

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: It is Private Members' day and there are about twenty-one more Members who desire to speak on the first Resolution. Therefore, it is not in my hands to finish this Resolution quickly.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: With regard to the earlier matter . . .

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : No, no, that is over. Now Mr. Chitta Basu, you had not finished the other day.

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SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : This will not do. The Government has to make a statement as the ruling Congress Party but the Government does not make the statement and, Madam Deputy Chairman, you will realise why they are not making the statement, why they have been delaying. When it comes to the Opposition, they come out with a statement, a big long statement, and here the ruling party have their headquarters and from there people have been picked up by this very Government on the charge of espionage, and people who have access to very high quarters. Naturally the country is anxious to know what it is all about. Therefore I think the Government should come and make a statement immediately. I am not pre-judging anything.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : That will do, please. Now you have also drawn the attention of the Government. Now it is for the Government.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : Nobody ever cared to . . .

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : At this rate we can never come back to discuss the Resolutions.

SHRI AKBAR ALI KHAN (Andhra Pradesh) : That shows the authenticity and the credit of the Government.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : That also «how that although the Defence of India Rules have been in operation for three years, you did nothing to use it in the case of the A.I.C.C. employees.

RESOLUTION RE APPOINTMENT OF A PERMANENT HIGH POWER COMMITTEE TO CONTROL THE PRICE LINE AND REGULATE DISTRIBUTION OF ESSENTIAL ARTICLES—contd.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B. R. BHAGAT) : Coming back to the partly discussed Resolution you said that there are twenty-one speakers. I want to know if it is the desire of the House to continue this debate beyond . . .

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : (referring to Shri Silaram Jaipuria) On the first Resolution there are many speakers to speak, but if the hon. Member wants that his Resolution should come up and that I should close this, it is not for me; it is for the House to decide.

SHRI B. R. BHAGAT: I only want to know . . .

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Chitta Basu.

SHRI CHITTA BASU (West Bengal) : I

श्री राजनारायण (उत्तर प्रदेश) :
जरा मेरी भी सुनिए ।

उपसभापति : देखो बहुत हो गया ।

श्री राजनारायण : मैं उस पर बोलना चाहता हूँ ।

उपसभापति : मैं विनती करती हूँ कि अब हमारी लेजिस्लेटिव बिजनेस चलने दो ।

had not finished on the last occasion.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I do not know how much time you had taken. Five minutes more.

SHRI CHITTA BASU : More time I require.

SHRI AKBAR ALI KHAN (Andhra Pradesh) : I think you can limit every speaker to five minutes, Madam.

श्री राजनारायण : मेरा निवेदन है कि प्राइस राइज़ के सबाल पर सब पार्टियों का एक-एक वक्ता अपने विचार बता दे, जैसे कांग्रेस पार्टी का एक वक्ता पार्टी के विचार

[श्री राजनारायण]

बता दे। मेरा निवेदन है कि जितनी पार्टियां
हैं, कम से कम हर एक पार्टी के वक्ता को
10-10 12-12 मिनट दे दें।

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA (West Bengal) : No, it is not like that. Madam Deputy Chairman, I hope the rules will not be changed. Fifteen minutes is the stipulated time, not a minute more, not a minute less. Sometimes, well, it is for the speakers not to take that much time, but the normal practice is that on this Non-Official Private Members' Resolution, the mover has thirty minutes, others fifteen minutes. Therefore, fifteen minutes we are entitled to have. Naturally, it is for you to call whosoever you like.

SHRI AKBAR ALI KHAN: But there are many speakers.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : In that case it will continue on the next day.

SHRI CHITTA BASU : Regarding the steps taken by the Government I was speaking and I could not finish my speech. One of the proposals of the Government of India is that they want to apply the Essential Commodities Act in the matter of curbing the price rise. Madam, the efficacy of the Essential Commodities Act can be better known by its application in U.P. I do not go into the details of the matter. Only a few days ago some big businessmen were arrested in Uttar Pradesh for their smuggling and hoarding activities. But these big businessmen, were released the very same night they were arrested without being produced before a court. So far as my knowledge goes, I understand that some police officers had been to the police station and then they were bailed out the very day, they were arrested. Therefore, I say that the application of the Essential Commodities Act is not going to curb and bring down this price rise in our country.

Madam, there is a proposal of the Government in which they want to curb this price rise by establishing so many departmental consumer stores. There is already what they call a Super Bazar in Delhi.

AN HON. MEMBER : Super fraud.

SHRI CHITTA BASU : Yes, a super fraud as my hon. friend here says. But you can see that this Supper Bazar is capable of being taken advantage of only by the affluent and aristocratic sections of the society.

AN HON. MEMBER : No.

SHRI CHITTA BASU : Common people, particularly the village people and the working class people, they cannot take advantage of this market.

SHRI P. N. SAPRU (Uttar Pradesh) : People buy cheap from the Super Bazar and then sell in the market.

SHRI CHITTA BASU : I am coming to that. Such types of consumer stores and departmental stores might have some deterrent effect on price rise if such stores are established in each and every district of the country. But so far as I know, the Finance Ministry has calculated that to have one store in each district will cost not less than Rs. 1,000 crores and naturally the Government does not have such a huge sum of money for this purpose.

Madam, my conclusion is that the steps that have been so far taken by the Government in the matter of curbing prices are not going to yield the desired results and our people are going to suffer because of these speculators, hoarders and other corrupt traders. Madam, what are the basic reasons for this price rise? I do not have much time at my disposal. Otherwise I could have narrated them in full. But I may say that I feel that the basic reason for this price rise can be traced to the wrong policy that the Government has been following. There are basic defects which give rise to price rise, Firstly, there is this unusual and increasing dependence on foreign aid. Then, there is the imposition of constantly increasing indirect taxes. Thirdly, there is deficit financing. The fourth defect is this reluctance to implement genuine land reforms in the country and the fifth defect is the reluctance to increase the pace and scope of socialisation of the distribution trade. Madam, unless we view very seriously these defects and take effective steps to remove them, we cannot prevent this rise in prices and these simple measures, as I said earlier, are not going to yield the desired results.

I would like to make certain suggestions which will help to curb the price rise.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Your five minutes are over. Under the rules only fifteen minutes are allowed to a speaker.

SHRI CHITTA BASU: I will only rapidly read out the suggestions that I want to place before the Government.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Yes.

SHRI CHITTA BASU: I feel that unless the Government takes some com-prehnsive programme to bring about fiscal and economic changes this price rise cannot be effectively curbed. And as a result our Plans will be failures and our people would suffer from starvation and we cannot even preserve and protect our independence and sovereignty. Therefore, my appeal to the Government is that they diould immediately take comprehensive powers and proceed on the lines that I propose.

The Government should move in the direction of having a massive programme of State trading in the wholesale trade in foodgrains. This means that the producers should be given remunerative prices for their produce and there should not be the policy of procurement by which we forcibly take away their produce.

Secondly, this State trading should be extended even to all essential commodities and the Government should come up with suitable legislative measures so that under the Essential Commodities Act you could procure from the sources of production and the produce may be distributed through a chain of shops to be sold at controlled and reasonably fair prices.

Madam, there should be genuine land reforms. Unless there is genuine land reform, our food production cannot be stepped up and unless our food production is stepped up we cannot do away with the import of foodgrains from foreign countries and do away with the possibilities of increases of food prices in our country. Madam, the Agrarian Reforms Committee of the Congress, the Land Reforms Panel of the Planning Commission and even Mr.

W. A. Ladejinisky's Report have reported that land reforms should be brought about as that is the key to our food production because that way the latent forces of production can be unleashed.

(Time bell rings)

Madam, I am just finishing. There should be the nationalisation of the rice mills. So far as I know, the Congress Party had adopted a resolution to nationalise all rice mills. Then I want the nationalisation of banks and also the nationalisation of the export and import trades. There should also be the confiscation of the unaccounted money and a new fiscal policy should be adopted in order to minimise indirect taxes and there should be the abolition of deficit financing at the Centre and also in the States.

Madam, only if these measures are taken together and in an effective manner shall we be able to fight effectively the hydra-headed monster of this price rise. Once we defeat this "price monster" we can lead our country on the path to prosperity and plenty.

SHRIMATT USHA BARTHAKUR (Assam) : Madam, this being my first speech I may kindly be given at least ten minutes.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Under the rules of procedure fifteen minutes are allowed to each speaker.

SHRI SYED AHMAD (Madhya Pradesh) : She does not want to speak for fifteen minutes, but only for ten minutes.

SHRIMATI USHA BARTHAKUR: Madam, I rise to support the Resolution moved by Shri Dharia on the 29th July, regarding the food problem. The Resolution precisely expresses the hardship that the masses have been undergoing due to abnormal rise in prices of fooefgrains and all other essential articles and commodities. It is an admitted fact that the abnormal rise in the price of foodgrains has stood in the way of the common people being able to purchase even the bare necessities of life and this tells upon their health and peace of mind. Besides, whatever food is available, it is mostly adulterated

[Shrimati Usha Barthakur.] -and this has added fuel to the fire in destroying the vitality of the nation. Along with measures for bringing down the prices of foodstuffs, stringent measures should also be taken against adulterators of foodstuffs for their homicidal activities.

I appreciate the action taken by the Government towards supplementing rice by *atta* due to the shortage of rice. But it is regrettable to see that the *atta* supplied in the market is mostly adulterated with husk and dust and is very often not fit for human consumption. This is the main reason for the reluctance of the rice-eating people to take to *atta* and that is why the demand for rice still persists, even though people have generally agreed to change their food habits responding to the overall situation in the country. The high prices of foodgrains and other foodstuffs and essential commodities are the main causes for anti-social activities. While the hoarders, blackmarketeers and profiteers who trade on these lines are thriving, the poor men of the small income group have been forced to take to unfair means to earn money in order to make both ends meet. Therefore, adequate measures should be taken against all the sections of anti-social elements who, directly or indirectly, exploit the critical situation caused by natural calamities. Drastic measures should be taken against the monopolist hoarders, blackmarketeers and profiteers so that the masses are saved from the grip of grinding hardships.

I thank the Government of India for encouraging the establishment of Super Markets, Departmental Stores and Consumer Stores with a view to control prices of foodstuffs and other essential articles and commodities. The Delhi Super Bazar has been a success and its activities are branching out in the City. I think this is a step in the right direction. I would, however, suggest that this machinery should be set up throughout the country. For the rural areas, I would recommend setting up of multi-purpose service co-operatives as the medium of all economic activities concerning the farmers and villagers. I think the State Governments should be given necessary financial and other help by the Centre to implement this laudable scheme.

Madam, coming from Assam as I do, I would like to place before the House the food situation in my State. Till before the Partition, the food situation in Assam and its economy was self-sustaining although at a low level. The Partition disrupted the entire economy of the State as a result of transport bottleneck and closure of trade with East Pakistan. Since the great earthquake of 1950, the State has been visited by heavy floods and erosions destroying crops and properties of the order of Rs. 7 crores on an annual average. Increase in population and influx of people from outside the State during this period have also contributed to the heavy strain on the economy of the State. This background explains the wide difference in the price index in Assam compared to India's average. In the first year of the Third Plan, the wholesale price index of India went down by 3.6 per cent, but it went up by 3.2 per cent, in Assam. In 1965, the wholesale price index for India went up by 10 points, whereas in case of Assam it rose by 15.6 points.

This year the prices of paddy and rice have risen abnormally as a result of widespread floods that came in early June and destroyed the entire paddy. Even at places like Lanka and Hojai, the granary of paddy in Assam, rice was sold at Rs. 65 to Rs. 90 per maund. Prices of other essential commodities have also risen steeply.

Hoarders, blackmarketeers and profiteers have exploited the scarcity situation causing untold miseries to the common people. The people have become restive. During the last few days, there have been reports of unlawful activities at Shillong, Dibrugarh, Jorhat, Sibsagar, Nowgong, etc. at the instigation of unsocial elements who have incited some sections of students to launch a movement. This has resulted in looting of shops and assault on shopkeepers. The situation is really grave. I welcome the stand taken by the Chief Minister of Assam to put down lawlessness, but at the same time I would urge upon him to take vigorous steps to bring down the prices, make the supplies available and the distribution fair and equitable. That will be the only sure way to cut at the root of unsocial and lawless activities.

I also welcome the response of the Prime Minister to help the State to tide over the difficult food situation. I would urge that rice and wheat should be rushed to the State to ease the acute crisis that the State is facing.

Madam, I am glad to learn that the Centre has agreed to supply 31,000 tonnes of wheat to Assam per month till the next harvest. But steps should be taken to ensure that the wheat is actually moved to Assam on a top priority basis. This is because, the transport to Assam is very meagre. Therefore, the Railways should be directed to run special trains to transport wheat, rice and other essential commodities to Assam during the coming four months.

The State Government has asked the Centre to supply at least 20,000 tonnes of rice immediately to meet the urgent needs. I hope, considering the grave situation in the State, this demand will be met in full and forthwith.

Madam, I appreciate the actions taken by the Government to tackle the difficult economic situation in the country. The permanent solution of the food problem lies in increasing our food production to the maximum extent possible, and to control births. To do this the farmers should be given all help and encouragement to grow more food and the family planning programme should be vigorously pursued in the urban and rural areas alike and, if necessary, it should be protected by legislation.

Concluding, I would like to make the following suggestions :

Exemplary punishment should be given to adulterators, hoarders, blackmarketeers and profiteers without delay;

the Government should set up a high-power committee to enquire into the soaring prices of essential consumer goods and take effective measures on their recommendations;

the Government should bring direct control on commodity prices and effective distribution in their own hands through a suitable machinery all throughout the country; and anti-social and unlawful activities should be put down with a firm hand.

Madam, with these observations I resume my seat.

श्री सुन्दर सिंह भंडारी (राजस्थान) :
उपसभापति जी, मैं माननीय श्री धारिया जी का आभारी हूँ कि उन्होंने मूल्य वृद्धि के संबंध में एक प्रस्ताव लाकर इस एक बहुत बड़े आर्थिक संकट की ओर हम सब का ध्यान आकर्षित किया है। यह एक मानी हुई बात है कि मूल्यों की वृद्धि उस समय बढ़ जाती है जब चीजों का अभाव प्रकट हो। अभाव का मुख्य कारण उत्पादन में कमी है। हम सब जानते हैं, विशेषकर अनाज के मामले में पिछले एक वर्ष में 17 मिलियन टन अनाज की कमी हुई है और यह स्वाभाविक ही है कि इस कमी की वजह से हमारी सारी आर्थिक नीति पर प्रभाव पड़े। केवल उत्पादन में अनाज की ही कमी नहीं हुई, जो बाकी चीजें हैं, उनमें भी कमी हुई है। इसका कारण यह है कि पिछले तीन वर्षों में 36.5 प्रतिशत कीमतें सभी प्रकार की उपभोक्ता सामग्रियों की बढ़ गई है। पिछले तीन, चार महीनों में इनमें 5.8 प्रतिशत की और अधिक वृद्धि हुई है।

अगर हम इस बढ़ोतरी के मुख्य कारण को लें, तो इसमें से एक बहुत बड़ा कारण हमारे देश में मुद्रास्फीति का है। हमने अपने रुपए की कीमत को गिरा दिया है और इसके अनेक कारण हैं। हमने डेफिसिट फाइनेंसिंग किया है और यह डेफिसिट फाइनेंसिंग कम नहीं हुआ है। आज भी हमारे देश में 2,676 करोड़ रुपये के नोट चल रहे हैं। हमने विदेशी कर्जा लिया है और वह कर्जा देश का 5,627 करोड़ रुपये का है।

[श्री सुन्दर सिंह भंडारी]

और बाहर का 3,293 करोड़ रुपये का है जो इस वर्ष के अंत तक होगा। आखिर यह सब रुपया फँल रहा है, मगर उत्पादन उतना नहीं हो रहा है और इसी कारण रुपये की क्रय शक्ति घटती है। इसका स्वाभाविक परिणाम मूल्यों में वृद्धि का होता है।

आज हमारे देश में अनाप शनाप कर बढ़ गये हैं। उपभोक्ता सामग्री के अभाव में जो कीमतें बढ़ रही हैं अगर उन्हीं चीजों पर और टैक्स लगाया जाय तो उनकी कीमतें बढ़ती हैं और इस बढ़ी हुई कीमत का आज सर्वसाधारण व्यक्तियों के ऊपर प्रभाव पड़ रहा है।

इसके साथ ही साथ जो हमारे प्रशासन का खर्चा है वह भी इन दिनों में बहुत बढ़ गया है। पिछले 15 वर्षों में 260 करोड़ रुपये से बढ़कर यह नान-डेवलपमेंट एक्सपेंडीचर 1,528 करोड़ रुपया हो गया है। जितना नान-डेवलपमेंट एक्सपेंडीचर बढ़ेगा, स्वाभाविक बात है वह एक ऐसी चीज है जिसे हम अपने ऊपर ले रहे हैं और जिसका परिणाम मूल्य वृद्धि ही होगा। सरकार का भी अनाप-शनाप खर्चा बढ़ा है। पिछले इन वर्षों में केवल भवन निर्माण पर 30 अरब रुपया हमने खर्च किया है। जो बाहर से हम सामान मंगा रहे हैं—कुछ जरूरी चीजें मंगानी पड़ेंगी—उनमें से यह प्लेइंग कार्ड्स पर भी 56 लाख रुपया खर्च हमने किया है। आखिर जब हमारे देश की अर्थ नीति इतनी भीषण अवस्था में से गुजर रही है जो इन सारे खर्चों के बारे में निश्चित रूप से विचार करना होगा।

एक और कारण भी है जिस के कारण आज अभाव पैदा हो रहा है। हमारा उत्पादन कम है, लेकिन हमारी अर्थ नीति एक ऐसी विशोष सर्किल बन गई है कि हमें विदेशी मुद्रा प्राप्त करने के लिये हमारे यहां कमी होते हुये भी चीजों का निर्यात करना पड़

रहा है। शुगर का निर्यात, काटन का निर्यात, और चीजों का निर्यात हम कर रहे हैं क्योंकि हमें विदेशी मुद्रा चाहिए। लेकिन आज उसके कारण हमारे देश में भी अभाव की हालत पैदा होती है। यह निर्यात चाहे दूसरे कारणों से जस्टिफाएबिल होगा परन्तु आज की इकोनामी में वह कीमतें बढ़ाने के लिये जिम्मेदार है। आज केवल उत्पादन की कमी नहीं है। जो कुछ है इस देश के अन्दर वह भी अगर ठीक प्रकार से वितरित हो जाय, बंट जाय लोगों में, तो जो कुछ अभाव के कारण कीमतों के बढ़ाने का मौका मिलता है वह इस वितरण की ठीक व्यवस्था से घटाया जा सकता है। वितरण में अगर कमिश्नरेशन पैदा हों तो यह होने वाला अभाव बढ़ जाता है। मुझे दुख के साथ यह निवेदन करना पड़ रहा है कि सरकार की वितरण के क्षेत्र में अपनाई गई नीतियों, उसमें लगाये गये प्रतिबन्ध, उसमें प्रयोग किये जाने वाले एकाधिकार, इन सब चीजों ने भी कीमतों को बढ़ाने के लिये बहुत बड़ी अपनी जिम्मेदारी ली है। कहा यही जाता है कि कंज्युमर के इंटरेस्ट में ये सब चीजें कर रहे हैं। थ्युरेटिकली यह सब सही हो सकता है कि यह कीमतें हमने निर्धारित कीं चीजों को बेचने के लिय परन्तु मुश्किल यह हो गई कि कंज्युमर को उन चीजों की प्राप्ति नहीं हो रही। जो चीजें मिल रही थीं वे भी मार्केट्स में से चली गईं। राजस्थान की सरकार ने पिछले दिनों में अनाज की जो कीमतें तय की थी, मैक्सिमम प्राइसेज, वे हटीं और दूसरे ही दिन से हमने देखा कि वे ही मंडियां जिन में अनाज के दर्शन नहीं होते थे, वहां पर अनाज मिलने लग गया। उस मैक्सिमम प्राइसेज के कानून के कारण चीजों के दर्शन जिस कंज्युमर को नहीं होते थे और ब्लैकमार्केट में एक्जाविटेंट प्राइसेज जिस को देनी पड़ती थीं, वह प्राइसेज का कानून हटा देने के बाद, जहां तक अवैलिबिलिटी का सवाल है, जो एक्जाविटेंट प्राइसेज में ब्लैकमार्केट में उस कानून के रहते हुये सामान उसे मिलता था, उससे

बहुत कम कीमत में उसे वह सामान मिलने लगा है। हम अगर कंज्युमर का हित देखना चाहते हैं तो वह रेस्ट्रिक्शन यह सब प्रकार के कानून, पाबन्दियाँ, यह काम नहीं दे रहे हैं। हम सरकार को सीमित प्रकार से, एक लोहे के किले से बंद कर के उसको काम करने की इजाजत देना चाहते हैं। लेवी का कानून खरीदने के लिए मानोपली परचेज की तमाम किलेबन्दी चाहिये और कंट्रोल और ऐसी ही सारी चीजें चाहिये उन चीजों को किसी भी कीमत पर खरीद कर किसी भी कीमत पर बेचने के लिये। उसकी एफिसिएंसी का टेस्ट यह नहीं है कि कंज्युमर के इंटेस्ट में वह कौन सी चीज कर रही है। इसके कारण सारे कानून उसकी मदद के लिये खड़े हो जाते हैं। यही कारण है कि दिल्ली में जो चना सरकार ने 58 रुपये में खरीदा वही चना मद्रास में 102 रुपये में बेचना उसके लिये संभव होता है। अब सरकार अगर 102 रुपये में बेचेगी और फिर अगर मद्रास में उसका मार्केट भाव 122 रुपये हो तो क्या सरकार का 102 रुपये का भाव उसके लिये जिम्मेदार नहीं है।

मैं यह निवेदन करूंगा कि सरकार ने इन नीतियों के कारण इन भावों को बढ़ने में मदद दी है। यह जो आज जगह-जगह वनवासी लोग आन्दोलन कर रहे हैं, उसका कारण क्या है? हमने लेवी में बस्तर के इलाके में, मध्य प्रदेश में, एक रुपया पायली के हिसाब से उनका चावल खरीदा। आज जब उनको हम चावल खाने को नहीं दे पा रहे हैं तो हम चाहते हैं कि वह वनवासी बाजार से ढाई रुपया पायली के हिसाब से चावल खरीदें। वह चावल का उत्पादक है और वह कहता है कि अगर मुझे से तुमने एक रुपया पायली चावल लिया है तो यह सरकार की जिम्मेदारी है कि मुझे खाने के लिये भी वही एक रुपया पायली चावल मिलना चाहिए। और मुझे

बाजार से ढाई रुपया पायली खरीदने के लिये मजबूर करने योग्य स्थिति उत्पन्न नहीं करनी चाहिए।

मैं मानता हूं कि इंडस्ट्रियल सेंटर्स और कैपिटल्स में जहां पर लोगों की परचेजिंग पावर ज्यादा है आज की वर्तमान परिस्थिति में वहां पर स्टेटुटरी राशनिंग होनी चाहिए। वह स्टेटुटरी राशनिंग का सरकार ने नियम बनाया है। मुझे दुख है कि वह नियम निर्धारित करने वाली सरकार छः शहरों में उसे लागू करने के बाद रुक गई। आज जब उस चीज को बढ़ाने के बारे में कहा जाता है तो वह कहती है कि प्रोक्योरमेंट नहीं हो रहा है, उतना लेवी में हम वसूल नहीं कर पाते, हमें उस किसान की स्वयं की आवश्यकताओं का विचार करना पड़ता है। और आज उस स्टेटुटरी राशनिंग के इलाके में जितनी साधारण डाइट हो लोगों को देनी चाहिए, उतनी हम नहीं दे पाते। दिल्ली शहर में आज लोग अफसोस करते हैं जब दो मेहमान उनके यहां आ जाते हैं। ऐसा प्रोसीजर आपने कोरोडेड बनाया है कि उन मेहमानों के लिये उसको अनाज प्राप्त नहीं होता। आज स्टेटुटरी राशनिंग के इलाके में हमने ब्लैकमार्केटिंग के लिये, स्मगलिंग के लिये अधिक रास्ते खोले हैं इस प्रकार की गारंटी न दे कर के कि लोगों को आवश्यक भोजन की सामग्री मिले। फिर जो सामान आप दे रहे हैं वह सड़ा है, विगड़ा हुआ है। आज आप मजबूर करते हैं लोगों को वह खरीदने के लिये, बीमार पड़ने के लिये। तो यह स्वाभाविक बात है कि इन चीजों से कीमतें घटती नहीं हैं बल्कि ब्लैकमार्केट के रास्ते खुलते हैं।

मुझे खुशी है इस बात की कि सरकार पिछले दिनों में इस ब्लैकमार्केट और होडिंग को रोकने के लिये कुछ सक्रिय हुई है। मुझे अफसोस है इस बात के कहने के लिये कि पार्लियामेंट के अधिवेशनों के साथ सरकार की यह मशीनरी भी कुछ ऐक्टिव बनती हुई

[श्री सुन्दर सिंह भंडारी]

दिखाई देती है। पंजाब में छापे मारे गए। 1,046 लोगों पर छापे मारे गए। लेकिन मुझे यह देख कर आश्चर्य हुआ कि पंजाब के होम सेक्रेटरी ने यह जिक्र किया है कि इन छापों से कीमतों पर कोई प्रभाव नहीं पड़ा, कीमतें उसके कारण नीचे नहीं आईं। होशियारपुर, संगरूर जिले के डिप्टी कमिशनर का मासिक प्रेस कॉन्फ्रेंस में यह स्टेटमेंट हुआ कि इससे कीमतें नीचे लाने में कोई मदद नहीं मिली। मेरा यह कहना है कि इन सारी चीजों से अगर कीमतें नीचे नहीं आती तो इस संदर्भ में हमें विचार करना चाहिये कि क्या फिर ये सारे छापे, ये सारे रेड्स उसी प्रकार के हैं जैसे कुछ दिन पहले दिल्ली में किये गये थे। एक दिन अखबारों में बड़े जोर से सुना कि सरकार ने तीन लाख मन गेहूं पकड़ा। आज तक पता नहीं चला कि वह तीन लाख मन कहाँ गया, कहाँ मुकदमा उसका दर्ज हुआ। वह तीन लाख मन कानफिसकेट कर सरकार कामन कन्ज्यूमर के फायदे के लिए उस चीज को कहीं पर लाई या सरकार केवल अखबारों में छपवाना चाहती थी। यह इन्फू बहुत गर्म है। जहाँ पर छापे पड़े रहे हैं मुझे पता नहीं उन दुकानों पर पुलिस केवल अखबारों में फोटो छपवाने के लिए पहुँचती है या वास्तव में होर्डिंग को पकड़ना चाहती है या केवल पुलिस के पहुँचते ही हम टेलीविजन पर उनकी खबरें देना चाहते हैं या हम वास्तव में यहाँ पर होर्डिंग को रोकना चाहते हैं। मुझे उन लोगों के लिए अफसोस नहीं जो पकड़े गए। मेरी जानकारी है कि उसमें ज्यादा बड़े-बड़े कांग्रेस के व्यापारी और ऐसे लोग हैं जो मेट्रोपोलिटन काउंसिल के टिकट मांग रहे थे। मुझे किसी तरह का दुख नहीं है लेकिन मेरा यह निवेदन है कि ये दर्शनार्थी चीजें, ये चमत्कारी चीजें कीमतों को नीचे नहीं लायेंगी, सरकार को व्यावहारिक होकर इस प्रश्न का सामना करना होगा।

यहाँ सुपर मार्केट निकाली गई। मैं अपनी तरफ से कमेंट नहीं देना चाहता। हमारे केन्द्र के मंत्री श्री जगजीवन राम अभी जयपुर गए थे पिछली 4 तारीख को। उनका यह कहना है कि सुपर मार्केटों से महंगाई रोकना सम्भव नहीं। सरकार की एक 'योजना' नाम की पुस्तक निकलती है। इसमें इस पर लिखा है—

"It will be a super market as well as a community centre where marketing will be a pleasure. But the real objective is to bring retail marketing under social control not reduction of prices."

मेरा निवेदन है कि आप इस समस्या का समाधान इसके साथ जोड़ने की कोशिश मत कीजिए, लोगों को मुशालता देने की कोशिश मत कीजिए। असल में ये कीमतें घटेंगी तो दूसरे कारणों से घट पायेंगी। केवल प्रशासनिक कदम आप उठाएँ, उससे ये कीमतें नहीं उतरेंगी। अन्ततोगत्वा, उत्पादन आपको बढ़ाना होगा। मैंने प्रशासनिक खर्च घटाने की भी बात कही है। फैसला तो कर लिया गया कि प्रशासनिक खर्च में तीन प्रतिशत की कटौतियाँ की जाएंगी। सारी प्रान्तीय सरकारें इस बात पर विचार कर रही हैं कि प्रशासनिक खर्च कैसे कम किए जायें। राजस्थान की सरकार ने केवल एक फैसला किया कि पिछले बीस महीनों में जितने सरकारी कर्मचारियों की नियुक्ति की गई, उनकी छंटनी सबसे पहले हो जाएगी।

उपसभापति : आपके 15 मिनट समाप्त हुए।

श्री सुन्दर सिंह भंडारी : हो गए। मैं एक मिनट में समाप्त करता हूँ। राजस्थान सरकार केवल इन कर्मचारियों की छंटनी करने पर प्रशासनिक खर्च में कमी करने के लिए सोच रही है। मेरा यह निवेदन है कि इन खर्चों के अतिरिक्त जो बाकी खर्च हो रहे हैं उनका विचार करना चाहिए। आज भी

बड़े बड़े मंशियों के दौरे पर उनके एक एक दिन के भाषण पर, उनके दैनिक निवास के लिए बनाए जाने वाले बंगलों पर आज भी हजारों लाखों रुपए खर्च होते हैं। इसको रोकने की कोशिश कीजिए। कभी अगर आपको करनी है तो करिए, परन्तु कर्मचारियों पर नहीं।

एक बहुत बड़े साहसी कदम का विवेचन किया है राजस्थान के मुख्य मंत्री ने—राजस्थान नहर योजना का बिलकुल गला घोटने का। उसको बड़ा साहसिक कदम कहा जा रहा है। मैं निवेदन करना चाहता हूँ कि राजस्थान नहर की योजना 25 लाख टन अनाज पैदा करने वाली योजना थी, 11 लाख टन गन्ना पैदा करने वाली योजना थी, डेढ़ लाख टन रुई पैदा करने वाली योजना थी, ढाई लाख टन तिलहन पैदा करने वाली योजना थी। उसी योजना पर आप कुठाराघात कर, उसी को समाप्त करके आप इस उत्पादन की चेष्टा को रोक रहे हैं। यह किसी प्रकार से भी आपके मूल्यों को नीचे लाने में मदद नहीं देगा।

अन्त में मैं केवल एक सुझाव रखना चाहता हूँ कि जो मजदूर हैं फिक्सड इनकम के लोग हैं, आज इन लोगों को जो महंगाई का शिकार होना पड़ रहा है, आज उनके लिए हमें जीवनोपयोगी सभी वस्तुओं की उपलब्धि की व्यवस्था करनी होगी। उनके महंगाई भत्ते को जितनी महंगाई है उतनी मात्रा में कम्पेनसेट करना पड़ेगा। हम चाहे उसको कैश के रूप में दें या हम कन्ज्यूमर कोओपरेटिव स्टोर्स के द्वारा चीजों को सब्सिडाइज करके कम्पेनसेट करें।

आज टैक्सों में भी हमें कमी करने का विचार करना पड़ेगा क्योंकि टैक्स से लोगों के उत्पादन और उत्पादन के मूल्यों पर भी प्रभाव पड़ता है। हमें ऐसा टैक्स पैटर्न डेवलप करना पड़ेगा जिसमें डेवलपमेंट की मशीनरी चालू रहे, किन्तु लोगों की पर-केपिटल आमदनी में भी रिलीफ प्राप्त हो।

अन्तिम सुझाव यह है कि जो रात दिन महंगाई के कारण इन मजदूरों पर, लेबर पर जो असर पड़ता है, उसके लिए हमको परमानेंट वेज बोर्ड कायम करना चाहिए जो समय समय पर कास्ट आफ लिविंग इन्डेक्स को रिव्यू करे और एक बेसिस फार्मूलेट करे जिसके आधार पर उनके वेतन और भी बढ़ाये जा सकें। मैं आपका आभारी हूँ कि आपने मुझे इतना समय दिया।

SHRIMATI TARA RAMCHANDRA SATHE (Maharashtra) : Madam Deputy Chairman, I rise to support the Resolution placed before this House by the hon. Member, Shri Dharia. But I should like to suggest and move, with your permission, an amendment to delete paragraph 2 from the Resolution. The reasons are these. We know that the Government is doing whatever possible. In many places deterrent action against blackmarketing has been taken. But that is not sufficient.

Madam, not only at the distribution level the Government should take action but it is very necessary that at every stage the Government will have to keep an eye on these things. Production is the most important stage at one end, and the wholesaler, the retailer and the consumer are at the other end. One of the economists has said that it is a "hand to mouth" problem. This I can call ^x.

^—the producer, the ! wholesaler, the retailer and the consumer. If everybody does not behave honestly, then the prices are bound to rise. The duty of the Government will be to keep an eye at all the stages. But I am sorry to say that unless and until everybody amongst us behaves honestly, this will not be possible in this country.

Madam, today I want to suggest one concrete and practical scheme as far as the distribution is concerned. Everyone of us is aware that day by day the prices of all the goods are increasing. I need not go into the details of the question, or the causes of rise in the prices or the extent to which the prices have risen because everybody amongst us knows this thing very well.

[Shrimati Tara Ramchandra Sathe.]

As the prices are rising, nobody feels sure of maintaining himself and his family within his means. The feeling of insecurity is creeping into everybody's mind, which is not at all a healthy sign. All the salaried persons are trying to demand an increase in the dearness allowance, from the peon to the highly paid officers.

The Government has been raising the dearness allowance for the last twenty years or more, since the last World War. The dearness allowance was once amalgamated in the actual pay, but that has not helped to solve the problem; neither the increase in the dearness allowance nor the increase in the wages will help to solve the problem of increasing prices though it is a sort of temporary relief no doubt. Dearness allowance increase puts more money in circulation. Prices do rise as the production, it is found, does not increase in the same proportion. The supply of goods cannot be increased in a year or two. But increase of dearness allowance can certainly add to inflation to a certain extent, though not up to the extent as deficit financing. There is a demand for increase in dearness allowance and at the same time the threat of strikes. The Government will have to think about not only a short-term relief but a long-term remedy to this situation.

Whatever may be the rise in the prices, in a welfare state of ours everybody must get the necessities of his life within a limited price or I can say within a price which he will be able to pay. I will dare to suggest one scheme, Madam, which will guarantee every employee certain necessities of life every month to whatever extent the prices of things may rise or fall. We say that a welfare Government is bound to provide the people at large these necessities and especially to the Government servants. The scheme which I propose should in the beginning start with the Government employees and if it is found to be a success, it can be extended to a larger circle, to industries and semi-Government bodies. The Government is opening Super Markets with a two-fold intention, namely, to make available to the public the necessities of life at a cheaper rate and to try to maintain the price line in the general market. This

will require crores of rupees to be invested in such Super Markets. Though it is a very good policy, it is not a solution but it is a symbol for combating the rise in prices. It is just a gesture. Even in Delhi, Government will not be able to open a dozen markets, neither will the State Governments be able to do it. It can be done only at some places and they must be run at least on a 'no profit, no loss' basis provided it is a long-term plan. It is our common experience that it is but natural that a consumer will be attracted to a Shop where a particular item is cheaper. Then he will not mind going to a dozen shops to buy a dozen different articles. The experience which I have got is rather a little unpleasant one. In 1943 we were running a ration shop and co-operative consumer stores. After some years, when there was de-rationing, we had to close our ration shop because we were not able to compete with the market and there was no guarantee of the sale. Hence, we had to liquidate these shops. Therefore, I feel that there should be a long-term scheme which would give relief to both the employees, that is, to the general consumers and the Government, the supplier.

The plan is this. Every employee will get a D.A. card on which the different items will be noted. The prices of all the materials will be fixed and the employee can choose the items and the quantity according to his needs. The prices of all these items at the present rate will be equal to the amount of the D.A. which he gets at present. This is the main point round which the scheme moves or on which the scheme is based.

The priority of the articles will be:—

1. Foodgrains—rationed according to the rules of the place.
2. Grocery : Chilly, salt, other cereals, oil, jaggery, etc.
3. Hair oil, soap, etc.
4. Coarse cloth of typical, standard quality.
5. Stationery for children, school books, petrol, etc.

I think there is no necessity for lengthening this list because it deals with many items and usually we will find that the D.A. of a person will be exhausted in the first four items. If a person has a very small family and a large sum of D.A., then he will have choice to select some other articles. But it will be a very rare case. I will deal with some extraordinary cases later on.

Now, if a person has more necessities costing more than the D.A., naturally, it remains his option to buy them in the open market in case his wants are more. Therefore, he will have to fill the card with due care and after full thought given to it in consultation with his or her family members.

A new card will be issued every month from his office. The old one will have to be returned to the office. Then only will a new card be given. The accounting or checking up will be easier from those cards.

A person, an employee, will go to a prescribed shop on a certain day with the card where he will get all the articles mentioned on the card without paying any money.

The main principle of this scheme is that no money is to be paid by the employee to the shopkeeper and nobody will get his D.A. in cash but will get it in kind as already suggested.

An employee will have the choice in the beginning to mark a day for his purchases. I feel that many employees will choose the dates from the 22nd onwards as the salary gets exhausted in the first three weeks of the month.

Every Government Department where there is a certain number of employees will have its own shop. If there is not a sufficient number of employees in one department, then two or more Government Departments will have one shop. If at all there is no such arrangement, then a private shopkeeper will get a licence from the Government to do this business. It is quite obvious that the Government will not be able to open such Super Markets everywhere or run such L73RS/66-

shops. Neither it is expected of the Government. Hence a licensed dealer will have to do it. But here the Government will have to supply the material to this shopkeeper. Even today the Government is providing rationed articles to such shops. Hence nobody will object to this suggestion. But one thing is to be noted that no cash business will take place. An employee gets the articles without paying cash. The Government will give transport charges to the traders, plus 5 per cent, or whatever percentage is fixed as profit over the turnover. Thus, no financial consideration is involved beyond this. There is no necessity for anybody to pay money, hence, it can be made compulsory to purchase all the items at one time. These shops will necessarily remain open on Sundays. This being the arrangement for the Government employees, nobody should grumble.

Now, coming to the supply side, no doubt the Government will have to guarantee the supply of the items which are demanded by their employees on the cards. But the quantum of such supply being fixed, there will be no change in this demand as far as the minimum requirements are concerned. Now the Department or say the Government, will have to arrange for that much supply to be got from the producer direct. Here there is no place for an agent or a wholesaler, working as a middleman purely with a profit motive. And that much part of the expenses or the profit is reduced. Of course, then it will be cheaper for the Government to get these things. For the present, we see that all the items are cheaper in the Super Bazar than in the open market. This is the main cause of it

In many places, there will be no Governmental stores. Here comes the role of a private individual. Nobody will object to this. It is not at all possible for the Government to reach every corner of the country. Also it should not bear heavy losses on any scheme for that would be a burden on the exchequer. Hence, a private individual will have to be certified to deal on behalf of the Government. Even today, the ration shops are run by private individuals on certain conditions.

[Shrimati Tara Ramchandra Sathe.]

The conditions here should be that there will be no exchange of money as far as the Government employees' quota is concerned, that the trader will arrange for transport of those items from wherever the Government prescribes, that the private individual will get the transport charges, that in terms of money the shopkeeper will get a fixed profit of, say, 5 per cent, on the turnover, that this will have to be determined every year and that all the duplicate cards which are with the shopkeeper will be returned at the end of the month to the Government.

What are the advantages to the employee? He will get a guarantee to get the necessities every month without bothering for the prices; even when they go up, he will not have to go in for the blackmarket.

The Government will get a guaranteed number of consumers, that is, a definite turnover will take place. They will get the commodities cheaper from the producers directly. A definite turnover will take place because there is the guaranteed number of customers or consumers. At some places we see that shops fail for want of customers or consumers. This is the main cause why these shops fail and I am afraid even the Super Bazar and all these things will face keen competition. We know very well that the Shankar Market is trying to compete with the Government and they say that all these things are cheaper in the Shankar Market. The Government will get things cheaper from the producers and if the prices go on decreasing or increasing, there will be no question of the D.A. being decreased or increased. To decrease the D.A. is a very unpopular term more difficult to implement. The Government will find it possible to run such stores over a long period of time which will not be at a loss, but on a 'no profit, no loss' basis.

Now, there are many objections, Madam, . .

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THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Your time is up-

SHRIMATI TARA RAMCHANDRA SATHE: I will have to deal with it. I will sum up. The Government will have to bother themselves for the good of the community. I do not know how to finish it . . .

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : You just finish it.

SHRIMATI TARA RAMCHANDRA SATHE : There will be no question of decrease or increase of the D.A. The employees will get the items at the prescribed rates on their cards. There will be no transaction of money anywhere. The competition in the market will help to bring the prices down.

Now, the most important point is the task of implementation. But there is no other way out of it. The Government will have to start somewhere. Some say, why compel the employees to join this scheme? The Government should start somewhere. And if it is found useful, the scheme can be extended and made applicable to semi-Government and other bodies and even to industrial establishments. The number of . . .

4 P.M.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : 1 think that will do. Your fifteen minutes are over.

SHRIMATI TARA RAMCHANDRA SATHE : ... government servants is 20 lakhs. Taking into consideration their family members, I think we have to deal with 2J crores of people, States included.

Madam, as I told you in the beginning, I wish to move an amendment to delete paragraph 2 and I request you and the House to permit me to move this amendment. At the same time I request the mover to accept it. If the House permits me to move it, then, Madam, through you I request the Government to accept the amended resolution.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : Madam, before I speak I have a submission to make I understand that in the Lok Sabha, 22nd August has been fixed for discussing the reports of the Public Accounts Committee. This may be done in

this House also. We will not be here but we have given a proper notice. I hope our House will also discuss it. The Public Accounts Committee belongs to the two Houses. Anyhow, I hope you will kindly look into this.

Madam, we are very glad that we are discussing this question of price. I have heard the speeches from the Congress Benches. Some suggestions are undoubtedly good. For once Mr. Dharia can deserve to be complimented by me. He can deserve my compliments otherwise also but for the subject that he brought in this particular motion, I have no hesitation in sympathising with him.

Madam, the approach will be naturally different. Mr. Dharia belongs to the Congress Party, a party of the capitalist class, and naturally his formulations and proposals will be conditioned by two things. Firstly, the fact of his membership of the ruling party comes in the way of his making certain suggestions which the company people may not like. Secondly, he has also to express, to some extent, the feelings and urges of the people. Therefore, we see the dual face, on the one hand the face of the capitalist deterring him from saying what he should have said and on the other, the impulses of the people.

SHRI K. K. SHAH (Maharashtra) : He is a responsible Member while you are not.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : As far as Mr. Shah is concerned, he is the State manager of the capitalist class. I do not put Mr. Dharia in that category despite the fact that he troubles me very much whenever I rise to speak. So there are two different things. But we appreciate whatever good things are said.

Madam, the price question we must confront seriously. We are told that after devaluation the price-line will be held. But the Government which has failed to hold the price-line without devaluation for a whole period of 18 years is not the Government which can be relied upon. Before devaluation it was bad enough and it will be simply ruinous after devaluation. That is what I am saying.

Now, the implications of devaluation, as far as prices are concerned, are not acknowledged by this Government. Then can we expect that this Government or the Planning Commission would be in a position to devise a course of action which would lead to the holding of the price-line? You cannot do two things at a time. You cannot carry out the orders of the United States of America in the economic field on the one hand and yet hold the price line.

SOME HON. MEMBERS : No.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : Mr. Akbar Ali Khan does not know what order has been passed by America. America does not talk to you.

SHRI AKBAR ALI KHAN : It is a disgrace to you, to me and to the whole country if you say that we carry out the orders of any foreign country. You must not give that picture.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : His indignation I fully share. But the only thing is that his support is misplaced. Everybody has said that you are doing this thing on American orders. The entire world is saying that.

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL (Delhi) : Will the hon'ble Member believe those men in the street who say that he takes his orders from Moscow ? Is that right ?

SHRI AKBAR ALI KHAN : People say that you are stooges of the Soviet Union, that these Communists are stooges. We do not say that. We respect you.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : I am not the ruling party. I do not control the Reserve Bank. I do not run the State Bank of India. I do not run the financial institutions of the country. I do not formulate the fiscal policies. As it is I am the naivest of the naive. As it is, Madam Deputy Chairman, I am not in a position to hold the price rise in the country. I am not in that capacity, neither politically nor in the financial world.

SHRI AKBAR ALI KHAN : But you can irritate and exhort people to sabotage all good things. That is the difficulty.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : I am sorry if Mr. Akbar Ali Khan thinks that I can incite people to sabotage.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : You have got very limited time on this Resolution. Therefore, you must come to the point and give the substance.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: I hope they will not interfere. You are selling away the country and, therefore, I said something. I am not much interested in the people, Who are selling away the country before our eyes. But Mr. Dharia brought in a good proposition. I do not think he is a sell-out man.

SHRI K. K. SHAH: He is a good man.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Coming again to the price rise, what are the factors that have contributed to the price rise ? First is the line of development that the Government has taken. It is the capitalist line of development at the cost of the people. The entire concept of planning is that the burdens of planning must be shifted increasingly on to the masses. That is why you find heavy taxation on the people. Indirect taxation has gone up. Union excise duties, from Rs. 52 crores, have gone up to Rs. 800 crores during the last 14 years. These are regressive taxes which tend to push up the prices.

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Deficit financing is another scheme of things which, as you know, has created inflationary pressures. In the Third Five Year Plan, the total deficit financing for the entire Plan period was envisaged as Rs. 500 crores. Now in the last year alone of the Plan, the deficit financing has amounted to Rs. 400 crores.

The third thing is credit expansion by private banks. Now, the private banks between them have deposits of the order of Rs. 1,700 to 1,800 crores. Now these moneys they utilise for all kinds of advances which lead to speculation, profiteering, cornering stocks and so on, all of which contribute to the rise in the price line.

Fourthly, their agrarian policy and their food policy is such that it has contributed to the rise in prices. As far as the agrarian sector is concerned, the means of production, namely land, is concentrated in the hands of a few. Therefore, even if the production rises the grains are cornered and they naturally fall more and more in the hands of the exploiting classes, especially the village landlords who, by reason of their hoarding capacity keep the bulk of the marketable surplus, in the first instance, in their hands, and then pass it on to the wholesalers who are connected with the big money, who operate in all kinds of manipulation leading to profiteering and rise in prices of food-grains. This is one of the factors which creates a general price rise in the country.

Another factor is that the monopolist elements are not curbed. Now, the monopolist elements are deliberately encouraged to accumulate more wealth. They call it capital but they are accumulating more wealth at the cost of the consumer and the workers. When it comes to distribution of the national income, the fruits of the national income go more and more in favour of the exploiting classes and the monopolists and the share of the working people in the increased national income declines. That has been shown in the reports of many commissions and committees. This is another factor. Therefore, rise in the prices of certain commodities produced here is a built-in feature of the present economic development. That is how they appease the monopolists. Therefore, do not think that the price rise is something for which only the profiteers and hoarders are responsible. They are certainly responsible but the Government's fiscal and economic policies are so tailored or adjusted to the monopolist that they lead to a rise in the prices with a view to serving the classes which keep this Government in power, namely, the capitalist classes. Therefore, the monopolists gain from that angle.

As far as the foreign part of it is concerned, the foreign imports and export trade is so directed as not to control the prices but to give a boost to the prices, and the prices continue to rise. Therefore, the sum total of the economic policy

of the Government is adjusted to the narrow interests of the class in power and that is responsible for the rise in the prices. This is very clear. To-day it is becoming clear, and more and more the Congress Government is in power, the greater will be the rise in the prices. Life has shown, these 19 years of Congress rule has led to a considerable rise in the prices so much so that the real income of the workers has fallen and the income disparities have grown and we have now reached a stage when the *per capita* income has not increased during the Third Plan at all. As against the envisaged target of 17 per cent, increase in the Plan period, we have an increase of only .4 per cent, which is almost nil. As far as the national income again is concerned, it has increased actually by 2.5 per cent. as against 6 per cent, envisaged under the Third Plan. That only shows that the stagnation is there. I have given the points and I can elaborate when devaluation discussion comes. The devaluation has put a tremendous pressure on the prices. There has been runaway rise in the prices. The remedies are these:

Again I will say, strike at the monopolists' seat. The monopolists should be struck in the economy. Jawaharlal Nehru spoke one day of commanding heights in our economy. If ever was a time to get to commanding heights of our times, this is the time. Capture if, capture the fortress. Disband the 75 monopolist houses which have been castigated in the official Monopolies Commission report. They are the makers of this kind of evils and the fountainhead of not only corrupting the public life but for this kind of economic trend. Therefore, disband them. Take measures to curb them. Nationalise the banks. Save the Rs. 1700 crores from the control of a handful of monopolists, in fact 5 or 6 families in the country who use these funds for playing havoc with our economy for the enrichment of their families and a handful of men of that category.

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA (Orissa) : Can I interrupt ?

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: No, the time is short. The Swatantra Party naturally will be upset, I know.

State trading in foodgrains is absolutely essential. To-day the surplus of 15 million tonnes should not be allowed to pass into, even in part, the hands of the monopolists and profiteers as well as hoarders. Therefore, state trading to the extent of 100 per cent, of marketable surplus in foodgrains is absolutely essential. Regarding other things, at the base, cost accounting should be instituted officially and people appointed, who will go into the price structure of the things that are produced by the big industries and the point at the base should be settled. Government agencies in the form of Cost Accountants under the State should go into this question and settle the prices at the base. That should be done at the instance of the Government. They should not be appointees of the industrial houses.

Again, movement will take place through import and export. I again repeat that nationalisation of our foreign trade is of vital importance to-day. For holding the price line, the Essential Commodities Act should be amended. Departmental Stores should be opened certainly but what we need is expanding state trading in various fields and that would be in the national sector as also in the co-operative sector, in the villages and small towns, there should be co-operative institutions whereas in big cities and other places there should be Government Stores and State Stores. Rationing has to be extended to cities having a population of one lakh and more because that is a source of blackmarketing and the places where the grains flow from the stocks of the hoarders. If we can seal off these areas covering 4 crores of population in our country, we will be looking after the food front much better.

Finally, I would say that the entire economic policy of the country is being reversed under American pressure and at American dictation. We cannot revalue the rupee immediately. We cannot. They have given up the fight even without pretending to fight. They have surrendered but if they have surrendered our rupee to the foreigners in this manner at foreign dictation, we can at least try to defend the economic situation as far as possible and see that we are not completely butchered and finished. We have been taken

[Shri Bhupesh Gupta.]

to the slaughter house but before we are killed we can put up resistance. Therefore, we can take countervailing measures to create a situation where monopolists should not be given concessions. Now the pressure is on the part of the monopolists to present their so-called follow-up measures. In the name of follow-up measures, they are demanding certain concessions or the other to increase the prices. We should not give them a single concession. They should be on short lease. On the contrary, what we say is that some of the concessions they have been enjoying should be taken away including the abolition of concession with regard to the bonus shares. Bonus shares should be abolished. The talk about wage freeze which they are now promoting should not only be discouraged but should be absolutely condemned and the Government directly or indirectly should not encourage the talk about a wage freeze. These are some of the suggestions. The prices should be held and the workers' real wages should be increased because the price has always run much faster than the wages. The price is always ahead of the wages and the Planning Minister should resign. He is the ruin of the country.

DR. SHRIMATI PHULRENU GUHA (West Bengal) : Madam, I stand to support the Resolution moved by Shri Dharia. The mover of the Resolution deserves thanks for providing a forum for us to discuss the very important problems of our country today.

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

We hope that the Government will take this Resolution into consideration very seriously and also look into the suggestions made by different Members. I am one of those who believe firmly that a developing country cannot progress without a planned economy. In this regard I also feel that the plan, planned by the Government of India as a whole is a good step, but the defect is in execution. I strongly feel, Sir, that if an item of work is scheduled to be completed within a specific time and within a specified budget, it should be made obligatory on

the part of the executor to execute the same within the specified time and specified budget.

For agricultural development schemes, the seeds and manures and other facilities promised and announced by the Government never reach the *kisans* in time. It is the general complaint everywhere and I would request the Government to take care of this very important defect. Unless steps are taken very seriously to enforce the execution of a Plan scheme, the very purpose of the Plan is defeated, and this is one of the causes of the rising cost of living in this country as the returns of the Plans are not available and the capital money is blocked. Generally it is seen that when the plan is in execution the prices of the commodities go up, but ours have gone beyond the limit of expectation, and this is mainly due to the failure of our executive machinery. But we should not lose sight of the fact that the last two aggressions have greatly affected the economy of our country. Our Constitution, Sir, has guaranteed the fundamental rights of the people. But there are no corresponding responsibilities. I wish, Sir, that along with the chapter on Fundamental Rights there should be a chapter on fundamental responsibilities of the people of the country. There can be no doubt that the rising prices can be checked by stern action against the antisocial elements, and for that it is necessary that the present laws should be amended, because it is seen that under cover of the fundamental rights the culprits often get out of the punishment. Sir, the time is very short; otherwise I could myself give a number of instances where under the cover of the fundamental rights, they escape and we cannot catch the culprits. Not only the law should be changed, but the arrangement of mobile courts for punishing these anti-social elements should be instituted. It is high time that top priority should be given to penalise the anti-social elements, such as, hoarders, profiteers, adulterers and black-marketeers. I suggest that property earned by anti-social means should be confiscated. Sir, in this connection I like to say that only to have a law to punish these people with imprisonment for fifteen days or one month or six months, or to

punish them with a fine of Rs. 1,000 or Rs. 5,000 or Rs. 10,000 will not help us, because these anti-social elements, who are minting money by cheating the people, do not mind the fine. To them, it is a very little amount. The amount may be very big for us, but it is nothing for them. So, I suggest that the Act should be amended to meet this situation.

Commercial firms and business establishments offer fabulous salaries to their employees, which have no parity with those either in Government departments, or in other establishments. For this, Government and other offices suffer considerably. Over and above this, a large amount of money is spent by these commercial firms in offering amenities to their staff, specially of the officer cadre, and people say this is for avoiding payment of income-tax. As a result, a separate class of officers enjoying special benefits and rights is being created by these commercial firms. When the whole country is being advised to practise austerity, to save every penny for our country's progress, these examples of paying high salaries and providing of other amenities create a very bad example in the country. I, therefore, suggest that Government, in the interests of the country, should take steps to see that parity is observed with respect to similar cadre of employees all over the country, whether it be the Government departments, business firms or other establishments. Fixation of salary should be at parity in all establishments, whether Governmental, commercial or other. Proper control should be maintained to check up the disparity. Business houses may think that they are producing wealth for the country, but I like to tell the business firms that the wealth produced by them is national wealth and they have no right to use it extravagantly. It is absolutely necessary that strict discipline should be enforced with regard to extravagant spending by the Central and State Governments, public undertakings and specially by the business firms.

Sir, the needs of the common people are very simple. They are satisfied with the minimum basic needs, food and shelter being primary. It is true that the common people have better opportunities to earn, but it must be remembered that

the prices of essential commodities have gone beyond the capacity of the common people. The Government could not control the prices of essential articles and commodities except in certain places where rice, wheat and sugar are only supplied through ration shops, it is a very unfortunate position that the cost of food-stuffs particularly has gone very high. Whatever essential commodities are produced in the country or imported from other countries, they must belong to the whole nation and must be equitably distributed in the country in proper time. The prices of all essential commodities should be fixed and the distribution machinery should be streamlined. It might be said that the prices will go down only when there is higher production, but it must be remembered also that the population growth in our country cannot keep pace with production at the moment. It will take time. But that does not mean that the prices should go beyond the reach of the common people. Businessmen should not be allowed to take advantage of the situation at the cost of our people. Austerity should be practised with all sincerity in all quarters. Wastage and corruption should be eliminated. The Government must take steps to eliminate the profiteering middle-men between the producer and the consumer. It is not correct to say that agricultural production has not increased. But the population is increasing at a greater speed. Steps should be taken so that the country can produce a sufficient quantity of foodgrains to become self-sufficient. But for that the Government machinery must be prompt and active, and the land system must be changed. There are a number of measures to protect industrial labour but, Sir, there is no law to protect agricultural labour. To have the basic foods, i.e. rice, wheat, etc. within the reach of the common people, we must go to the root of the problem—the land must belong to the tiller of the soil. Unless we change the land system we cannot expect a better prospect in our agricultural fields. We must see that, as there are a number of rules to protect our industrial labour, there must be similar rules to protect agriculturists and agricultural labour. Unless provision is made and the law is changed, we cannot expect that the agricultural

[Dr. Shrima i Phulrenu Guha.]

field will progress. In the agricultural field, the Government should not hesitate to take steps in this direction.

I also like to bring to the notice of the Government the price of land, particularly in cities and towns. It is astonishing sometimes to see the soaring price of land, and this high price of land also reflects in the rising prices of essential commodities. A ceiling on the price of land must be fixed. If necessary, the law should be changed.

In this connection a last point I like to make, Sir. I cannot help mentioning about the co-operative movement. It is a pity that the co-operative movement has not taken ground in our country yet. The Government should see that the public come forward more and more not only to form co-operatives, because there are a number of co-operatives formed in our country, but the functioning of the co-operatives is defective. The Government must take some suitable and effective steps to see that the cooperative movement is successful in our country. That will help the country to resist the rise in prices. Sir, I do not know whether any expert committee will be needed for the Government to execute the first part of the Resolution. But I support this Resolution and I expect the Government would take care of this Resolution and take steps to see that the rise in price is brought to a halt. Not only should the rise be brought to a halt but the Government should see that the articles come within reach of the common people of the country.

श्री राजनारायण : श्रीमन् यह जो प्रस्ताव विचारणीय इस समय प्रस्तुत है इसके बारे में मैं केवल इतना ही कहना चाहूँगा कि इसने एक मौका दिया लोगों को अपने मत को रखने का। इसके अलावा इस प्रस्ताव में कुछ है नहीं। गवर्नमेंट को इस प्रस्ताव को कबूल करने में तनिक भी दिक्कत नहीं है क्योंकि यह अनिश्चित है, इसमें कोई ठोस बात नहीं है, बेमतलब का बकबास है।

अब यह देखा जाय कि गवर्नमेंट बराबर कहती है कि स्टर्न एक्शन ले रहे हैं, डिट्रेंट स्टेप ले रहे हैं, प्राइस को डाउन करने के लिए

गवर्नमेंट जितना भी आवश्यक कदम है सब उठा रही है। क्या कोई ऐसी गवर्नमेंट है जो यह न कहती हो और इस प्रस्ताव में केवल यह सुझाव दिया गया है कि मजदूती से उठाए जिससे चढ़ता हुआ दाम जरा झुक जाय। दूसरे एक सलाहकार परिषद् बैठाई जाय जो दोनों के बारे में समय समय पर जांच करके सुझाव दिया करे। सरकार न जाने कितनी कमेटियाँ बिठा रही है, कितने कमीशन बैठा रही है। अगर किसी बात को टालना हो, किसी बात में कुछ न करना हो तो इस तरह का प्रस्ताव रख दिया जाय करे और इस पर सदन में खूब चर्चा हो, खूब लम्बी चौड़ी तकरीर हो। अपने देश के सभी लोगों से—हमारे माननीय भूपेश गुप्त जी चले गए, मैं उनसे ज्यादा कहना चाहता था—निवेदन करना चाहता हूँ कि हम लोग कुछ गाँधी जी का अनुकरण करें, अपने शब्दों को मतलब के साथ दे, ठोस बोलें, बेमतलब के साथ इस्तेमाल न करें। जैसे, एक दिन हमारे यहां विधान सभा में बहस होने लगी तो एक मंत्री ने कह दिया कि जब हमारे राज्य की जनता जनतांत्रिक वृक्ष की शीतल छाया में आनन्दविभोर हो रही है तो राजनारायण को संकट ही दिखाई देता है : केवल एक वाक्य है, शब्द है, सुनने में मधुर है। हमको जवाब देने का मौका मिला। अखबार वाले भी ऐसे जो बैठे थे बोले कि तुम भी बनारसी हिन्दी बोल दो। हमने कहा—एक मंत्री बनारस ही के थे—“माननीय अध्यक्ष महोदय, जब निमल चन्द्रिका में, प्रफुल्ल मल्लिका में, कोकिल की काकली में, कुसुम के सीरस में, पुरुष के हृदय में, रमणी के मुखड़े में हमको आग का गोला ही गोला नजर आता है।” केवल एक वाक्य है। एक वाक्य हुआ बेमतलब। इससे कुछ बनेगा नहीं धारिया साहब से मैं कहना चाहता हूँ कि बेमतलब का प्रस्ताव है। देखिए स्टेट ट्रेडिंग, नेशनलाइजेशन, कोआपरेटिव—ये सब शब्द जो हैं सब बेग हैं, अनिश्चित हैं। स्टेट ट्रेडिंग बड़ी अच्छी चीज है, मगर कब। नेशनलाइजेशन बहुत बढ़िया चीज है, उसका मतलब क्या? कोआपरेटिव बड़ी

अच्छी चीज है, मगर जिस ढंग से आज तमाम जगह सहकारी उद्योग-धन्धे चल रहे हैं क्या वही कोआपरेटिव है जिस पर गवर्नमेंट का ही नियंत्रण है। अगर यह कायदा हुआ तो बड़ा मुश्किल हो जायगा। माननीय भूपेश गुप्त जी चले गए। मैं एक सवाल पूछ रहा हूँ। मैं चाहता हूँ कि मंत्री जी मुझे, अनावश्यक गप न करें। यह उचित नहीं है, संसदीय शिष्टाचार के विरुद्ध है कि जब कोई भाषण हो तो हम बैठ कर गप लगाएँ।

श्री चन्द्र शेखर (उत्तर प्रदेश) : आप ही के बारे में बात हो रही है ;

श्री राजनारायण : मैं यह निवेदन कर रहा हूँ कि हमको ठोस बात करनी चाहिए। भूपेश गुप्त जी चले गए, पूरा एकदम रूस की पालिसी को दिखाए। कुछ समय तक वहाँ पर एग्रीकल्चर को कालोनी के रूप में ट्रीट किया गया फ़ार दि डेवलपमेंट आफ़ दि इंडस्ट्री, यानी उद्योगधन्धे को विकसित करने के लिए कृषि को, खेती को उपनिवेश की तरह इस्तेमाल किया गया। अब मैं जानना चाहूँगा कि क्या कांग्रेस की सरकार उसी पालिसी पर नहीं चल रही है ? निश्चित ढंग पर अगर दाम को रोकना है, चढ़ते हुये दाम को, तो मैं आपके द्वारा इस सरकार और सदन के सम्मानित सदस्यों की सेवा में रखना चाहता हूँ, पहली बात, पेरिटी बिटविन इंडस्ट्रियल एंड एग्रीकल्चरल प्रोड्यूस—कृषिजन्य पदार्थ और उद्योग-धन्धे कल-कारखाने जन्य पदार्थों के दामों में न्याययुक्त संतुलन होना चाहिए। जब तक यह सरकार खेती से पैदा होने वाली चीज और कल-कारखानों में पैदा होने वाली चीज में संतुलन नहीं रखती और न्याययुक्त संतुलन नहीं रखती तब तक यह सरकार दाम रोकने में हमेशा असफल रहेगी, दाम में हमेशा गड़बड़ी रहेगी और इस दाम को सरकार उलटा होकर टंग जाय तो भी नियंत्रित नहीं कर पायेगी।

[THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN in the Chair.]

दूसरी बात यह कहनी है कि क्या लागत और बेचने के मूल्य में कमी भी कोई तारतम्य होगा ? क्या गवर्नमेंट के पास कोई पालिसी है। जितने वक्ता महोदय बोले हैं क्या उन्होंने कोई ठोस सुझाव दिया है कि लागत और बिक्री में क्या अनुपात हो, क्या रेशो हो ? हमारे लिए बड़ा मुश्किल हो जायगा। माननीया अगर लोग आपके पास जाकर बात करते रहें। यह अच्छी परम्परा नहीं है।

एक माननीय सदस्य : राजनारायण जी बहुत अच्छी ट्रेडिशन कायम कर रहे हैं।

श्री राजनारायण : इससे मेरा ध्यान बंट जाता है। एक तो मैंने कहा कि सरकार को निश्चित रूप से कृषिजन्य पदार्थ और उद्योग-धन्धे, कल-कारखानों से पैदा होने वाली चीजों में न्याययुक्त संतुलन की नीति चलानी चाहिए यानी पेरिटी इंडस्ट्रियल और एग्रीकल्चरल प्रोड्यूस में होनी चाहिए इसको देखने के लिए 'कृषिजन्य पदार्थ' हम केवल इतना ही कह दें तो वेग टर्म है, ठोस नहीं है। इसलिए मैं सुझाव देता हूँ कि खेती से जो चीज पैदा होती है गेहूँ है, चना है, जौ है, मक्का है, इसके उत्पादन में कितनी लागत लगती है उसमें जोड़ दिया जाय क्या लगान है, क्या बीज है, कितनी खाद है, कितना पानी है, कितना श्रम है और तब तमाम खर्चों को जोड़कर जो किसान को पुसाये उसको एक लाभदायक कीमत सरकार को तय कर देनी चाहिए कि यह कृषिजन्य पदार्थ की कीमत होगी। आज तक इस सरकार ने कोई ऐसी पालिसी अख्तियार नहीं की जिसके द्वारा किसानों को रेमूनरेटिव प्राइस यह सरकार दे। यह सरकार कहती रहती है कि हम भी रेमूनरेटिव प्राइस देना चाहते हैं, मगर आज तक इस सरकार ने कृषि पदार्थ के लिए रेमूनरेटिव प्राइस निश्चित नहीं की। यह इस सरकार की प्राइस नीति के दिवालिपेन का सबूत है। दूसरा सवाल आएगा कि जब किसानों के तमाम खर्चों को जोड़कर उनके लिए लाभ-दायक दाम निश्चित हो गया तो हमको उसकी

[श्री राजनारायण]

बिक्री की कीमत भी निश्चित कर देनी चाहिए। चार पैसे सेर से ज्यादा का मुनाफा या ज्यादा का फर्क किसान की बेच में और दुकान की बेच में न हो यानी किसान जिस भाव पर गेहूँ बेचे, फी सेर चार पैसे के हिसाब से ही फर्क पड़े दुकान की बेच में। होता क्या है कि यह सरकार किसान से गेहूँ खरीदती है 14 रुपये मन, 16 रुपये मन, और फिर वही गेहूँ दुकान पर बिकता है 30 रुपये मन, 32 रुपये मन, 40 रुपये मन, 45 रुपये मन। आज इससे बढ़ कर के लूट और क्या हो सकती है कि जो सरकार यह करवा रही है। तो मेरा निश्चित मत है कि सरकार को अब निश्चित रूप से खेती जो माल पैदा होता है उसके लिये दाम निश्चित करना चाहिये। वह यह कानून बना दे, जैसे कि लक्ष्मण रेखा खींची जाती है उसी तरह से उस रेखा को जो तोड़ेगा वह उसी दंड का भागी होगा जिस दंड का रावण भागी हुआ था, तो एक लक्ष्मण रेखा, एक निश्चित रेखा एक बार बना दें, इस भाव पर लाभदायक कीमत लेते हुये किसान अपना गेहूँ बेचेगा और वह गेहूँ उससे चार पैसे सेर से ज्यादा फर्क पर दुकान पर नहीं बिकेगा चाहे वह स्टेट ट्रेडिंग हो या कुछ हो...

श्री लोकनाथ मिश्र : यह सरकार कैसे कर सकती है, क्योंकि यहां तो स्टेट्स सरकार भी है और स्टेट्स सरकार जहां ज्यादा दाम पर बेचती है वहां यह सरकार क्या कर सकती है।

श्री राजनारायण : हमारे लोकनाथ मिश्र जी तो लोक के नाथ हैं, लोकनाथ जी ने बिल्कुल सही बात कही लेकिन मैं यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि आप लोक की बात करें।

श्री के० के० शाह : यह स्वतंत्र पार्टी के हैं।

श्री राजनारायण : यही सरकार केन्द्र में भी है और इसी पार्टी की सरकार स्टेट्स में भी है, अगर सरकार का दिमाग ठीक हो, सरकार की नीति ठीक हो...

श्री चित्त बसु : अलग अलग पार्टियां हैं।

श्री राजनारायण : जहां होगी वहां देख लेंगे। तो अगर सरकार का दिमाग साफ है तो कृषिजन्य पदार्थ के सम्बन्ध में ऐसी पालिसी अक्तियार होनी चाहिए और यह सरकार सारे स्टेट सरकार से उत्तर प्रदेश के लिए, बिहार के लिये, मध्य प्रदेश के लिये, राजस्थान के लिये, तमाम स्टेट्स के लिये ऐसे कानून बनवा सकती है, उसमें कोई दिक्कत नहीं है और चूंकि यह कानून ऐसा होगा जिससे किसी का भी शोषण नहीं होगा, उपभोक्ता कंजुमर का भी शोषण नहीं होगा और थोड़ा सा मुनाफा भी मिल जायगा तो इसका विरोधी कोई नहीं होगा। इस पालिसी का विरोधी वही हो सकता है जो कि शोषण करना चाहता हो, जो लूट करना चाहता हो वरना मैं ऐसा सीधा सुझाव रख रहा हूँ कि इसका विरोध तो कोई जनतंत्री, कोई समाजवादी विचारधारा का रखने वाला आदमी या पार्टी, कर ही नहीं सकता।

अब आगे देखा जाय। चीनी है, कपड़ा है, सीमेंट है, मिट्टी का तेल है, वगैरह वगैरह। हमारे यहां चुर्क है, चुर्क में सरकार की सीमेंट फैक्टरी है। इस बोरा सीमेंट के बनाने में कुल खर्चा करीब 3 रुपये होता है और सरकार भाव तय करती है 9 रुपये बोरा और हर जगह का हर मंत्री का अलग अलग भाव है, किसी का 14 रुपये बोरी है, किसी का 18 रुपये बोरी है, किसी का 20 रुपये है। तो यह पब्लिक सेक्टर है। तो हमारा कहना है कि सरकार की कोई प्राइस पालिसी नहीं है। धारिया साहब जरा धैर्य रखें। इसलिये जिन उद्योग धंधों से, जिन कल-कारखानों से इंसान की जरूरत की चीजें पैदा होती हैं, जिसे पण्य कहा जाता है उस पण्य की, उन चीजों की कीमत के लिये ऐसा कानून बना दें कि वह लागत खर्च से इयांटे के अन्दर ही होगी, लागत खर्च से अन्दर सरकार का टैक्स भी हो, मुनाफा भी हो, लाने ले जाने का खर्च भी हो, सब को जोड़कर के हो, एक रेखा खींच दी जाय, एक कानून बना दिया जाय कि जो सीमेंट की बोरी

3 रुपये बोरी में तैयार होती है वह ज्यादा से ज्यादा साढ़े चार रुपये बिकेगी, साढ़े चार रुपये बोरी से ज्यादा सीमेंट बिक ही न सके ऐसा कानून बनाइये। तो क्या इस सरकार का यह दिमाग है ? धारिया साहब का प्रस्ताव ऐसा हो तो मैं समझता हूँ कि उनका मकसद हासिल होगा वरना यह प्रस्ताव निरर्थक हो जायगा, केवल शब्दों का जाल होगा।

उसी तरीके से चीनी है। एक सेर चीनी के बनाने में कुल खर्चा जोड़ लिया जाय तो लागत मुश्किल से 8 आने या 9 आने सेर पड़ती है लेकिन चीनी की कीमत सरकार क्या तय करती है। 8 आने सेर की लागत पर चीनी कारखाने में तैयार हो जाती है, हमने सारा हिसाब जोड़ा है, तो यह कानून बना दें कि सारा मुनाफा खर्चा, टैक्स वगैरह जोड़ कर के किसी भी हालत में कभी भी 12 आने सेर से ज्यादा पर चीनी नहीं बिकेगी लेकिन सरकार दुगुनी और तिगुनी ज्यादा कीमत तय करती है।

(Time bell rings.)

घंटी अभी मत बजाइये। आप समझिये कि हम सब बातें कह रहे हैं और सब तो लफ्फाजी है।

उपसभापति : 15 मिनट हो गये।

श्री राजनारायण : सुनिये। मैं कहता हूँ कि यह सरकार कितनी शोषक है। स्ट्रेप्टो-माइसीन की सुई है, तपेदिक की सुई है, जो कि इतनी आवश्यक दवा है जो कि गरीबों के लिये इतनी जरूरी है, कि मजदूर खून-पसीना बहा कर के सोना चान्दी, ताम्बा, लोहा आदि पैदा करता है, अबरख पैदा करता है, वह मजदूर आज तपेदिक में मरता है और उस तपेदिक की सुई जो पूना के सरकारी कारखाने में बनती है उसकी कुल लागत मुश्किल से दो आने है और सरकारी भाव है चौदह आने, सातगुनी महंगी है, दुनिया की कोई तजीर मुझे दे दी जाय जहाँ कि दवा लागत से सातगुनी महंगी कीमत पर बिकती है ? तपेदिक की सुई बने दो आने में

और सरकार बेचे 14 आने में और बाजार का तो भाव कहीं ढाई रुपया कहीं चार रुपया और कहीं पांच रुपया है, इसको आप खुद जानती होंगी अगर सरकारी अस्पताल से दवा न पाती होंगी, कहीं प्राइवेट में चले जाइये तो पता चल जायगा।

उसी तरह से मैं कहना चाहता हूँ कि कपड़ा है, उसी तरह के मिट्टी के तेल का उदाहरण देता हूँ। पूरा हिसाब जोड़ लिया जाय, उत्पादन का खर्चा, प्रोडक्शन का जो खर्चा है उसका हिसाब लगाया जाय तो एक बोतल मिट्टी के तेल की लागत चार पैसे होती है और सरकारी भाव है 6 आने बोतल और चोर बजारी का भाव है डेढ़ रुपया दो रुपया एक रुपया बोतल तो होता क्या है, चार पैसे उत्पादन का खर्च आता है, दस पैसे तक हो जाता है सरकार का टैक्स, अठ पैसे चला जाता है मिल मालिकों के पास और दो पैसे छुटका बनिया ले लेता है। वह जो सरकारी टैक्स है, जो सरकार के पास गया उस पैसे का होगा क्या ? सब से ज्यादा यह सरकारी टैक्स आज है। इसीलिये मैं जनता से कहता हूँ कि कांग्रेस की सरकार ने तुम्हारे लिये तीन बड़े-बड़े गड्डे खोल दिये हैं, एक गड्डा है श्रीमती इन्दिरा गांधी गड्डा, दूसरा गड्डा बिड़ला गड्डा, इन्दिरा गांधी गड्डा माने सरकारी टैक्स, बिड़ला गड्डा माने मिलमालिक का मुनाफा, और तीसरा बड़े बड़े मंत्री उच्चाधिकारी की तनख्वाह, भत्ता, सहुलियत और भ्रष्टाचार गड्डा। इन्हीं तीनों गड्डों में गरीब जनता की कमाई समा रही है। एक बोतल मिट्टी का तेल जो गरीब जनता, देहात की जनता पाती है उसका 10 पैसे चला जाता है सरकारी कर गड्डे में, 8 पैसे चला जाता है मिल मालिक के मुनाफे गड्डे में और बाकी चोर बाजारी, भ्रष्टाचार गड्डे में। तो यह मामला तभी बनेगा जब कि निश्चित दाम की नीति होगी।

उपसभापति : अब तो समाप्त होना चाहिये आपका भाषण।

श्री राजनारायण : हमें न समाप्त कीजिये, माननीया हां ठीक है भाषण, दो मिनट में समाप्त कर देता हूँ ।

चूँकि मंत्री जी बैठे हैं इसलिये उनसे मैं कहना चाहता हूँ कि तत्काल, फौरन, इमिडियेटली, इस सरकार को डिक्लेयर करना चाहिये कि इंडस्ट्रियल और एग्रीकल्चरल प्रोड्यूस में पैरिटी होगी, इस सरकार को तत्काल कहना चाहिये कि जिन्दगी के लिये जो जरूरी चीजें हैं जो गरीब जनता खाती है, पहनती है, वे लागत से डेढ़ गुने के अन्दर ही विकेंगी, लागत के ड्योढ़े के बाहर कभी नहीं जायेंगी । सरकार यह कहेगी । कि

श्री सभापति : अब तो समाप्त करें ।

श्री राजनारायण : माननीया, एक प्वा-इंट जरा और आप सुन लें, एक मिनट से ज्यादा नहीं लूंगा ।

सरकार हमसे यह कहती है कि पैसा कहां से आयेगा । यह बड़ा भारी प्रश्न है । श्री के० के० शाह जानते हैं कि हमारी पार्टी में शोक मेहता साहब थे, उनसे इस बारे में हमारा बड़ा झगड़ा था, वह कहते थे कैपिटल फार्मेशन कैसे होगा . . .

श्री अकबर अली खान : आपकी पार्टी में थे तब भी झगड़ा था ।

श्री राजनारायण : जी हां, गुरु से था । रांची में हो गया था 1951 में कि कैपिटल फार्मेशन कैसे होगा ।

श्री के० के० शाह : इसीलिये तो वह कट गये ।

श्री राजनारायण : यह कि कैपिटल फार्मेशन कैसे होगा । तो मेरा पहला निवेदन है कि एक हजार रुपया से ज्यादा महीना न तो कोई आमदनी कर पाये और न कोई खर्चा कर पाये, अगर यह सरकार यह कानून बना दे तो करीब 20 अरब रुपया सालाना बचेगा हमारे मुल्क में और उस 20 अरब रुपये से हम नये

नये रोजगार खोल सकते हैं, बेकारों को काम दे सकते हैं और सारी योजना को ठीक रास्ते पर ले जा सकते हैं । लेकिन यह सरकार पूँजीवादी व्यवस्था, मिश्रित पूँजीवाद की नीति पर चल रही है, विदेशी संरक्षण में चल रही है, रहेंगे हम दिल्ली में और हमारा गल्ला पैदा होगा वाशिंगटन में ।

उपसभापति : अब आपको समाप्त करना है ।

श्री राजनारायण : इसलिये यह सरकार कभी भी मुल्क को तरक्की के रास्ते पर नहीं चला सकती और इसलिये मैं अपने मित्र श्री के० के० शाह से कहता हूँ कि छोड़ो उस पार्टी को आओ हमारे साथ, कांग्रेस सरकार को जल्दी से जल्दी सत्ता में, आसन से हटाओ, यही एकमात्र हल यह गया है, सारी समस्याओं की यही एक जड़ है ।

SHRIMATI LALITHA RAJAGOPALAN (Madras) : Madam, at the outset I welcome this Resolution and I consider that holding the price-line is the **first** and foremost follow-up of the policy of devaluation. The rise in prices at present cannot be attributed only to the devaluation policy of the Government. The country has been experiencing the rise in prices for the past fifteen years and the rise is 80 per cent, but there has been alarming increase in inflationary tendencies during the past four years. The price index had risen from 125 to 153, which is nearly fifty per cent. This is due to the Chinese aggression in 1962 followed by the Pakistani aggression. Moreover, there was a fall in the national income as well in the *per capita* income. The spiralling rise in prices was followed by a severe drought. The foreign aid, which was coming to us regularly all these years, is almost slow as well as stagnant for some time now. There is economic strain on the country. But are we going to allow the prices to rise day by day or are we going to find ways and means to stabilise them ? What we need is a controlled economy. Controlled economy is essential to control prices. I agree with Shri Dharia that immediate, stern and deterrent steps

are necessary to bring down prices. Price fixation of all essential commodities and controlled distribution of the same through authorised dealers should be done. In my opinion, the price of every item should be labelled on every wrapper. There should be severe punishment for violation of this. I want not only regulation of prices of all essential commodities, but we should curtail the consumption of other items like coffee, tea and other articles which we export to foreign countries, by restricting their distribution. I think by merely appealing to the people to consume less of these articles is of no significance.

Then, another thing I would like to say is that there should be display of price lists by all shopkeepers, wholesalers as well as retailers. I should say that the Government should appoint checking inspectors to see at the wholesalers' level and supervise and put an intensive check on the retailers. The Government should play a positive and active role in holding the price-line, minimising the consumers' distress and ensuring equitable distribution of foodgrains in the country.

Statutory ration, restrictions on the movement of foodgrains, assessment of surplus and deficit areas and procurement should be fully implemented to streamline the prices. Moreover, there should be a proper assessment of the production capacity. In this connection I would like to say that the most important step towards streamlining the prices and stabilising the country's economy is to step up agricultural production and this should be given top priority. Flexibility of margin of profit should be allowed to individual dealers or traders, depending on their sale. The maximum margin of profit both for indigenous and imported goods for essential commodities, should be fixed by legislation. This can, in a way, bring down inflationary tendencies and stabilise prices. The revision of dearness allowance by a 15 per cent, increase, as proposed, is not a good *move* in the present circumstances. It will only increase the inflationary tendencies, which will affect all spheres. I think the Government should also take steps to cut down administrative expenditure, which they are trying to do up till now.

Then, I may refer to some of the measures adopted by the Government. One is the opening of consumer co-operatives by the Government. There should be a network of these stores all over India to bring down prices and there should be a regular flow of supplies to all these department stores. Of course, the Government has introduced informal rationing and they have also allowed free market functioning, but this in itself is not a cure to the disease.

Then, as far as the drive against hoarders is concerned, I think the Government are doing their best, but this should be vigorous and continuous. I come to super bazar. In my opinion one super bazar is not enough to solve the problem. The super bazar does not fit in with the economic set-up of the country. In my opinion, in every locality of every city or every village there should be a car shed or god-own or something like that, which can be used as a fair price shop, so that essential commodities could be supplied to the people of the locality at fair prices. The people should be even allowed to participate in the management of these. At the same time, the Government should see that these consumer stores are provided with supplies regularly.

Then, I would just like to say one or two things. Mr. Bhupesh Gupta pointed out some of the reasons for the rise in prices. Of course, when he says deficit financing, defects in the agrarian policy, tendency for the growth of monopoly, etc. I agree, but Mr. Bhupesh Gupta's weakness is that when he sees at the Treasury Benches with his communist binoculars he has a vision of capitalists. He says that we have sold ourselves to America. But I would like to point out that we are not receiving aid only from America. We are receiving aid from all over the world including small countries like Sweden. Even the Soviet Union is giving us aid. So, I think, this concept of Mr. Bhupesh Gupta is very wrong.

Another thing Mr. Rajnarain said that there is no meaning in this Resolution. I do agree with him, but it is our honest desire to bring to the notice of the Govern-

[Shrimati Lalitha Rajagopalan]

ment, through this Resolution, this matter, so that the Government may not delay but take immediate steps to streamline the prices.

Then, as far as the appointment of a high power Committee, as suggested by Shri Dharia, is concerned, I do agree with him that the Government should take steps. But I would like to point out that a high power Committee or Government legislation is not the only remedy that will solve the problem. In my opinion, there should be tripartite co-operation and co-ordination between the Government, the traders and consumers. This is the only way to bring down prices. The Government alone cannot bring down the prices. Of course, the Government should take all steps to bring down prices, by spreading the State Trading Corporation, the Food Corporation, the consumer co-operatives and all sorts of things. At the same time the traders should forget, for the time being, their talent for making profits. I think the big traders have made huge profits during the war-time. They have enough money now to spend for generations to come. I think these people should now sacrifice their huge profits and put the prosperity and economic stability of the country before business activities and co-operate with the Government.

Then, lastly I would like to say something about consumers. The consumer's price consciousness is the most important thing. The consumer should not buy anything more than what he needs. He should not have the tendency of buying something which he does not need. He should restrict the consumption of articles of export. Unless these things are done, I do not think that anything can be done regarding hoarding and other things. I once again support the Resolution brought forward by Shri Dharia, and the Government should take immediate steps to see that the prices are brought down and economic stability is brought to the country. [once again thank you for giving me the chance to speak on the Resolution.

5 p.M.

CALLING ATTENTION TO A MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

ALLEGED OBJECTIONABLE, PASSAGES CONTAINED IN THE BOOK ENTITLED 'HAMARI KAHANI', PUBLISHED BY THE DIRECTORATE OF EDUCATION, GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Mr. Sundaram is not here. Mr. Reddy.

SHRI N. SRI RAMA REDDY (Mysore): Madam, I rise to call the attention of the Minister of Home Affairs to certain allegedly objectionable passages contained in the book entitled 'Hamari Kahani', edited and published by the Directorate of Education, Government of Jammu and Kashmir.

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI GULZARILAL NANDA): Madam, the Calling Attention Notice refers to certain allegedly objectionable passages contained in a book entitled 'Hamari Kahani'. Exception has been taken specially to the chapter 'Naya Kashmir' in the book prescribed for the 8th Class. An impression has arisen that there is something in the contents of the chapter which constitutes a challenge to the sovereignty and territorial integrity of India. This is not a correct impression.

This Chapter refers to the appointment of a Constitutional Investigation Commission by the Maharaja of Jammu and Kashmir in 1943, the conditional co-operation offered by the Working Committee of the National Conference to the Commission and the reasons which led the Working Committee of the National Conference to withdraw its representatives from the Commission and prepare its own scheme for the future constitutional set-up of Kashmir.

This scheme which is in the form of a draft constitution has been reproduced in the chapter 'Naya Kashmir'. It would be obvious that this scheme was prepared in a very different context, very much before the Independence of India. At that time the future of Indian States had not been determined. The sole objective of the whole of the Indian people then was to