dyeing and Manufacturing Co. it was 23 per cent, for the Maneklal Harilal Spinning and Manufacturing Company it was 54 per cent., for the Nutan Mills Ltd. it was 148 per cent., for the Ahmedabad New Cotton Mills Co. it was 217 per cent., for the Sarangpur Cotton Manufacturing Company it was 339 per cent. This is the huge profit amassed by these mills. If proper care is taken I have no doubt that without increasing the price of cloth whatsoever, without making the consumer the sufferer, it is possible for us to pay more remunerative price to the farmer but we are not prepared for that. Why? It is because of the present policy of the Government. Allow me to say that this present Government lacks the bias for the agriculturists. The prices are decided by whom? My friend, Mr.

[Shri M. M. Dharia.]

Kulkarni, made a reference to the Agricultural Prices Commission report. There is one Textile Commissioner who looks after the price of cotton. He is meant to protect the interests of the industry and the industrial production. He has nothing to do whatsoever with the poor farmers and this Textile Commissioner decides the floor and the ceiling prices for the farmer. I fail to understand why this job is not being done by the Commerce Ministry along with the Ministry of Agriculture. It may be stated that the Agricultural Prices Commission is there and they have submitted their report and it is on the basis of that report that they have fixed the prices. The Minister may say that perhaps our prices are much more than what has been recommended by the Commission but here again in that Commission there are no representatives of the poor agriculturists. It is again the vested interests who are also governing the Agricultural Prices Commission and naturally this Textile Commissioner too. I am here to urge to-day that if you want to protect the interests of the agriculturists, right from the agriculturists to the Agricultural Prices Commission, everywhere, the representatives of the farmers, who can dominate in that Commission, they alone, should have representation and no vested interest should be allowed to function there. Unfortunately to-day it is these vested interests that function right from the top to the bottom and that is the real difficulty. When the Minister has gone so far ahead in breaking through the vicious circle, for which I have already paid my compliments to him, may I request him that he should come forward and see that this country becomes self-sufficient by 1971? Gradually imports should be cut down. These agriculturists should be given all possible help and amenities as well as inputs and we should see that this country becomes self-sufficient in cotton. I have no doubt whatsoever that whatever is required by this country can be produced in this country but we are

not prepared for that. There is enough talent, there is enough confidence, and enough intellect but unfortunately that help from the Government is not coming forward. If the help comes from the Government, I have no doubt that this country can be self-sufficient in this respect.

If we are to compare with some of the figures, we will find that in this country, during the last 10 years we have imported cotton worth Rs. 456 crores. Our exports of cotton are not even worth one crore of rupees. Why? When two crore acres of our motherland is under cotton cultivation why should we import cotton worth Rs. 456 crores? If only this amount had been made available to our poor but hard-working farmers, it would have brought about a big change and the whole face of things would have been changed. But then we are not prepared to do that and why? Because of the fact that there are vested interests and the traders and the industrialists are having their own say. The traders and industrialists are interested and also some officers who are having their links with them. I am not making any allegation against all the officers. But I know of officers who are trying to protect the interests of the industrialists, who are trying to protect the interests of the traders, who are engaged in the export-import trade here. If the hon. Minister will look into the matter I have no doubt he will see that instead of importing so many varieties of cotton and in such big quantities we can very well do without them. Let us endeavour and make a vow today, a pledge to the country that by the year 1971 we shall see that this country becomes self-sufficient. We have to get rid of this practice of importing everything for our use or consumption here. Today we are importing cotton of the long-staple variety. But the long-staple cotton imported into this country is consumed not for export purposes but inside the country itself. Why should this be done? Is it not possible for us to do without long-staple cotton? Why

should we go in for this variety of cotton? Without thinking of our economy we are just going along in this direction. This has produced the present crisis. This is responsible for the present economic crisis. It is from this context that I want to look at this problem. I appeal to the hon. Minister to do the same. We are happy that he has removed the control on the price of cotton. But I say that he should raise the present price. The present floor price of cotton should be raised to the present ceiling price. Otherwise it will not be remunerative. In this country we have several industries and we have cost structures for almost all of them. There is cement and there is a cost structure for the cement industry. There is steel and we have a cost structure for steel and so also we have a cost structure for sugar. We never see if the consumer is concerned or not and we give increased prices for cement, steel, sugar and so on. But when it is a question of the farmer getting something more we are not prepared to give him an increase for his products. Why not have a cost structure for the produce of the farmers? Why should not the work, the effort and the labour put in by the poor farmer and the members of his family when working on their fields, be all taken into consideration when prices are fixed? If we do not have a cost structure after taking all these things into consideration then I say a great injustice is being done to the farmers. I submit that the present floor price if it is retained will not give him any justice.

Lastly I have to make a submission regarding the whole textile industry and its structure in our country. I feel that the present textile industry calls for an urgent modification and I feel it shall have to be gone into. At present we have old old mills, mills as old as 40 and 50 years. At present the life of a machinery is considered to be only 7 or 8 years and yet here we have mills functioning for the last 40 and 50 years without any renovation whatsoever. So this has to be

considered from that point of view and we shall have to consider a long-term and a short-term policy when considering this matter.

I do not say anything about the problems of the jute industry because I have not studied this subject. I may be pardoned by the House if I do not speak about jute because without studying the problems I do not want to speak on the matter.

SHRI CHITTA BASU (West Bengal): Come to our place and study the jute problem. I invite you. You should help the jute farmers also.

SHRI M. M. DHARIA: I stand for the interests of all farmers and I thank my hon. friend for his suggestion. But I have not studied the matter, as I said, and I do not want to offer any comments without a study of the question.

In conclusion let me say that I congratulate the hon. Minister for decontrolling the price of cotton. I would only appeal to him to go a step further and see that the farmer gets remunerative prices and also that the whole of the textile industry of this country becomes a matter of our pride and prestige. Thank you.

SHRI K. SUNDARAM (Madras): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, may I submit that the time or attention that this House spends on economic matters is very very meagre? I should like to bring it to the notice of the Subjects Committee through you, that we should spend some more time on our economic and immediate problems than on problems like Svetlana or Mala Sinha or the extension of the Weights and Measures Act to the Hill Areas and Tribal Areas and so on. Even now the hon. Minister and the hon. Deputy Minister seem to pay very scant attention to the debate that is taking place here. I feel that they are shy to discuss immediate problems, day to day problems. In this House I had given notice of three

[Shri K. Sundaram.]

Short Notice Questions which the hon. Ministers did not want to admit. They feel shy to discuss immediate problems and they do not want to solve the problems. That is the whole trouble with the present Government.

Even this cotton problem had been hanging fire for the last three years. Everybody concerned with the textile industry, the grower, the merchant, the industrialist and the consumer, they had all asked for the decontrol of cotton. Even now it is only out of pressure they had done away with the price control on cotton. But I say this cotton price control was only a farce all these years. It has been there for 24 years for a much longer period than the rule of the Congress. The price control has been there for the last 24 years. Those who are now in the trade would have forgotten how it started. And now after all this long period of time and out of pressure the Government has come forward to do away with this price control. Even during these 24 years there has never been any control over the prices of cotton. The market was controlling the prices. The price-control was never enforced. Both the prices, the ceiling price and the floor price, were following the market prices. Never did the prices fixed control the market prices. Unfortunately, ever since we got our independence we lost quite a bit of cotton-growing area and we were short of cotton. The increase in the number of spindles was much faster than any increase in production of cotton. That is the whole difficulty. They never planned and we did not extend production suitably. As a result of all that we are facing this continuous trouble. Whenever prices touched the ceilings, the ceilings were raised further. Whenever the Government resisted an increase in prices the lower varieties were sold at higher prices and the higher varieties found their way to the market in so many other ways because the Cotton Price Control Order had built-in loopholes. There were a number of

ways and as long there was no trouble between the buyer and the seller they were happy and they were carrying on. During all these 24 years, what have we done? We have learnt the art of adulteration and this art has reached a very scientific and significant degree of perfection. There was mastery in this art of adulteration. That is what we have achieved during these 24 years. There have been survey committees to fix appropriate prices. But has the fixed price ever been in force? I shall give only one example. Some three years ago the entire crop of Karungani cotton in Tirunelveli in the southernmost part of Madras State was marketed as Cambodia cotton. Can there be anything worse than that? I only wanted to bring to the notice of the hon. Minister what a farce this cotton price control has been all these years. Of course, last year during some 3 or 4 weeks between January and February due to the enforcement of this price control there was some control over the price. Again in April-May of this year for about three weeks they were able to restrict or control the price within the ceiling level. But never during all these years except for these two short periods, could they maintain the price of cotton within the ceiling limit at all. Quite a number of hon. Members have said that the prices to the agriculturists were not fair but I would go one step further and say that the entire industrial expansion was done at the cost of the agriculturists in the last twenty years, not one year or two years. That was the policy of the Government, whether it is cotton textiles, jute, tea or coffee. You take any industry, even sugar industry. The entire industrial expansion has been at the cost of the agriculturists throughout these twenty years of their rule. That has been so and even now they want to continue with it. That is why under great pressure with very great reluctance they have removed the price control on cotton.

Now, talking about the current prices, we read in the papers that there

is a large stock of cotton in Gujarat unsold. About 35,000 to 40,000 bales may be there. This cotton at the beginning of this year was sold at Rs. 2800. The South Indian mills bought this cotton at this maximum price ever paid for this cotton. Whereas the minimum price for it is Rs. 1800 there is no ceiling for it; you can pay Rs. 3,000, Rs. 4,000 or Rs. 5,000; it is not illegal. Therefore the South Indian mills bought this cotton at Rs. 2800 and what was the result? They got higher taxes clamped on them. The Finance Minister said: "You have paid this high price for this cotton. You have got so much profits; that is why you have paid so much for this cotton and therefore I want Rs. 5 per kg extra excise duty on this." That was the result. Now it has come down to Rs. 2,200 and even at this rate of Rs. 2,200 they say it is not marketable. The other day one of the Ministers said that this cotton is not worth that much because there has been so much of adulteration in the stuff. They had expected to sell at this rate and they had been hoarding and holding on to it but now they say they are not able to sell it. When mills are being closed down for want of cotton, here they have got 40,000 bales which they are not able to sell. There must be something wrong with the merchants there. I wish the Government could apply the Food Adulteration Act in respect of this but unfortunately it has been encouraged and this adulteration in cotton has now become a fine art in that trade.

There has been a floor price fixed. It has been in force all these years but I would like to know from the Minister whether there was any occasion when the price touched the floor level and did the Government buy the cotton? I would like to quote one instance; in 1957-58 it did touch the floor level but did the Government buy the cotton then? No; they further reduced the floor price. The Government is not prepared to buy cotton at the floor price. The Cotton Control Order provides for the Textile Com-

missioner to stop selling, to stop buying, to stop transport, to do anything, but buying they won't. There is no provision to buy cotton on their own account. That being the case, the fixation of ceiling and floor prices is only a farce. They never execute it.

Recently the Government threatened that they will requisition cotton. I was told that about 35,000 to 40,000 bales were requisitioned from the trade. I would like to know from the Minister to whom this cotton was allocated, to which mill this was supplied. I won't be surprised if this cotton procured by them had been supplied to their own co-operative mills. It was not supplied to the mills in the private sector. If at all they make use of this power of requisitioning it will be used for the benefit and in the interest of the State enterprises and not for the units in the private sector.

Just before announcing this decontrol the Minister wanted an assurance from the trade that they will not pay higher price for the cotton and that they will have their own arrangement for equitable distribution and keeping the price low. I would like to bring to the notice of the Minister here that in 1950 there was shortage and whatever scarce cotton was available, the industry did manage equitable distribution of it throughout the country but at the end of the season it was held by the High Court that the action of the industry was *ultra vires* and that the industry cannot do it any longer. At the same time the Minister wanted an assurance from the industry that the cloth prices would not go up. That also has been tried. Even the Export Committee has recommended that in addition to this decontrol upto 75 per cent of the controlled varieties of cloth may be decontrolled but the Government is not prepared to do that. They are not prepared to relax any physical control over the cotton crop but they have removed only this farce of price control.

[Shri K. Sundaram.]

The Minister in his statement has forgotten to mention one thing. What is the policy in respect of imported cotton? How is he going to distribute it? The entire working of the textile industry in the coming year will largely depend on how the imported cotton is going to be allocated and distributed and how efficiently and how quickly it will be handled. The future depends on this aspect which the Minister has conveniently forgotten to mention in his statement.

Now only one point about jute. The Government has a proposal to build a buffer stock of finished goods. I would strongly protest that it is not in the interests of either the industry or the country for the Government to build buffer stocks of finished goods. If at all they want to maintain steady prices and a steady supply of finished goods it must be allowed to be done by the industry itself, by the trade itself. By all means let the Government finance the industry liberally by giving funds at a lower rate of interest so that their carry-over expenses will not be more. If the Government stocks it they may be spending 4 or 5½ per cent interest; at that rate of interest let the industry and the trade stock it because if the Government takes over all kinds of rubbish will come into their hands. We have seen the State Trading Corporation doing business. If a man who does not know anything about a business enters it he will only burn his fingers and when they do that, that will be at the expense of the exchequer. Therefore I strongly protest that the State should not take over the problem of building a buffer stock of finished goods but let them help liberally the trade and the industry to build such buffer stocks so that they can maintain a steady supply to the internal market as well as for the export market.

Thank you.

SHRI CHITTA BASU: Mr. Vice-Chairman, jute is an important cash

crop in our country, particularly in the eastern region of our country. Jute is grown in abundant quantity in West Bengal, Assam, Orissa, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and Tripura. Vast numbers of our peasants are engaged in cultivation of jute and naturally a large number of our peasants are directly connected with the price of raw jute. Equally, Sir, the jute industry is also very important because of its foreign exchange earning potential. So far as I know even in the year 1964-65 this industry earned for us about Rs. 184 crores of foreign exchange. Naturally we cannot ignore the interests of this industry. As I know—and I believe so—since it is one of the main foreign exchange earners the Government might have some predilections for the industry and therefore in the past many concessions have been given to the jute industry and always—it is my emphatic opinion—at the cost of those poor mute and dumb men behind the plough who have sacrificed a lot for the cause of the growth of this industry. You might have known that there has been a reduction in export duties. There has been subsidy paid to the jute industrialists to import jute from foreign countries. So far as I know about Rs. 1250 million worth of subsidy has been given to them to import jute from Thailand and from other countries, but the interests of the jute growers in the country are not protected adequately. It is my allegation that the interests of our country have been relegated to the realm of oblivion while considering the question of the jute industry right from the grower to the exporter of the finished jute goods. There is a regular pressurisation on the Government on behalf of the jute industrialists. They are being given concessions and they will be given more concessions. They are not satisfied. Now, they are still claiming that there should be a further reduction in the export duty, that there should be an extension of the subsidy for importing jute goods. The jute industrialists want the abolition of export duty on

sacking and certain speciality products and reduction of duty on hessian and carpet backing, etc. by fifty per cent. All these years they have been given concessions and still they are clamouring for more concessions and I feel and I apprehend that they will be going out of their way to give them more concessions as claimed by them.

While these concessions are being given, what has happened to the growers of jute? You permit me to quote certain figures. Behind the growth and prosperity of the industry whose toil and tears are there? Only one figure I would like to quote. In the year 1947-48 the total production of raw jute in India was only 16.71 lakh bales and production has increased in the year 1964-65 to 76.68 lakh bales. In the year 1947-48 the total quantity consumed by the mills was 55.3 lakh bales and now in the year 1964-65 the mills consumed 82 lakh bales. Only we had to import 3.6 lakh bales.

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

Such has been the contribution of the jute growers towards the prosperity of the jute industry. It is because of their toil and tears, it is because of their labour, it is because of their privation, it is because of their poverty, that our country could earn more than Rs. 150 crores foreign exchange. While you think about the country, while you think about the prosperity of the industry, while you think about many things you conveniently forget the poor men behind the plough, who have given their tears and toil for the prosperity of the industry. This question has been agitating the minds of many, i.e., the question of fixing a remunerative price for the growers. It is true that the Government set up the Agricultural Prices Commission which considered the matter and in their wisdom they have decided that there

should be a minimum support price for jute. It was decided at Rs. 35. At the outset I want to bring home to the Ministry the essential difference between a remunerative price and the minimum support price. The Agricultural Prices Commission itself suggested that in the matter of fixing the price of raw jute, the cost of production as to be taken into consideration. Then, the question of parity of price between raw jute and paddy has to be taken into consideration and also parity of price between raw jute and the finished goods. On the basis of these three criteria, they were good enough to fix Rs. 35 as the minimum support price. As I told you earlier, there is a heaven-and-earth difference between the minimum support price and a remunerative price. I am for a remunerative price and I think many of the Members present here in the House are for a remunerative price, not for the so-called minimum support price. If you go into the details, you will find what is the cost of production. As far as one report is concerned, a report prepared by the West Bengal Government, it says that to produce one maund of jute, it costs Rs. 57. Of course, there is variation from zone to zone. If you are really interested in improving the cultivation of jute, if you are really interested in having an improved variety of jute, then, there is the question of utilising fertiliser and improving the method of cultivation. Then and then alone the quality of jute can be improved. Yes, Pakistan's quality of jute is better than the quality which we have got in India.

(Time bell rings)

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI AKBAR ALI KHAN): There are five more speakers. It is a Short Duration Discussion for two hours.

SHRI CHITTA BASU: I must not be punished for that.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI AKBAR ALI KHAN). No question of punishment. I want your co-operation and your help

SHRI CHITTA BASU I am always co-operating

(Interruptions)

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI AKBAR ALI KHAN). You will have two or three minutes more

SHRI CHITTA BASU You know that the West Bengal Government prepared a report wherein it was suggested that to produce a maund of jute, a sum of Rs 57 is required This is the minimum cost of production for a maund of jute, but you are giving them Rs 40 Even then I say that if we want to have an improved variety of jute, more money is needed to improve the method of cultivation Pakistan's quality of jute is better than that of India If we are really interested in competing with Pakistan, then there should be incentives given for the production of quality jute

Then, I come to this point Even this sum of Rs 35, which has, of late, been increased to Rs 40, is given when the delivery is made at Calcutta, at the jute mill's gate As far as I know, from my experience—I am an ordinary worker working among the peasants—most of the peasants cannot sell their jute at the jute mill's gate nor in Calcutta The fact is that, though the floor price is fixed at Rs 40, jute is sometimes sold at Rs 15 There has been a report It is not mine This report is given by the Jute Committee The Jute Committee itself says at page 8:

"At present over 60 per cent of jute is sold by the growers in their own villages, about 30 per cent in primary markets and less than 10 per cent in secondary markets"

Therefore 60 per cent of the jute is sold in the villages, and how is this

purchase being made? There is a ring of middlemen who roam about the villages and purchase raw jute One thing you should take notice of, that there is no adequate scope for providing sufficient credit for the jute cultivators These people, that is the middlemen, become dadandars" They pay money in advance on the condition that the growers will have to sell the entire jute at a price sometimes less than the prevailing rate to them Sometimes there is one system, "dhalta" That means, when 40 seers make a maund, the cultivators will have to sell the jute to the middlemen at 45 seers a maund That is, you give more in weight and get less in price That being the case, millions of our jute growers are being deprived of the minimum price, not to speak of the remunerative price Sir, this is the sordid part of the story

Therefore, without taking much of your time I would urge upon the Government that it is because of the sacrifice of these poor peasants of the country that the jute industry has been earning so much profit and also foreign exchange for us It will be quite unjust, it will be a crime on our part if we do not protect the interests of the jute growers, and the interests of the jute growers can only be protected by two methods alone by fixing statutorily the floor price of jute which cannot be less than Rs 60 these days, and again there should be control over the market The Government must have agencies of their own to purchase the jute from the villagers Unless that thing is done, simply by announcing something by the Ministry here in Parliament we are not going to protect the interests of the jute growers, and if you really want to protect the interests of the jute growers these two methods can alone help you Therefore, I would urge upon the Government that unless this thing is done, the incentive for production of jute will not be there For the Fourth Five Year Plan there is a target of having 90 lakh bales of raw jute, and 20 lakh bales of

mesta. That target cannot be fulfilled, that target you can never fulfil unless there is a remunerative price for the jute growers, unless there is some mechanism, some agency, through which Government can ensure the statutorily fixed price to the actual growers, unless the Government does away with the middlemen who are fleecing the poor peasants and who are doing what not. Therefore, I would urge upon the Government that if they are really interested in the matter of the jute industry, then they will have to give up their protection of the jute magnates, they will have to think of the growers on whose tear and toil the jute industry has grown, and it will be a crime if we neglect them.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA (Uttar Pradesh): Mr. Vice-Chairman, I congratulate the Commerce Minister for undoing some of the wrongs that have persisted for a pretty long time. One big act of injustice related to imported cotton and its distribution. The country spends a huge amount of foreign exchange to import cotton, but its distribution so far was so faulty that a few mills gained because of the imports, and the few mills which gained were the most modern mills which produced superfine cloth. They gained at the expense of the rest of the cotton textile industry. Many of the present-day problems of the cotton textile industry are due to this faulty distribution of imported cotton which the Minister has undone now. The faulty distribution was that all the imported cotton was given to a few mills producing superfine cloth. This superfine cloth manufactured out of imported cotton was not exported. It was used for domestic consumption, whereas the less fortunate mills were exporting their cloth. The coarse and the medium type cloth weavers were exporting more and more every year. So at the expense of the producers of coarse and medium variety of cloth who exported and earned foreign exchange, the Government made

a present of imported cotton to a few mills. Now I am glad that this has been undone. The correct thing would have been to go back to the original practice under which the distribution of imported cotton was linked with exports of cotton cloth, and every mill got a quota of imported cotton based on its exports. I am sorry, though the young Commerce Minister has undone some wrongs, he has not undone the wrongs completely. I urge upon him through you, Sir, to reconsider the whole thing and link the distribution of imported cotton with export of cotton cloth.

The country has for the last few years been giving slogans to raise exports. Yet it appears that correct policies which will lead to greater exports are not being adopted, and the import of cotton so far helped only those mills which concentrated on superfine cloth for domestic consumption. I am not an enthusiast of import of cotton. I personally feel that if correct policies are adopted, we can produce all the cotton that we need. At least we can within a period of five years produce all the types of cotton that we need. I am sorry the Government has not come forward with any scheme to curtail imports of cotton or any plan to completely abolish the imports of cotton. This country has good soil; it has varied soil. At one stage in our country the Central Cotton Committee systematically and scientifically examined the soil suitable for various types of cotton. That practice has been given up. That organisation has been wound up, and we under the pressure of the cotton lobby of the United States are increasing every year our imports of cotton. That is a suicidal policy.

4 P.M.

With regard to cotton, Sir, I may also refer to the so-called sick mills. The Industrial Policy Resolution of 1956 resulted in the adoption of the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act, and the Industries (Deve-

[Shri Arjun Arora.]

lopment and Regulation) Act of 1956 provided that where a mill is sick, where a mill is unable to run because of bad management and many other things, the Government will take it over. The Government took over many mills. In my own city of Kanpur, one after the other, the Government took over two mills and in each case made a success of it. Now, it appears that the Government has given up that policy which it adopted in 1956. Now, the Minister has said, we will not take over any mill under the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act. I personally feel that it is a mistake. The Minister has tried to justify that mistake by pleading that he will bring forward a Bill to deal with the sick mills. Now, this House has been in session for a number of weeks and the Minister has repeatedly said that he will bring forward a Bill. At one stage, he said that he hoped to get the Bill passed during this session. This session is coming to an end tomorrow unless you extend it by one month.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI AKBAR ALI KHAN): No, no.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA: The Minister has not even introduced that Bill. I do not know what will happen to the mills which are closed because of mismanagement. They should have been taken over under the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act. The Bill has not even been introduced. Now, for three months, we will be in recess and those mills will remain closed. I want the Minister to tell us what he is going to do about them.

A few words about jute are also necessary. At one stage, it was said that the Government was going in for the curtailment of the jute mills' production. I am happy that at least this statement does not say that the Government will curtail the production of jute mills. That is very satisfactory. But then the statement is also not

very satisfactory because it does not say what the Government will do about the jute mills which are closed. A number of jute mills in the country are closed, they are not functioning. The Maheshwari Devi Jute Mill in Kanpur is closed. Government should have some plans about it. This statement regarding jute was awaited with great expectancy in the country and one of the expectations was that this statement would undo some of the mistakes committed by the Finance Minister. The Finance Minister reduced the export duty on carpet backing by Rs. 300 per tonne in the Finance Bill. Now, my friend, Mr. Banka Behary Das, and one of two others have mentioned the disastrous consequences of this reduction in export duty of carpet backing one of the consequences has, however, escaped the notice of some of the hon. Members who mentioned about it. I am informed by very reliable sources that this reduction in export duty will mean an earning of Rs. 3.5 crores to ten big industrialists.

AN HON. MEMBER: Who are they?

SHRI ARJUN ARORA: Yes, I am coming to that. One of them are Birla. They will gain to the tune of Rs. 20 lakhs. Mr. Shanti Prasad Jain who is number two in many ways, but perhaps bigger in carpet backing, will gain Rs. 40 lakhs. Mr. Goenka who, from a newspaper magnate, has become a jute baron will gain Rs. 30 lakhs. Mr. Bangur will gain Rs. 20 lakhs. Messrs. Bird and Company will gain Rs. 35 lakhs. There are, of course, others who will also gain. In this way, Rs. 3.5 crores will be a present to ten big industrialists. But the exports will not go up. Our exports of jute have been falling in spite of devaluation; they have been falling in spite of this reduction of export duty on carpet backing. Some necessary steps should be taken. Huge stocks of sacking are piling up in the country because of the drop in exports. Our friend, Mr. Chitta Basu, mentioned

about the competition from Pakistan. Our jute policy should be able to correct the imbalance.

With these words, I thank you, Sir.

[THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN in the Chair]

श्री पंडरीनाथ सीताराम जो पाटीन (महाराष्ट्र) : उप सभापति महोदय! अभी इस सदन के सामने मंत्री महोदय ने जूट और कपास के बारे में जो नीति रखी उस पर मैं अपने विचार आपके द्वारा सभा के सामने रखना चाहता हूँ। मैं कपास के क्षेत्र का रहने वाला हूँ। जूट के किसानों को क्या क्या तकलीफें होती हैं, मैं यह अच्छी तरह नहीं जानता हूँ वह दूसरे उस क्षेत्र के सम्मानित मेम्बरों ने इस सदन के सामने बयान कर दी है इसलिए मैं उस बारे में ज्यादा न कहकर कपास के बारे में ही किसानों को जो तकलीफें होती हैं वह सदन तथा सरकार के सामने रखना चाहता हूँ।

इस देश की करीब एक तिहाई कपास केवल महाराष्ट्र में ही पैदा होती है। वह प्रदेश जो कपास का एरियावाला कहा जाता है उसके जिस जिले में लाखों एकड़ कपास पैदा होती है उस जिले का मैं रहनेवाला एक किसान हूँ। इसलिए किसानों को जो कठिनाइयाँ होती हैं उनको मैं अच्छी तरह से जानता हूँ और उन्हें मैं सरकार के सामने रखना चाहता हूँ।

आज सरकार ने यह एक अच्छी बात की उसने कपास की सीलिंग प्राइम पर से कंट्रोल हटा दिया है इसलिए मैं माननीय मंत्रीजी को धन्यवाद देता हूँ। लेकिन इसके साथ ही साथ मैं उनसे यह भी चाहूँगा कि इतना करने से काम नहीं चलेगा। अगर आपको इस देश में कपास की पैदावार को बढ़ाना है तो इस तरह की कार्यवाहियों से वह बढ़नेवाली नहीं है। इसके लिए तुम्हें दूसरे स्थायी और प्रभावी

इलाज करने होंगे और उन्हें दृढ़ता से अमल में लाना होगा। इसीलिए मैं कहना चाहता हूँ कि आपको शीघ्र उन उपायों की तरफ सोचना तथा ध्यान देना होगा।

मैं पिछले 20 सालों से इंडियन सेन्ट्रल काउन्सिल का सदस्य रहा हूँ और उसने सरकार के सामने कई तरह के उपयुक्त प्रस्ताव भेजे हैं लेकिन अभी तक मध्यवर्ती सरकार ने उनको तरफ ध्यान नहीं दिया है। इसका नतीजा यह हुआ है कि हमारे देश में कपास की पैदावार बढ़ने के बजाय घटती ही चली जा रही है। अगर हम पिछली तीन पंचवर्षीय योजनाओं में कपास की पैदावार बढ़ाने की तरफ उचित ध्यान देते तो इस समय जो हमें 70 लाख कपास की गांठों की हर साल जरूरत होती है वह पूरी हो जाती लेकिन हमने इस चीज की तरफ ध्यान नहीं दिया और इसका नतीजा यह हुआ कि हम इतना उत्पादन नहीं कर सके। दरअसल अभी जो मंत्री महोदय ने पंचोर प्राइम थो उसको किसानों की गारंटी देने के लिये 5 प्रति शत बढ़ाना मंजूर किया है लेकिन ऐसा छोटा इनाज करने से कोई विशेष उपयोग नहीं होगा। इसलिये अब तक जो सीलिंग प्राइम थो उसको पंचोर प्राइम करके शासन को किसानों को संरक्षण देना चाहिये तब किसान कुछ न कुछ कपास का उत्पादन बढ़ा सकता है। अगर अपने देश में कपास की पैदावार पूरी बढ़ानी है तो उस के लिये ठोस कदम उठाने चाहिये ठोस इलाज सरकार को अमल में लाना चाहिये और वह इस प्रकार का होना चाहिये कि किसान को कपास पैदा करने में जो खर्चा आता है वह खर्चा उसको मिले और उसके सिवाय उसको और उसके परिवार को जो साल भर खर्चा लगता है, पैसा लगता है, वह उनका निकले। इस तरह से बराबर उसका संतुलन देख कर के कपास की कीमतें खुद शासन ने ही किसान को देनी चाहिये, तब यह सवाल सही व सदा के लिये हल होगा, अन्यथा नहीं।

[श्री पंढरीनाथ सीताराम जी पाटील]

अभी तो किसान जो कपास बाज़ार में ले जाता है उसकी खूब लूट हो रही है । 3 रुपया प्रति किलो कपास की कीमत व्यापारी हम को देता है और मिल वाला उमका जब कपड़ा बुनता है तो करीब 40 रुपये से 60 रु० तक प्रति किलो दाम वह लेता है ।

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You must now wind up, Mr. Patil.

श्री पंढरीनाथ सीताराम जी पाटील : मैंने अभी तीन मिनट लिये हैं ।

उपस्थपति : तीन नहीं, आपने 7 मिनट लिये हैं ।

श्री पंढरीनाथ सीताराम जी पाटील : मैं अभी दो तीन मिनट बोलूंगा ।

(Interruption by Shri Rajnarain)

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Some co-operation is necessary in this House. There is one more Short Duration discussion. और दो मिनट तीन ले लीजिये ।

श्री पंढरीनाथ सीताराम जी पाटील : तो इस तरह से आज कपड़े की कीमत जिस तरह से बढ़ी है, उस तरह से कपास की कीमतें आज नहीं बढ़ी हैं ।

मैं आखिर में सरकार से यह बिनती करूंगा कि कपास की कीमतें जो आज हैं वह तो बढ़ें तथापि कपास की कीमतें बढ़ाने के साथ साथ कपास का उत्पादन बढ़ाने की तरफ समुचित और अधिक ध्यान देना चाहिये इसलिये किसानों को सुधरे हुए बीज, आधुनिक औज़ार, खाद, कीटाणु नाशक दवाएं, बिजली नहर का पानी इत्यादि जो सुविधाएं हैं, वे प्राप्त हो जानी चाहियें और उस के लिये सरकार की कृषि मंत्रणा तेजी से इस काम में लगे और किसानों को ऐसी सुविधाएं प्राप्त कर दे तब इस देश में कपास

का उत्पादन बढ़ सकता है और देश की जो आवश्यकता है वह पूरी हो सकती है । और किसान उस में सुखी हो सकता है ।

इतना कह कर मैं अपनी जगह लेता हूँ ।

SHRI SITARAM JAIPURIA (Uttar Pradesh): Madam Deputy Chairman, the importance of the textile industry cannot be over-emphasised. This is the largest employment sector of our industry and the industrial index of the country depends to a very large extent on the cotton textile industry. I have, therefore, no doubt in my mind that the importance of this sector of the industry is realised by the Ministry. I am glad to see that since the new Minister has taken over, he has introduced certain changes which are in the larger interest of the industry, the grower, the trade and the consumer. But there are certain things which have not been kept in mind.

Madam, the condition of the textile industry today differs from State to State and from mill to mill. My friend, Mr. Dharia, gave certain figures of the profits that are being made by the textile industry. But he forgot one fact, namely, that most of the figures of the mills that he gave were compiled of those mills which use mostly foreign cotton, and it is on that basis that after a number of years' of representation the Government has now come to the conclusion that foreign cotton formerly given to the traditional users should be given to the mills all over the country. But I am surprised as to why it was not possible for the hon. Minister to have allowed it to be sold freely at the market price to any mill rather than restriction having been placed on it. By doing this we are depriving the mills which are a weaker section of the society of not only keeping themselves alive but of being able to progress further.

Madam, there is a suggestion for the appointment of a Cotton Com-

missioner. I do not know whether my friend feels it reasonable that the Cotton Commissioner should be under a separate Ministry or whether there should be a separate Cabinet Minister for that purpose because even today the Textile Commissioner is under the same Ministry of Commerce and the interests of all sections are being looked after by him.

Madam, the policy that has been recently announced by the hon. Minister is no doubt a little dynamic in its approach. Nevertheless, I am at a loss to understand a situation, Madam, when the cotton crop is so good as envisaged by the hon. Minister, when the P.L. 480 cotton is also to come and the future of the cotton crop seems to be so bright, what is the reason that the Minister has not been able to find out a way of abolishing additional two closures in a month in the cotton textile industry? Instead of abolishing those two additional days, the hon. Minister proposes to instal 2.7 million spindles and nearly 2,000 looms more. I would most humbly suggest, Madam Deputy Chairman, that it is time that instead of spending a lot of money in capital expenditure and thus blocking the resources of the country, the present mills, which are running two shifts, should be made to work three shifts because by putting in additional money you may have to keep the capacity idle later on. Madam, there have been instances when in one year the cotton production was 62 lakh bales but the next year it came down to 47 lakh bales. The vagaries of nature we have not been able to control during the last twenty years. My apprehension is that additional spindles and looms will be a burden on the exchequer, and later on it will be difficult for us to get out of this trouble. In fact I would say that the proposal of the hon. Minister, namely, of setting up a Cotton Corporation, which was earlier voiced by my friend, Mr. Arjun Arora, may seem to be a good one. But has the hon. Minister tried to find out the effect of his scheme to take over the sick mills?

What efforts are being made to see that mills are not further closed down? In fact, statistics show that so long as the mill is in private hands no co-operation is extended to it. If they want any additional funds, that is not available. If they want guarantees from the State Government, that is not sanctioned. If they want to retrench a certain number of workmen, that is not permitted. But no sooner does the authorized controller take over the mill than not only money is sanctioned, not only guarantees are given, but even retrenchment on a very large scale is allowed by the Government. This sounds a very ridiculous state of affairs because, after all, the Government is seized not only of the public sector or the Government sector but the industrial sector as a whole, the growers, consumers and the entire trade. It is their bounden duty to see that conditions are created so that mills do not close down and they have no problems later on. Rather they create problems first and then try to find a solution for them.

Madam Deputy Chairman, the de-control of cotton prices which the Minister has introduced is a good feature. But what I am at a loss to understand is what was his difficulty in abolishing controls on the cloth. Some of my friends might wonder that I am asking for decontrol of cloth because of expectations of higher price. But that is not a fact. So far as the superfine cloth is concerned a great number of varieties of that cloth are already not controlled. It is absolutely free to be sold at higher prices and in spite of the best intention of the Government, the latter are not able to control it. On the other hand, the coarse and medium cloth mills are not able to fetch the price even at controlled rates; they always get much less. They get a step-motherly treatment though they form a very large sector of the textile industry. I shall be grateful if the hon. Minister could indicate his mind as to what he proposes to do with regard to them.

[Shri Sitaram Jaipuria]

Madam, the cotton prospects are very good and I am very glad that it will be possible for the industry to survive. But there is one point, Madam, which I would like to touch upon, namely the staple fibre spinning mills. The production of staple fibre has enormously increased in the country during the last several years and in the last months the production of it has now increased from 100 tonnes to 130 tonnes. It is also in the knowledge of the Minister, I suppose, that there is a glut in the market of spinning yarn which is not being sold and lifted away as it used to be. Under these circumstances, when the excise duty on this staple fibre is different from cotton when the treatment is different, when the regulations are different, what the necessity was for linking this staple fibre also along with cotton in the matter of additional closures is beyond my comprehension. It is high time that the hon. Minister takes a serious view of the matter and when there is no shortage of staple fibre at all—there might be a little shortage of cotton—he should take a bold decision and say that there will be no more restrictions and the two additional holidays on staple fibre STS mills which are forced by the Government for no reasons practically, will be abolished.

Madam, I am coming to the end of my observations. There is one point which I would like to mention. While the decontrol of cotton has been done, it is high time that a certain amount of restriction is put on the ginners. So far as the mills are concerned they are under a restriction that not more than two months' or two-and-a-half months' stocks can be kept in their godowns. But unless and until this restriction is extended to the trade and ginners also the purpose of the proposed measure might probably be defeated because there are a number of mills which have their own ginners and the trade have their own commission agents. And if a restriction is

placed on them, I do think that the objective of the Ministry—keeping the price of cotton under control within a reasonable level—will be achieved.

Madam, modernisation and renovation in the textile industry is very essential and it is necessary that the hon. Minister gives an indication to the country as to what he proposes to do for the future so that the mills may not further close and may not be in a deplorable state. Then there were certain reports about the export figures in the Press and I am sure that the hon. Minister is aware of the discrepancies. Certain figures were quoted by the Minister. The official figures give a different picture. As there is no time at my disposal I do not want to labour that point. Export is a very important aspect and I do hope the hon. Minister will be pleased to throw some light on this. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN Mr Rajnarain : Please be very brief.

श्री राजनारायण (उत्तर प्रदेश)
एकदम सब से छोटी स्पीच होगी। ये जो तरुण मंत्री ब्रुव बैठे हैं।

एक माननीय सदस्य कौन ?

श्री राजनारायण : तरुण ब्रुव । मैं यह देखना चाहता हूँ कि इनके मस्तिष्क में कोई तरुणाई है या नहीं है।

श्री ब्रजकिशोर प्रसाद (बिहार)
माननीया उपसभापति जी : उत्तर प्रदेश के सभी लोग के मस्तिष्कों में तरुणाई रहती है, माननीय सदस्य के, माननीय मंत्री के।

श्री राजनारायण : तो अगर तरुणाई है तो दो-तीन सवाल के रूप में पूछ लेना चाहता हूँ । विदेश से जो रुई आती है, वह क्यों आती है ? पहला सवाल । वही हमारे ये तरुण-ब्रुव कि क्या हम बारीक और महीन कपड़ा न पहने—आवश्यकता है । एक उदाहरण स्वरूप मैं

कह दूँ—यहां हमारे मित्र भूपेश गुप्त नहीं हैं, ये लोग हैं—कि रशिया में जब क्रांति सफल हो गई तो उस के बाद रशिया में बड़े बड़े मंत्री बड़े बड़े अफसरों ने मोटर पर चढ़ना कब शुरू किया ? 1936 के बाद । इस उदाहरण को हमारे मंत्री अपने सामने रखें सिवाय डाक्टर को छोड़ कर वहां पर मोटर पर कोई नहीं चढ़ता था । राष्ट्र को स्वतंत्रता की उपलब्धि भी हुई जब हमने अपना बाना बनाया खादी, मोटा कपड़ा । उस बाने को छोड़कर अगर ये मंत्री चाहते हैं कि इस देश की उन्नति के सिखर पर ले जाएंगे । तो असंभव है । । इसलिए मैं बिल्कुल जोर के साथ कहना चाहता हूँ कि विदेश से रुई का मगाया जाना बन्द हो जाना चाहिए । एक बात ।

दूसरी बात मैं यह कहना देना चाहता हूँ—बहुत से लोग कई बातें कह चुके हैं मैं उन्हें दोहराऊंगा नहीं—मैं एक सुझाव दूंगा कि ये दोनों मंत्री रात को जब खाना खाकर सोये तो अपनी छाती पर हाथ रखें और पूछें कि कार्पेट बैकिंग में जो कमी की गई है वह देश के हित में की की गई है, समाज के हित में की गई है या चन्द पूजीपतियों के इशारे पर उनकी स्वार्थ-की पूर्ति के लिए की गई है ? मुझे निश्चित रूप से जानकारी है कि—जिससे ये तरुण-द्वय इनकार करेंगे—शान्ति प्रसाद जैन जो आजकल सरकार के समीप आ रहे हैं, कुछ समय पहले सरकार से दूर थे ...

श्री बरकिशोर प्रसाद सिंह : आप के बहुत समीप हैं और रहे हैं ।

श्री राजनारायण : जब से बिड़ला माहब थोड़ा सा कांग्रेस से बिरले हो रहे हैं तब से शान्ति प्रसाद जैन कांग्रेस के ज्यादा समीप आ रहे हैं । यह जो रियायत हुई है वह शुद्धतः श्री शान्ति प्रसाद जैन

और उन के आमपास लगे हुए लोगों को मद्देनजर रख कर हुई है । इस तरह से 4 करोड़ रुपया हमारे देश का नुकसान कराया गया । वरना क्या कोई तुक है कि जहां सब पर बोझ बढ़ रहा है वहां किसी का घटा दिया जाय । कोई तुक नहीं है ।

श्री अकबर अली खान (आंध्र प्रदेश) :
एक्सपोर्ट के लिए है ।

श्री राजनारायण : बेकार मत बोला करो ।

(Time bell rings)

उपसभापति : आपने कहा था कि ज्यादा नहीं बोलेंगे ।

श्री राजनारायण : हम बहुत कम बोलेंगे । इस सम्बन्ध में मेरा मत है कि उसको फौरन बढ़ाया जाय ।

यह कोई अच्छा ससदीय तरीका नहीं है कि एक बार सरकार ने अपनी पालिसी घोषित कर दी फिर सदन में आकर विवाद करा रही है । हम लोगों से पहले विवाद करा लेना चाहिये हम लोगों की राय ले लेनी चाहिए, उस के बाद सरकार अपनी पालिसी घोषित करती । यह सरकार शीर्षासन कर रही है शुतुरमुर्ग की तरह बालू में अपना मूँह गड़ा कर न च रही है ।

अब मैं आ रहा हूँ काटन के बारे में ।

एक भारतीय सदस्य . जूट ।

श्री राजनारायण : हम तमाम महरस वगैरह धूमते रहते हैं, हमने देखा है कि किसान जो जूट पैदा करता है उसको कास्ट प्राइस नहीं मिल रही है । मेरा यह निश्चित मत है कि किसान जो जूट पैदा करता है उस के सारे खर्चों को जोड़ा जाये तो आज यह सरकार दावे के साथ नहीं कह सकती कि उसको लाभप्रद कीमत मिल रही है । भाव जहां किसान को लाभ कम

[श्री राजनारायण]

होती है 50 रुपए, वहां सरकार निश्चित कर रही है 40 रुपए। यह किसान के हित की पालिसी नहीं है। वही सवाल रई का है।

उपसभापति : अब नहीं।

श्री राजनारायण : एक मिनट दीजिए। विरोध पक्ष और सरकारी पक्ष दोनों को कहना चाहता हूं कि हम लोग सब का दिमाग जाले से भर गया है, किसी भी दल ने आज तक हिम्मत कर के यह नहीं कहा कि दाम के सम्बन्ध में क्या नीति हो। उस को सदन में मैं कहना चाहता हूं कि सरकार कच्चे माल और पक्के माल, कृषि-जन्य पदार्थ और उद्योग-जन्य पदार्थ, कल-कारखाने से पैदा होने वाली चीज, इन में तारतम्य स्थापित करे, संतुलन स्थापित करे।

उपसभापति : एक मिनट खत्म हो गया।

श्री राजनारायण : स्थापित करें कैसे? इस तरह की लागत मूल्य से ड्योढ़ी कीमत से ज्यादा पर किसी आवश्यक पदार्थ की बिक्री न हो। अगर करेंगे—मैं अपने मित्र तारिक से कह रहा था तो क्या इन दोनों गुलामुहम्मद की चलेगी?

एक भारतीय सदस्य : गुलामुहम्मद कगन ?

श्री राजनारायण : ये दोनों गुलामुहम्मद

श्री अवधेश्वर प्रसाद सिंह (बिहार) : शुरू तारीफ से किया, बाद में क्या बोल गये।

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: That will do. The Minister.

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI DINESH SINGH): Madam Deputy Chairman, I am most grateful to the hon. Members for the views that they have expressed on two of our most important agricultural commodities used in industry. I am also particularly grateful to some of the Members who have given support to the policy that has been announced by the Government. I would like to assure this House that in announcing this policy we had borne in mind the primary objective of giving to the producer the most possible benefit that we could, keeping in view the general economic situation. I am particularly happy that the hon. Members, and I think practically all of them, barring one or two, from the sentiments they expressed in this House, are in favour of the farmer or the primary producer. We are an agricultural country and the bulk of our people live in the rural areas and are engaged in farming and therefore it is only right that their interests should be primary in our minds. I do not know how many Members who spoke today are themselves farmers or they are saying these things largely because they may have heard these things. I am not a rich cotton farmer but I am a small farmer...

SHRI NIREN GHOSH: You are a farmer? You are a Raja.

SHRI DINESH SINGH: Even if the Member would take that word to its logical conclusion, I would be a farmer but I would like therefore to assure this House that I have borne that very closely in my mind. We should also not look at this problem as a kind of conflict between the producer and the manufacturer. They are very closely interlinked in these particular commodities. The producer has to get a reasonable profit for his produce but that reasonable profit can come only if his produce is utilised in an economic manner in which it earns more than it

is manufactured at a price at which it sells and therefore the interests of the two are very closely linked together. May be at times it is not fully borne in mind and certain misunderstandings arise and to this extent we have tried to keep a balance. The hon Member—I am particularly grateful to him—Shri Dharia, while paying compliments to the policy that we have announced, raised certain questions about the agriculture Ministry and the Commerce Ministry. We function on the basis of the Government as one, with joint responsibility and although we may be performing certain functions in the different Ministries, the Government policy, when it is announced, is the policy of the Government as a whole, where it takes into consideration the views of the Agricultural Ministry as well as the Commerce Ministry. We have no particular attachment to holding on to any particular subject in the Ministry because it is the Government as a whole whether I look after something or my colleague, the Minister for Food and Agriculture, looks after it but when the policy is announced, it is the view of all of us put together and that is why I had mentioned sometime earlier that we had taken into full consideration the views of the Agricultural Prices Commission in this matter. May I assure my friend that it is not the Textile Commissioner who fixes the price but the price is fixed by the Government of India, taking into consideration the views of all the concerned Ministries?

The main important point that we have to bear in mind in this connection is the yield of our produce. Unfortunately the main difficulty arises because our yield per acre is very poor and because of that we find it difficult to give a remunerative price because after all this commodity is not used in its raw form. It is manufactured and the manufactured goods must also sell. Take for instance cotton. I have had occasion in this House, a number of times, to give these figures but may I, with your permission, again repeat some of

them? Take the yield per acre—the yield per acre of countries that are chiefly cotton-producing. We are the world's sixth largest cotton-producing country in the sense of yield per acre but we have the largest acreage and we are the fourth largest cotton-producing country but the difficulty is this. Take the Soviet Union and their yield per acre is 697 pounds. In the U.S.A. it is 526 pounds, in China it is 241 pounds, in the UAR it is 581 pounds, in Sudan it is 331 pounds and in India it is 114. It is this imbalance that creates quite a lot of difficulties, firstly because our yield is poor and even in India our yield varies from State to State. It is interesting to see that this is not a constant yield. Take Punjab. The yield there is the highest per acre and it is 272 pounds according to the figure that I have while the lowest yield is in Mysore, with 35 pounds per acre. Then there are middling States. Take the State which has the largest acreage under cotton production and that is Maharashtra and their yield is only 76 pounds per acre compared to the highest of 272 pounds. Therefore, what it shows is that necessary inputs have not been put to produce cotton in a larger quantity. With the largest acreage that Maharashtra has of about 6,153,000 last year, according to the statistics I have, their produce has been only 1179,000 bales pounds with an average yield of 76 pounds per acre. Therefore the yield is poor and I hope that the friends who have spoken and very rightly pointed out these matters here to us will also use their good offices with their State Governments and persuade them to grant inputs that are necessary to raise the yield per acre. Only this morning my friends may have heard about the policy that the Central Government has adopted in this matter and the amounts that we have set aside to help the farmers to produce more cotton, more jute and more food but it is very important that we should not think only in terms of the price of the end product because if you go on increasing that price, what happens? If you look at the com-

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parison, take the cotton price for instance, even with our neighbour, you will see that the difference is considerable between the price in India and its equivalent variety in Pakistan. You can take any of them, any equivalent that the Members may like. We can take a good average cotton like the Indian Cotton Cambodia, where our selling price has been Rs. 480 and that of Pakistan has been very much lower. This is the difficulty that we experience in this—that of the yield falling. I have given these figures here earlier and so I would not like to waste the time of the House. So we have got to increase the yield in this.

So far as the question of our policy is concerned, we have decontrolled cotton ceiling prices only with the hope that the trade and the producers and also the manufacturers would be able to work out a relationship in which they will be able to find a balance but we have also taken a precaution that should these prices tend to tumble down or should fall very much, we should be able to hold them at a particular level below which we feel that the farmer may not find remunerative. Therefore we have announced a support price. Even the support price is very interesting. If you compare with the price from last year, last year we increased the price of cotton by 5 per cent. Then we have increased the floor price of cotton also by 5 per cent. And again this year we have raised the support price from 5 per cent to 10 per cent and so compared to last year this year the support price will be very much higher.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: If it is lower than the market price then what will happen?

SHRI DINESH SINGH: If it is lower than the market price then he can sell it in the open market. That is the meaning of decontrol. The hon. Member I am afraid, has not advanced a good argument in this particular context.

Madam, there were some specific questions asked in this connection. My hon. friend Shri Arjun Arora, spoke about not cotton directly but about textile mills and the Bill that I had said I would introduce in this House. May I say that it is not our intention or stand that we shall not take over mills under the present Act. When we think it necessary we shall continue to take over mills under the present Act. But the Bill which I said we propose to bring forward is to see that the Government gets the power to acquire these mills, not only to take over mills but to acquire them to control them as much as we think it necessary.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: (West Bengal): What have you done about the Keshoram Mills about which I gave you the papers?

SHRI DINESH SINGH: So far as this Bill that I referred to is concerned, it was my hope that we would introduce it in this session of Parliament. But due to certain technical difficulties that Bill has been delayed. Of course, the Bill is ready with us but we are not in a position to introduce it tomorrow. We shall certainly introduce it as soon as possible. We had also explored the possibility of seeking your permission, Madam, of publishing this Bill in the Gazette so that it could be discussed at the next session without formal introduction. Anyway, I need not go into all that now. I am saying this only to show that we have not been sleeping over the matter. We have the Bill ready and we propose to bring it before the House as soon as possible.

Some hon. Members mentioned about the import of cotton. Now, cotton is being imported because we do not produce enough cotton for our

consumption. We have to choose what variety of cotton to import, the better quality or the average quality or the short staple cotton. We feel when we are importing anyway, we may as well import the long staple variety by which we can provide a certain degree of variety. This year there is the possibility of importing considerable quantities of cotton because we are short of cotton, but we shall import only as much as is necessary. The question of distribution was also mentioned. I am examining the . . .

SHRIMATI TARA RAMCHANDRA SATHE (Maharashtra): Is the long staple cotton used only for making goods for export purposes or is it being used for local consumption also?

SHRI DINESH SINGH: I have stated it in this House that the bulk of it is for the local consumption and only a small portion is for export.

I was talking about the distribution of cotton. We are examining how best we can distribute this imported cotton. Two days' closure and certain other things were mentioned by Shri Jaipuriaji. We are examining all these things. In the announcement that I made in this House I have said that we are examining and looking into the restrictions imposed. Some of them are necessary to see that the bulk of the profit goes to the producer and not to the middleman. That is the greatest danger that we have here. The producer may sell the cotton at a time when cotton is in large supply and the trader may hoard it and sell it at a much higher price later. So we have got to impose certain restrictions in this connection to see that this is not mis-handled and there is no profiteering of this kind and no hoarding. That is why I have said that we shall impose the necessary restrictions. These should work in favour of the producer in whose interest we have decontrolled the ceiling on cotton. My honourable friend, Shri Rajnarain

asked certain questions. Unfortunately, I find that he is not here now.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: He is coming there

श्री बिनलकुमार मन्नालाजी चौरड्डा.
वह प्रजा के बीच गये हैं।

श्री दिनेश सिंह : वह आ रहे हैं।
विदेश से रुई क्यों आती है माननीय सदस्य
राजनारायण जी ने पूछा था। मैं उनके
फायदे के लिये हिन्दी में कह रहा हूँ जिसके
बाद मैं वे लड़े नहीं कि मैंने अंग्रेजी में उनको
जवाब दिया। तो विदेश से रुई क्यों आती
है, महोदय मैंने अभी कहा, क्योंकि हमारे
यहाँ रुई इतनी पैदा होती है जितनी कि
खर्च होती है, इसलिये हम उसके बाहर
से मंगाते हैं। एम्पेट बैकिंग में जो एक्सपोर्ट
ड्यूटी की कमी हुई है, उन्होंने इन लोगों से
कहा था कि पेट पर हाथ रखें . . .

श्री राजनारायण : सीने पर।

श्री दिनेश सिंह : सीने पर हाथ रखें।
हम लोग तो एकदम खा कर नहीं सते हैं
इसलिये सीने पर एकदम हाथ रखने से वह
फायदा नहीं है शायद जो माननीय सदस्य
ममझते हैं। इसलिये मे उनको आश्वासन दे
सकता हूँ। हम बराबर उसके बारे में खयाल
रखते हैं।

Now, Madam, without taking any more time of the House I will say a few words on the question of jute. Here again many questions have been raised.

AN HON. MEMBER: What about the closures?

SHRI DINESH SINGH: These are part of the restrictions.

SHRI NIREN GHOSH: But these closures are going on. Originally the manufacturers proposed a day in a fortnight and one day in a fortnight is going on. For how many fortnights should it go on?

SHRI DINESH SINGH: Perhaps what I said was not quite clear to my hon. friend. We are now looking into the restrictions that may be necessary. We have consulted the Advisory Committee on this matter and they met only two or three days back. As soon as we have their report, we shall announce our decision about this matter.

So far as jute is concerned from the time of partition the production of jute has gone up very much. It was only 16.5 lakh bales and now last year it is about 69 lakh bales. It is quite true that there has been this tremendous increase in the production of jute. The prices also have gone up. I think Mr. Niren Ghosh and some other friends of his Party sitting there had tried to make out that jute prices were not very remunerative. I think to some extent they had a genuine difficulty. They were hoping that they would be able to criticise the jute policy of the Government or India. But as soon as it was found that it was even better than what they had proposed they thought it best to criticise on side points. May I say here that again the figures that they have given are not all correct? We have got some figures here with me. It would be interesting if we looked at the whole-sale prices of some of these commodities. I shall take the figure for all commodities. From 127.2 in 1962 it has come to 183.2 in 1966. The increase is about 44 per cent. Similarly in the case of food articles the increase is 43.5 per cent, while the increase in the case of jute is as much as 82.71 per cent. I am sure you will not say that we have not given the raw jute . . .

SHRI NIREN GHOSH: The whole point is that the jute grower does not get anything, he does not get any benefit out of this, because the jute crop is in the hands of the speculators before it is grown. The manufacturers themselves buy it at Rs. 30 per maund and then sell it to their own mills or to other mills at Rs. 60 a maund.

SHRI DINESH SINGH: I am afraid that is not borne out from the figures I have given to the House. May I say that it is for this very reason that we have fixed a support price for jute this year at Rs. 40? Hon. Members talk of statutory price instead of a support price. May I say that it will not be in the interest of the producer? When we have such a fixed statutory price that means there will be no variation and if the market improves the farmer will not get a better price which he can now get. Prices have fluctuated and what we are trying to do is to . . .

(Interruptions)

When I state facts they get agitated. Why not listen to me as calmly as I was listening when they were giving wrong facts? I am now giving the correct figures. We have a support price so that the producer or the farmer gets the benefit of it. May I assure the House and the hon. Members that the State Trading Corporation itself will enter the market if it is necessary and purchase jute at Rs. 40 per maund? As we have said, we are not leaving it in the hands of the jute industry at all.

SHRI BANKA BEHARY DAS: Support price means the price fixed at Calcutta and it will be Rs. 40 per maund. But take the case of the agriculturists in Assam, or Bihar or Orissa. They are completely at the mercy of the middlemen who will buy it at Rs. 25 per maund.

SHRI DINESH SINGH: May I say, Madam, with all due respect to the hon. Member and other hon. Members that in West Bengal and in Orissa they are free to ask their State Governments in which they have much greater say than I have to go into this . . .

SHRI CHITTA BASU: It is not a question of State Government.

(Interruptions.)

SHRI DINESH SINGH: There is nothing to prevent the State Governments from doing it. The trouble is they want to say all these things here but not to act there. We are at least purchasing at . . .

(Interruptions.)

SHRI NIREN GHOSH: Why is not the trade in raw jute being taken over by the Government?

SHRI DINESH SINGH: The State Government is theirs; I have no objection but it is . . .

SHRI BANKA BEHARY DAS: But it is not the State Government that has fixed this Rs. 40.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Just ask the Reserve Bank to advance Rs. 500 crores and we will see whether the State Governments can take over the trade.

(Interruptions.)

SHRIMATI TARA RAMCHANDRA SATHE: Is it not a fact that in Pakistan the price is much less?

SHRI DINESH SINGH: Exactly that was what I was coming to. The price in Pakistan is very much lower than the price that we have for our raw jute here. That is again the difficulty; just like cotton the raw jute produced here costs higher. Here also we have to go into the question of increasing the yield and I would again seek the help of the hon. Members on that side to persuade

their State Governments over which they have more say than at least we have to give necessary inputs to the jute producers to increase the yield. I hope they will be able to do that and I will be willing to join them.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: We have the say; you give the money.

SHRI DINESH SINGH: Neither is he going to give money nor am I going to give money. If the State Government would make any proposal in this regard the Central Government would examine it. That is the correct way of doing it. It is not as if I have the money and I pass it on to the hon. Member.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: I am not talking about the kula tantra money

on bill

(Interruptions)

SHRI DINESH SINGH: May I just say a few words about the problem of jute industry before I finish? The problem as it has been presented to us is that the price of jute goods has been falling very rapidly. Their contention is that it is falling even more than the price of raw jute. Now the jute industry came to the Government and asked for certain facilities which they had banked on and one was the cutting down of the production of jute goods. You are aware that the policy of Government has been to increase production so that we have surplus for our own people and also for our export. That has been one of the primary considerations of the economic policy. We are therefore not in a position to agree to the curtailment of their production and also to the laying off of the labour. We do not think it is right on the part of the industry to go on closing down mills as and when it suits them and put a large number of labourers out of employment. This is quite wrong. There should be some other way of balancing this and we felt that perhaps the best way would be if they had a jute

[Shri Dinesh Singh.]

goods buffer stock where they could stock the goods they produce and by which they will have certain manoeuvrability in offering the goods for sale and we said that we shall be very glad to co-operate with them in the creation of this buffer stock. The jute industry is, I believe, giving consideration to this matter and I should like . . .

SHRI NIREN GHOSH: Why leave it to the industry? Why should not the Government itself take it up?

SHRI DINESH SINGH: That is an interesting question why should not the Government itself do it? The point is that this industry is a very old and established industry which has considerable exports and imports are linked with the traditional buyers and others and we would not like suddenly to disturb them and also take over this liability while they will have no obligation to produce it at a competitive price. Then the whole burden will be on us. Actually this is what they have been asking and I am surprised that the hon. Member is putting forward that proposition. That is exactly what the industry has been asking. We do not want to take over that obligation; they must be able to sell it at a reasonable price while we are willing to give them every accommodation possible. That is the basis of the whole thing. And I would like to appeal to them through the hon. Members of this House that it is one of the very important export industries and we would like their full co-operation. We would not like to do anything which will disturb this industry and we are convinced that this is the best way. We have suggested other measures which have been given in my statement and I would urge the industry to consider this in all seriousness and not go on to a position where we may be forced to take stricter measures.

Thank you, Madam.

SHORT DURATION DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 176 RE DELAY IN IMPLEMENTING THE REPORT OF THE GAJENDRAGADKAR COMMISSION

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now we go on to the next item. Mr. Bhadram. You will get 10 minutes and all the rest five minutes each; one from each party.

SHRI M. V. BHADRAM (Andhra Pradesh): The other discussion has taken more than three hours, Madam.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: It may have because you did not co-operate.

SHRI M. V. BHADRAM: For that the people who co-operate are to pay the penalty?

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: What you cannot say in 10 minutes you won't say in 20.

SHRI M. V. BHADRAM: It all depends upon each individual's capacity and knack in putting forth one's point of view.

Madam Deputy Chairman, the D.A. Commission appointed by the Government has submitted its Report on the 29th May and the recommendations are yet to be accepted by the Government and to be implemented. In this connection the Finance Minister has advocated a peculiar, fantastic and obnoxious theory which is provoking not only the Central Government employees but also the State Government employees, the employees in the public sector undertakings and also the employees in the private sector. The employees are due one slab from February and the second slab from June of this year. It means the lowest employee is to get Rs. 12 from June. But the Finance Minister says that the whole amount is to be credited in the Provident Fund account and that he will wait till the 31st March 1968 when he will see what can be done. It tanta-