

[Dr. D. S. Raju.]

From all these points of view, I think this Bill is a good one. After all, things might become much more critical and we should be ready for any contingency. Some of the people who had the opportunity of witnessing the last war could imagine the amount of chaos and destruction that have occurred in the cities. Miles and miles of railway tracks might be destroyed, bridges might be blown up and so many other things might be happening, in which case this kind of precautionary measure is necessary. So, it should be done. I am glad that all of you have supported this Bill.

Madam, I move.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI-MATI TARA RAMCHANDRA SATHE) : The question is:

"That the Bill to make certain provisions relating to the employment of members of the Armed Forces of the Union in the working and management of railways, as passed by the Lok Sabha, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI-MATI TARA RAMCHANDRA SATHE): We shall now take up the clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill.

Clause 2 to 5 were added to the Bill.

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Title were added to the Bill.

DR. D. S. RAJU: Madam, I move:

"That the Bill be passed."

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

THE CARDAMOM BILL, 1965

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI

S. V. RAMASWAMY). Madam, I move:

"That the Bill to provide for the development under the control of the Union of the cardamom industry, as passed by the Lok Sabha, be taken into consideration."

In moving this Bill, may I submit to you, Madam, that cardamom is grown mainly in the hilly regions of Kerala, Mysore and Madras and the present production is about 3,000 tonnes a year; 65 per cent to 70 per cent of the production is exported, earning around Rs. 3 crores of foreign exchange for the country? I can, therefore, say that this plantation commodity has a preponderant export angle and a substantial increase in foreign exchange earnings can be achieved by undertaking suitable measures of assistance to the planters for development of their plantations and by proper arrangements for the marketing and export of this commodity.

Export prices of cardamom have been widely fluctuating over the years. This is primarily due to the fact that the small growers who constitute a large majority of cardamom producers were unable, owing to their poor financial plight, to hold their stocks till the prices picked up. Unremunerative prices over the years have also resulted in the planters being unable to maintain and develop their plantations properly. A Board with powers as suggested in the Bill will be able to deal with these problems and help the growers in realising fair returns for their produce. The industry will also develop on sound and progressive lines.

In order to maintain steady export prices and to secure better returns for the producers and also to increase the foreign exchange earnings from cardamom exports, certain interim measures were taken by Government. A system of quality control and pre-shipment inspection was introduced and rules for "Agmarking" of export

consignments were enforced from 1st January, 1963. The Chairman of the Coffee Board was nominated as the Chairman of the Cardamom Development and Marketing Advisory Committee and a Directorate of Cardamom Development and Marketing, under the administrative control of the Ministry of Commerce, was established in Bangalore in February, 1963. With a view to stabilising the prices of cardamom and increasing foreign exchange earnings and infusing greater confidence in the growers as well as the foreign buyers, cardamom was brought under export control in May, 1963, in consultation with the Committee. Simultaneously, as a price support measure to the growers, the Directorate was instructed to procure cardamom through selected agents whenever the prices tended to sag to uneconomic levels.

4 P.M.

The interim measures taken by Government have given some relief to the cardamom growers. They have helped to arrest the downward trend of prices and there has been increase in the foreign exchange earnings. In 1963-64, India exported 2306 tonnes of cardamom, thereby earning foreign exchange to the tune of Rs. 3.20 crores as against the export of 2,259 tonnes in the previous year for a total value of Rs. 2.67 crores. During 1964-65, 1,760 tonnes of cardamom, valued at Rs 2:84 crores, were exported. It is, therefore, apparent that there is still a need for long-term measures to look after the developmental and marketing aspects of the cardamom industry. It is necessary to increase the export potential of this commodity by an increase in production.

The Cardamom Development and Marketing Advisory Committee, which was set up in February, 1963, recommended the early constitution of a Statutory Board. Leading associations of cardamom planters have also been

representing that to help the cardamom growers to realise fair returns for their produce and the industry to develop on sound and progressive lines, a statutory board should be set up for undertaking measures of assistance for development and activities relating to proper marketing of the commodity. After careful consideration, Government has come to the conclusion that a statutory board to be known as the Cardamom Board should be set up. The proposed Board will, among others, consist of representatives of the growers of cardamom, exporters of cardamom and Governments of the cardamom producing States. It is proposed to vest the Board with adequate powers to undertake suitable measures for the development of the cardamom industry, such as the promotion of co-operatives of the small growers, grant of loans to planters for improved methods of cultivation, processing, replanting and extensions, undertaking marketing activities with a view to increasing the export potential of this commodity. The Board will also be empowered to operate price support measures, supply machinery and equipment on hire-purchase basis to planters and assist them in the procurement of fertilisers, pesticides etc.

For meeting a part of the administrative expenses of the propose Board, the Bill provides for levy of a cess at an *ad valorem* rate not exceeding 2 per cent. on all cardamom exported. The actual rate of levy, for the present, will be 1 per cent. and it will be regulated from time to time by notification in the Gazette. This export cess will be in addition to the existing customs duty of $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. *ad valorem* on cardamom exports levied under the Agricultural Produce Cess Act, 1940. The revenue collected from the export cess will be credited to the Consolidated Fund of India and such sums as are required to meet the expenses of the Board will be released to it after obtaining the vote of Parliament as it being done in the case

[Shri S V Ramaswamy]
of other commodity boards like the Tea Board and Coffee Board. The object of the Bill is to take powers for setting up a Statutory Board for cardamom mainly with a view to enabling it to undertake the activities which have been explained by me earlier. The Bill is a simple measure primarily intended to benefit the cardamom growers. I commend it for your consideration.

The question was proposed

SHRI S S MARISWAMY (Madras): Madam Vice-Chairman, I extend my support to this Bill which seeks to constitute a statutory Board to help the planters. The objects of the Bill, as found in the Statement of Objects and Reasons and as explained by the Deputy Minister are simple, but I have a misapprehension which I want the hon. Minister to allay.

Previously, we had a number of Boards for arecanut, coconut and oilseeds. All these Boards were later abolished. I want to have a categorical statement from the hon. Minister that this Board also will not meet the same fate. As per the statement, I find that about Rs. 3 crores worth of foreign exchange is earned annually through cardamom. But planters who are engaged in this business, I am afraid, are not profited. The market is fluctuating and those who are engaged in this trade are hard-hit. Many of the planters are small ones and they are affected by market fluctuations. The Board should save them from these evils of fluctuations.

Another thing, Madam, that I am unable to understand is that according to the statement we are having a near monopoly in this trade and the demand is also steady, yet there is fluctuation. I would like to know who is responsible for this fluctuation, and if a handful of people are responsible for it will the Government come forward boldly to take action against them irrespective of the fact whether they belong to this party or to that party or they belong to this group

or that group. This is a serious problem.

Madam, I come from a State where there is cardamom plantation and I know how political considerations also do play at certain times. I want this Board to see that such things are not there, and if they are there, they must come out to remove them.

Another point, Madam. If the Government comes forward to help the small growers, I am sure their output will increase and we will earn more foreign exchange. As we give subsidy to sugar industry, we must also give subsidy to these cardamom planters. If we do so, I am quite sure we will not only have near monopoly, we will have complete monopoly.

I am also informed by certain people engaged in this trade that there are certain people who are spoiling our foreign market by exporting spurious and adulterated things. The Government should see that such of those bad elements are totally removed.

I am very glad that the Government has come forward to have this Board as the Coffee Board and the Tea Board. But whosoever is appointed as the Chairman must have vast experience as one who was in the trade or as one who was closely associated in the trade. If it is done, I am quite sure, this Board will be a great help to the small planters. If it is not done, I am afraid, the small growers will disappear and the places where this plantation is going on will be converted into some other plantation and whatever little monopoly we have in this trade will not be there. So, while concluding, I request the hon. Deputy Minister to have the points that I raised here in his mind.

SHRI JOSEPH MATHEN (Kerala): Madam Vice-Chairman, I support the Bill. It is a long standing demand that there should be a statutory Board to control and plan the development

of cardamom. The cardamom industry is earning, as the hon. Minister stated, something like Rs 3 crores annually, and if it is properly looked after, it can be doubled or even increased by three times.

Madam, this industry has been neglected for a long time. This industry had actually originated in the State of Kerala in the erstwhile Travancore area and the former Maharajahs used to encourage the people to cultivate cardamom in the highlands in the reserve forests. Even if the land was not registered in the name of any particular planter, anybody could go into the forest and plant cardamom under the big trees in the reserve forest and they could get certain concessions from the Government for having produced cardamom. The lease then given to the cardamom growers was short-term lease and the land revenue was very little and for those who encroached, the land revenue was three or four times that of the registered ones. Now according to the new policy adopted by the Government, a good number of persons who had actually started cultivation in the reserve forests without Government sanction had to give up this cultivation and the plantation as such suffers a lot because of the policy of the Government. The erstwhile Travancore Government had issued instructions that persons who wanted to cultivate cardamom in the forest land could get into the land and cultivate even without registering the land under their names but later when the people started establishing very big cardamom estates in the reserve forests, the Government put certain restrictions whereby the rich people could somehow or other manage to evade and the poor people who actually started cultivation in small holdings had to suffer because of this policy. When we really want to have this industry to be brought under a statutory Board, it should be our responsibility to see that the maximum development can be given to this industry and there

should be research with regard to the places suitable for cultivation and the various varieties of cardamom that can be grown in the different areas and there should be research in pest control and other matters. According to me, it will be possible to increase at least ten-fold this cultivation of cardamom in the reserve forest of the erstwhile Travancore State and in the Malabar area. As far as I know, unless proper incentive is given to them the people are now reluctant to go in because there is no definite policy adopted by the Government with regard to the cultivation of the lands in the reserve forest area, and the nearby forest blocks. So, I think the Government should study the situation and the Central Government should consult the State Governments in the matter. In the Madras area also we find a portion of the highlands utilised for cardamom cultivation and in Mysore also we find certain areas of cardamom cultivation. These States will have to be consulted to see how far we will be able to give reserve forests for cardamom cultivation and how far this cultivation will help us in the afforestation of the areas already cleared. Some of the forests which are cleared can be planted with some big trees and under the big trees as is done at present, cardamom can be cultivated. All these matters will have to be gone into.

Again when we talk of this Board, when this Board functions it should not be top heavy. According to the needs, the Boards should have only such officers as are absolutely necessary for planning the development of the industry. We should not provide a job for some person who is disgruntled so that he may adorn the high position of Chairman without knowing the details of the cultivation and we should see that those who are entrusted with the functions of the Board should know—should have a thorough knowledge of—the cardamom cultivation and the industry as such.

[Shri Joseph Mathen.]

Again we find that the present cess is only two per cent. *ad valorem* on the exported quantity and for exporting cardamom worth Rs. 3 crores it will not come to more than Rs. 60,000. The Government should not in any way consider the income that they get out of it when they plan the development and whatever may be the amount necessary for the development of the industry should come from the Central Government to the Board either in the form of grant or loan to the cultivators. Even if we plan to have co-operative small units in the high-range area of Kerala, I am confident that we will be able to do much in this regard.

Again when we talk of loans and grants we have seen that the Rubber Board has been doing splendid work during the last few years for the development of the rubber industry in this country and they have been giving loans and grants for the establishment of rubber plantations throughout the high-range areas and they have definitely succeeded. We have seen that the rubber production has gone up to double the quantity or even more. In the same way we should not limit the loans and grants as well as other facilities that are to be extended to cardamom growers if the cardamom industry is to develop. In the cardamom industry, as the hon. Member just pointed out, there is no such thing as spurious thing that is exported at all because at present there is quality control and pre-shipment inspection. Because of that quality control we have restricted the export of spurious things and because of that only we are gradually increasing the exports. I am thankful to the policy adopted by the Commerce Ministry all these years for introducing quality control and pre-shipment inspection not only in this trade but in various other industries also. There is this in the Coir Board. In almost all the statutory Boards they have started this and it has helped the establishment

of the quality of the material, exported from this country. I am confident that under the able management of the Commerce Ministry, as they have been doing at present, this Board will take up the responsibility of developing it and increasing the export of this commodity whereby we will be able to see that most of the problems that are now existing in the State of Kerala are solved. We know that if we earn more, we will be able to give employment, as unemployment is the problem there now. You can also invite the persons or the landless people of the coastal strip to go to the high-ranges and cultivate cardomom and find their living. All these will be satisfactorily managed provided we have a well-established and properly functioning Board. Thank you.

SHRI MULKA GOVINDA REDDY (Mysore): Madam, I support the Bill. We have the experience of the Coffee Board and the Tea Board. They have done a good job in promoting the Coffee industry and tea industry. Cardamom is a very good foreign exchange earner and we should do everything in our power to see that the production of cardamom is increased. It should not be restricted to be grown only in the three States that were mentioned by the Minister. We should explore the possibility of growing this commodity in other parts of India. When this statutory Board is established, their function should be to devote time and money for research with regard to seeing whether we could increase the yield per acre and also whether it could grown in other parts of India. So the Government should come forward with liberal grants for improving cardamom and for increasing the production of cardamom. There are many small growers who are very much in need of financial assistance and the Government should come forward with liberal loans to assist the small growers. They are levying a cess on the export of cardamom and, according to the Minister, we earn on an average nearly three

crores of rupees worth of foreign exchange every year

Now there are some people who are interested in this business of exports. Cardamom should not be allowed to be exported through private agencies. We have already the State Trading Corporation, and the State Trading Corporation should be entrusted with the export of cardamom, or the Cardamom Board itself should be authorised to export cardamom outside India, so that it will be regulated and whatever money is earned in foreign exchange will come to us. And if this export trade is left to private entrepreneurs or private trade, we have seen that in many cases, because of under-invoicing or over-invoicing, they try to manipulate the foreign exchange earnings to their advantage, and if it is entrusted to the State Trading Corporation, or the Board itself, whatever foreign exchange we earn on account of this export of cardamom, it will come to the exchequer.

For developing this industry, the Government is going to give some loans and grants. That is welcome, but they would like to collect the cess or levy on the export of cardamom and credit it to the Central Consolidated Fund of India. I would suggest that the levy that they make on the export of cardamom should be collected and credited to the funds of the Cardamom Board, so that that will be made available for the development of this industry. For a period of ten years at least, special interest should be evinced by the Government to develop this industry. So that we may earn more foreign exchange, which we need so badly.

Madam Vice-Chairman, while coming to the constitution of the Board and composition of the Board, I am not satisfied. It looks as though the Board is almost completely manned by the representatives to be nominated by this Central Government. They should have given the power to the

associations of different interests to select their own nominees to represent them on this Board. Under Chapter II in clause 4 the constitution of the Board is enumerated, and in sub-clause (3) (e) it says:

“(e) such number of other members not exceeding fifteen as the Central Government may think expedient, to be appointed by that Government by notification in the Official Gazette from among persons who are in its opinion capable of representing—

(i) The Governments of the principal cardamom-growing States;

(ii) the cardamom-growing interests;

(iii) the cardamom trade interests;

(iv) the interests of labour;

(v) the consumers, and

(vi) such other persons or class of persons who, in the opinion of the Central Government, ought to be represented on the Board.”

Now these interests should be encouraged to have their own associations, and those associations should be entrusted with the task of electing their representatives to represent them on this Board. Why I am mentioning this is because we have seen that, when members are nominated to other Boards, even though the concerned associations made recommendation of certain persons, they are not nominated to the Board just because the Chairman of the Board does not like a particular representative. Therefore, in order to avoid that contingency, where the association concerned elects its representatives, they are nominated by the Government to represent the interests of that association on this Board. The associations know that the representatives that they elect to represent them on this Board will be capable of representing their interests properly. The Government should not take on the responsibility of nominating those members,

[Shri Mulka Govinda Reddy.]
and they should give this power to the associations to elect their representatives to function on this Board. Madam Vice-Chairman, this clause is very vague. They have not defined the term of office, how long the Chairman will continue on the Board, how long the members will be member of this Board. They should have defined that the Chairman and other members of this Board would continue for a period of three years or five years, as the case might be; and it should have been given statutory recognition. Instead the Government want to take the power under this clause and they want to prescribe the period of the term of office and other powers under the rule-making powers of the Central Government.

Madam Vice-Chairman, I am glad that all growers or owners of land where this cardamom is grown are compelled to register themselves under this legislation, and if that is followed strictly, we can have a survey, we can have accurate statistics and that will help in knowing to what extent the Central Government will have to provide funds for the development of this industry.

Madam Vice-Chairman, the control of the Central Government over this Board is too high, and bureaucracy appears to have a complete sway over this Board in its powers. In its functioning. Instead the growers who are very much interested in the development of this industry, should have been given more powers and they should have been associated in this Board and given better representation.

Thank you.

SHRI N. M. ANWAR (Madras):
Madam Vice-Chairman, I rise to support this Bill, the Cardamom Bill, 1965. I am very happy that the Government have come forward with this proposal to constitute a statutory Board called the Cardamom Board. The hon. Minister has been very clear in explaining the reason why this Bill has become neces-

sary. The experiments which this Ministry has been making in recent years have yielded some good results. We have seen how in 1963 they had experimented with the constitution of a Cardamom Development and Marketing Advisory Committee and a Directorate of Cardamom Development and Marketing. The result is, even as the statistics furnished by him reveal, that there has been much improvement with regard to the development of this industry and its export performance. In the year 1962-63, cardamom was exported from this country to the tune of 2,259 tonnes, yielding a foreign exchange of Rs 2.67 crores. But thanks to the measures that the Government had adopted in improving the quality of this supply through pre-inspections and also through quality-control, we see that in 1963-64, not only was the quantity increased from 2,259 tonnes to 2,366 tonnes, but the foreign exchange which this commodity earned for this country came up to Rs. 3.20 crores. Only during last year, i.e. 1964-65, although the quantity has considerably declines—and that is a matter which we have to go into as to what are the reasons for this decline in the quantum of our supplies—although the quantity has come down to 1,760 tonnes, nevertheless, we find a very appreciable return of foreign exchange for that quantity, namely, Rs. 2.84 crores. Now, I am very happy that from out of this experience, this Advisory Committee itself has come forward to recommend the constitution of a statutory board for cardamom. We have got in this country the example of the Coffee Board and the Tea Board. But Madam, this precious commodity, this very lovely spice from the south, grown in the three States of Kerala, Mysore and Madras, although it appears to be earning only Rs. 3 crores at the moment, nevertheless, I feel from its performance it is verily goose that lays golden eggs, because as much as 70 to 75 per cent. of this commodity is intended for export. I find, Madam, from my recent experience when I went through many

countries of the world that cardamom has got great potentialities for export promotion and I am delighted about one thing and that is that cardamom is virtually a commodity wherein our country is having a monopoly or near monopoly. No doubt, there are two competitors, namely Ceylon and Guatemala; also in a very small way Indonesia happens to be a competitor. But I feel relieved at one fact, that in this situation we do not have in this commodity a competitor in China or in Japan, because Madam, I discovered in the markets of the world, particularly in the Middle East and in Western Europe, that not only politically and diplomatically but even economically China has been out to see that she competes unfavourably against India. She has out-priced us in many of the commodities. That was my sorry experience with regard to skins and hides. But here with regard to this commodity, we are in a very fortunate position that we do not have such a powerful neighbour as China to compete with. Nevertheless, Madam, I find that we are still confining ourselves to some of the traditional routes—the trade routes. I know that this commodity earns for us the almighty dollar for our national exchequer. But the United States, though they may be a big bulk buyer at the moment, need not be our only hope. We must look for a diversification of our trade pattern and exports with regard to this commodity and I am glad that the Board which the hon. Minister is now constituting under this measure, is also empowered with the power of investigating into the question of new trade routes for this commodity.

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA (Orissa): Even though you had been out only on your own, it seems you have more accurate knowledge about these things than our Trade Missions.

SHRI N. M. ANWAR: I am very thankful for that compliment which I got from a most unexpected quarter. Madam, I feel very happy that there are so many countries now, nearly 120 of them, which have emerged into

sovereignty and many of these countries themselves are interested in this commodity. It is a very redeeming feature about this commodity that none of the countries of Asia and Africa happen to be serious suppliers of this commodity. That has been our misfortune, Madam. While, on the one hand, we have to plead for the emergence of Africa and the numerous States of Africa into the comity of nations on the other hand, we have to contend against them in trade matters because nearly everyone of these countries of Africa is producing many of the raw materials in which we have been having a certain priority until recently. But with regard to cardamom, as I have already stated, happily we do not have many serious competitors.

Why then have we had during recent years the fluctuations in the fortunes of this industry? The hon. Minister explained the position clearly when he said that in this industry we have got numerous growers and they are of very humble means. Because of this they do not carry the staying power and they are not able to store and market their commodity on the best terms of profit. Here the Board itself is authorised to constitute, if necessary cooperative agencies to see that these small growers may be enabled to have their staying power and also to get the optimum value out of their supplies. But then, Madam, cooperative agencies, however laudable they may be, ordinarily need not necessarily be the only solution for this stabilisation of prices. I would wish to say that while I am an enthusiastic advocate of the private enterprise in almost every commodity that our country is now exporting, I would, nevertheless, plead that this Board should be invested with the authority to see that it sets up a purchasing organisation which can have the powers to concentrate on supplies and see that against competing nations in the world, we from this country can offer the commodity on the most advantageous terms of competition. Therefore, what really appeals to me most in this Bill is the provision that

[Shri N. M. Anwar.]
 this Board will also ensure price stabilisation and, if necessary, price support policy. When many of the countries of the world have recently come forward to see that a price support policy ensures the grower at least the minimum that he needs for his subsistence, I think, in an industry where some 60 or 70 or 80 per cent of the produce is intended for the world market, the least that we can do to the industry and particularly to the small growers who do not have the means and the staying power, is to see that there is price support policy and a price stabilisation fund. There is provision in this Bill for a levy from out of the value of the export. I suppose it is f.o.b. value of the export that will be taken into consideration when they assess the duty of 1 per cent, to start with, on an *ad valorem* basis. Well there is already a duty of half a per cent. for Customs. I would wish that the proceeds of this realisation should be earmarked for a pool that could guarantee stabilisation of prices. Whatever fluctuations there may be in the world market prices arising out of the forces of competition, the Government, through this Board, must ensure the small grower a minimum cost of production which can be worked out through expert agencies. While there should be representation for the growers on the Board, there must be a specific representation for the smaller growers because it is their interests that we have got to protect first and foremost in a democracy. It is they who are very often victims of exploitation. I am glad that there is much scope in this country for the development of the export market but let me say this very clearly that we have got many cross-currents which sometimes dissuade the Government from extending their helping hand to this industry to the utmost possible extent. Because of the many hydel and many other projects which we are visualising under our developing economy, many of the areas where this commodity can be grown are today being earmarked for afforestation.

This commodity can be grown at an altitude which is profitable neither for tea nor for rubber. Only in that intermediate region of the hinterland can there be cultivation and growth of cardamom but such areas unfortunately, due to a conspiracy of circumstances, are not available for the small growers. I have one specific example before me of a very big enterprise standing in the way of the cultivation of this commodity. Probably, everybody may be aware that the Kannan Devan Hill Produce Company owns in Kerala one hundred and seventyfive thousand acres of land but it has got nearly seventyfive thousand acres which lie waste where profitably cardamom can be grown providing employment for the small growers. I hope that this great concern which enjoys a perennial lease for ninety-nine years can be persuaded to earmark this area of nearly seventyfive thousand acres for the cultivation of cardamom. This will not only be adding much to our economic growth but also will give us the urgently needed foreign exchange. If only we could expand the area of cultivation and provide more employment for the small growers, there is a possibility of earning more of foreign exchange but then the biggest question is that we have got to discover the market for this commodity in nearly every country that has emerged to independence recently. Cardamom is not merely a spice but has also medicinal value. It is being used for medical purposes in many of the countries that I have visited and I feel that research at Coimbatore should be able to discover ways and means of using this commodity to the optimum extent. While there is a great scope for this industry, I feel that we must raise our reputation in the world market for our merchandise. One thing that stands in the way of export promotion is the very poor reputation that our country is having for quality goods. This is applicable to almost every commodity where we quote our prices on a sample but our performance has been so awfully terrible that I consider

this as a crime against the nation. It is a very sad commentary on our national character that we should have to resort to this kind of deceit of the world. We are only deceiving ourselves when we try to export merchandise that brings disgrace to our country. It is not only a disgrace to our country but it denies unfortunately an entire market for our country and the foreign exchange that we need so badly. Therefore, Madam, quality control, whether voluntary or otherwise is absolutely necessary and pre-shipment inspection will have to be guaranteed before this merchandise is allowed to be exported overseas. I have got plenty of points but I do not wish to take more time of the House. I must, however, congratulate the hon. Minister for having. . .

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA: We saved some time on the earlier Bill. You can therefore continue.

SHRI N. M. ANWAR: I feel that the hon. Minister should go into the prospects of discovering how best we can find new trade routes for this commodity. We have not only to develop our traditional trade routes but also should be on the alert to discover alternative trade routes as well. I think a team of experts from this industry should have to be sent to the different countries, East and West to exploit the potentiality for export promotion. This would be a very good investment. So far as foreign exchange is concerned, it is now one of the greatest services that we could render to the nation if we could only see that more of foreign exchange is brought into the country. I am sure this body will have the vision to find newer horizons and the Minister would be doing signal service by allowing a team from this industry to go round the world and discover the possibilities for further expansion of this industry. Thank you.

श्री विमलकुमार मग्नलालजी चौरड़िया
(मध्य प्रदेश) उपाध्यक्ष महोदया, जो
इलायची का बिल माननीय मंत्री जी ने

प्रस्तुत किया है वह जिस रूप में प्रस्तुत किया है और जिन भावनाओं के साथ प्रस्तुत किया है उसके लिये वे धन्यवाद के पात्र हैं। यह बात निर्विवाद है कि लगभग भारत ही ऐसा देश है जो कि इलायची के निर्यात के मामले में अकेला है और कोई भी उसका खास तौर पर काम्पटीटर नहीं है और इस इलायची के माध्यम से हमें काफी विदेशी मुद्रा भी प्राप्त होती है।

अब प्रश्न यह है कि हम कुछ ऐसा व्यवस्था करे जिससे हमें विशेष विदेशी मुद्रा भी प्राप्त हो, हमारे उत्पादकों को भी ठीक लाभ मिल सके और जो कीमतों में बार बार उतार चढ़ाव आते हैं और उन से जो उनको हानि होती है, वह न हों। आज कीमतों के उतार-चढ़ाव के परिणाम स्वरूप हमारे जो छोटे-छोटे उत्पादक हैं, उनकी सामग्री स्टोर करने की शक्ति कम होने की वजह से उनको मजबूर होकर के सस्ते दामों पर अपनी चीज बेचनी पड़ती है और उसके परिणाम स्वरूप उनको समय पर जो लाभ मिलना चाहिए वह मिल नहीं पाता। इस दृष्टि से हम इस बोर्ड का निर्माण कर रहे हैं कि इसके माध्यम से सारा क्रय-विक्रय हों और उत्पादकों को भी अच्छा लाभ मिले। बोर्ड के माध्यम से भारतवर्ष के उपभोक्ताओं को ठीक दाम पर चीज मिलती रहे और उत्पादकों की आय भी बढ़ जाय। ऐसा न हो कि बोर्ड का माध्यम बनने के बाद उत्पादकों को मिलने वाली कीमत कम हो जाय और उपभोक्ताओं के दाम बढ़ जाये और बीच में जो खर्च हमारे बोर्ड का बढ़े वह कंज्यूमर को भोगना पड़े और थोड़ा उत्पादक को भी भोगना पड़े। उस स्थिति का बोर्ड हम निर्माण करेंगे तो वह ठीक नहीं होगा। इस दृष्टि से मैं प्रार्थना करूंगा कि मंत्री जी इस बात को जरूर देखें कि जो वर्तमान में मूल्य है वे कम न हों। उसमें वृद्धि हो सके तो बहुत अच्छी बात, परन्तु उपभोक्ताओं को जिस मूल्य पर मिल रही है उसमें अधिक वृद्धि न हो, कम हो सके तो बहुत अच्छी बात,

[श्री विमलकुमार मन्नालालजी चौरडिया]

मगर वृद्धि न हो। ऐसी स्थिति का अगर आप निर्माण कर सके और यह बोर्ड कर सके तो ठीक रहेगा, अन्यथा आप एक ओर नई मिडिलमैन की एजेंसी इसमें कायम करेंगे, जिसकी वजह से सारा खर्चा बढ जायेगा, कम नहीं होगा। इस बोर्ड के माध्यम से हम और भी काम लेना चाहते हैं जो राष्ट्र के हित में हो सकते हैं और होंगे, ऐसी कल्पना की जा सकती है।

उपाध्यक्ष महोदया, इस बोर्ड का निर्माण इस दृष्टि से किया जा रहा है कि हम विदेशों में अपनी मार्केट खोजें, विदेशों में उसका विक्रय करें और उत्पादकों को भी ठीक मूल्य मिले। मैं बिल्कुल इस बात का हामी हूँ कि हम एकमात्र इलायची के बेचने वाले हैं और इस दृष्टि से हम इस मामले में अधिक विदेशी मुद्रा प्राप्त कर सकते हैं। अगर शक्कर का उदाहरण लिया जाय, तो हमारा उद्योग विभाग असफल हो या सफल, मगर हमको प्रति वर्ष करोड़ों रुपया उसको मक्सिडो के रूप में देना पड़ता है विदेशी मुद्रा प्राप्त करने के लिये। चाहे हम उदाहरण पर महंगी शक्कर खाएँ, मगर विदेशों में हमको सस्ती देनी पड़ती है। हम कपड़े का उदाहरण लें। विदेशों में हमारा जो काटन का मार्केट था, काटन कलाथ का वह मार्केट भी हम खोते जा रहे हैं और हमारे कम्पटीशन में पाकिस्तान और दूसरे बढ़ने जा रहे हैं, हम पीछे हटते जा रहे हैं। हम सारी व्यवस्था करने के बावजूद, क्वालिटी प्रोब्लम, एक्सपोर्ट प्रमोशन और कई नई तरह की व्यवस्थाएँ करने के बाद आज इस स्थिति में है कि कपड़े की मार्केट के मामले में दूसरों के मुकाबले में पीछे हटते जा रहे हैं और हमारे लिए यह बड़ी भारी समस्या होनी जा रही है। ऐसा न हो कि यह सारी व्यवस्थाएँ करने के बाद भी हमारी वही दशा हो जैसी शक्कर के मामले में है कि सबसिडी देनी पड़ती है। कपड़े के मामले में जैसे हम पीछे हटते जा रहे हैं। कहीं ऐसा

न हो कि उसी तरह आज इलायची का निर्यात करके जो हम प्राप्त कर रहे हैं उसे भी सबसिडी देना पड़े। अभी तो हमारी मॉनो-पोलिस्टिक स्थिति है, हम एकमात्र निर्यात करने वाले हैं। इस दृष्टि से यह न हो जाय कि करने जाये कुछ और हो जाय कुछ, चाहे कि विशेष लाभ होगा और उल्टी दिशा में कुछ काम न हो जाय। इसके लिए मैं काशन कर देना चाहता हूँ। मंत्री जी शायद नाराज होंगे कि अभी ऐसी बातें कर रहा हूँ और स्वप्न में भी बोर्ड के बनने के बाद ऐसी बात नहीं हो सकती। लेकिन शक्कर के अनुभव, कपड़े के अनुभव से यही भय लगता है। जिन आशाओं से, जिन उम्मीदों को लेकर हम इन चीजों का निर्माण करते हैं, वह पूरी नहीं हो पाती और सारा मामला गडबड में पड़ जाता है। इस दृष्टि से हमको इस पर विशेष सोचने की आवश्यकता है।

बोर्ड के निर्माण का इसमें जो वर्णन है उसके सम्बन्ध में मैं खासतौर से इस बात की चर्चा करता हूँ कि जो बोर्ड के मेम्बर बनेंगे वे शासकीय ही होंगे। इसमें लिखा है कि "the cardamom-growing interest" अब यह तो व्यापक शब्द है कि जिसकी भी इलायची के उत्पादन में दिलचस्पी है उसे इसमें रखेंगे। इलायची के उत्पादन में मेरी भी दिलचस्पी है या "एक्स" की दिलचस्पी है या "वाई" की दिलचस्पी है। जिसको अपाइन्ट करना हो इस बोर्ड में उसकी कार्डमम, इलायची के उत्पादन में दिलचस्पी नहीं है यह कहना बड़ा कठिन हो जायगा। अच्छा होता अगर हम इस में साफ तौर से लिखते कि जो एकचुञ्चली इलायची के उत्पादन में लगे हुए हैं उनको लेंगे। जब हम लेबर के इन्टरेस्ट ले रहे हैं, व्यापार के इन्टरेस्ट ले रहे हैं क्या कारण है कि जो इलायची का स्वयं उत्पादन करते हैं उनके प्रतिनिधि हम इसमें न लें। इसलिये इसमें जो शब्दों का प्रयोग किया गया है कि "the Cardamom-growing interest"

जिनकी इसमें दिलचस्पी हो उनको रखेंगे, यह ठीक लगता नहीं। मैं प्रार्थना करूंगा कि जो खूब इसके अन्तर्गत बनने वाले हैं उसमें हम खास तौर से व्यवस्था करें कि जो इलायची के उत्पादक हैं, उनके प्रतिनिधियों को इसमें लिया जाय। "जिसकी दिलचस्पी उसके उत्पादन में है" इन शब्दों का जो प्रयोग किया गया है वह बिल्कुल न्यायसंगत प्रतीत नहीं होता।

उपाध्यक्षा महोदया, मैं यह भी निवेदन करूंगा कि जो बोर्ड का निर्माण हम कर रहे हैं, उसमें हमें बड़ी सावधानी रखनी चाहिए हम कमेटीज का निर्माण करते हैं, एडवाइजरी कमेटीज का निर्माण करते हैं, मगर उनमें राजनीतिक प्रभाव आ जाता है और वह उस काम को पूरी तरह करने के लिए सक्षम नहीं हो पाती। अभी हाल में टेलीफोन परामर्श समिति का गठन हुआ उसके बारे में बिल्कुल कहा जाता है उसमें जो 17 सदस्य हैं उनमें 3 सरकारी, 14 दूसरे हैं जिनमें 7 टकसाली कांग्रेसी हैं। इस दृष्टि से अगर यही दृष्टिकोण लेकर चला गया कि हमारे राजनीतिक दल के कौन कौन आदमियों को हम इसमें भेज सकते हैं और हम जिस दल के हैं उसी के लोगों को इसमें आने दिया जाय तो हम जो लक्ष्य प्राप्त करना चाहते हैं वह प्राप्त नहीं हो पाएगा और इस बुराई से बचने के लिए मैं अभी से माननीय मन्त्री जी का ध्यान आकर्षित करना चाहता हूँ। इससे जरूर बचने का प्रबन्ध करे।

इस विधेयक की जो मूल में स्थिति थी उसमें एक वाइस चेयरमैन को चुनने के लिए कोई व्यवस्था नहीं की गई थी। अभी लोकसभा में इसमें जो संशोधन हुआ है उसके द्वारा सरकार ने इसमें जो कमी थी उसे पूरा करके बहुत अच्छा किया। इस तरह का कोआपरेटिंग एटीट्यूड रहे तो काम अच्छा चल सकता है।

इसी तरह से इसमें आगे जो बोर्ड के कार्यों के बारे में उसमें भी एक नया संशोधन जोड़ करके "undertaking, assisting or encouraging scientific, technological and economic research". यह बहुत ही अच्छा काम किया है। यह संशोधन अत्यन्त आवश्यक था। कई कार्य हम करने जा रहे हैं और इसमें कोआपरेटिव ऐफर्ट्स की चर्चा की गई है। अगर त्याग की भावना के आधार पर और सब मिल कर सहकारिता के आधार पर यह काम कर सकें तो उससे बढ़िया बात हो नहीं सकती। मगर हम देखें कि सहकारिता का आधार रखने के बावजूद भी लोग अपने व्यक्तिगत स्वार्थों, अपनी व्यक्तिगत कम-जोरियों के कारण उस सहकारिता को बदनाम करने की स्थिति में रहें, तो इसके लिए सहकारिता के लिए विशेष आग्रह करने की आवश्यकता नहीं। जब हम देख लें कि वहां के लोग समुच्च त्याग की भावना से सहकारिता के आधार पर काम करने का तत्पर है तो इस तरह की सहकारिता को एनकरेज किए जाने में किसी तरह की कठिनाई नहीं हो सकती।

इसमें बताया गया है Ensuring remunerative returns to growers of cardamom. अगर इलायची के उत्पादकों को ठीक मूल्य मिले, ठीक रेम्युनेटिव कीमत मिले तो यह बहुत अच्छी बात है। मैं प्रार्थना करूंगा कि यह केवल कागज तक ही सीमित न रहे। हमारे क्षेत्र में पोपी की खेती होती है, अफीम की काफी उपज होती है। आज इतनी महंगाई बढ़ने के बावजूद उनको उसके उत्पादन में कितना खाद लगाना पड़ता है, कितनी मेहनत करनी पड़ती है, उसके बावजूद उनको जो मूल्य मिलता है वह बहुत कम है। रेवेन्यू, राजस्व विभाग के अन्तर्गत होने के कारण उसका मूल्य बढ़ नहीं पाता और बड़ी कठिनाई होती है। एग्रीकल्चर डिपार्टमेंट के हमारे मन्त्री जी सुब्रह्मण्यम साहब

[श्री विमलकुमार मन्नालालजी चौरड़िया]

बार बार कहते हैं कि हम काश्तकारों को प्राइस सपोर्ट देते हैं, उनको इनकरेज करना चाहते हैं मगर एक्चुअली जो उनको मिलता है उसमें उनका कितना हाना पाता है। उनसे बार बार पूछते हैं कि क्या कारण है कि इतनी अधिक कीमतें होने के बावजूद भी आपके जो शासकीय फार्मर्स हैं उसमें उत्पादन के हिसाब से और जो मूल्य आता है उसके हिसाब से घाटा पड़ता है, लाखों रुपयों का घाटा पड़ता है। तो जो हम सचमुच चाहते हैं कि उनको रेग्युलरेटिव प्राइस मिले इसका बराबर ध्यान देकर के उनको कीमतें दी जानी चाहिये, ऐसा नहीं हो कि यह केवल कागजों में रह जाय।

SHRI MULKA GOVINDA REDDY:
Madam Vice-Chairman, he can continue tomorrow.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI-
MATI TARA RAMCHANDRA

SATHE): How much time will you take?

श्री विमलकुमार मन्नालालजी चौरड़िया :
पांच या दस मिनट और लूगा।

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI-
MATI TARA RAMCHANDRA
SATHE): You have already taken
twelve minutes.

श्री विमलकुमार मन्नालालजी चौरड़िया :
अब थोड़ा तो इस बिल पर बोलना ही
पड़ेगा।

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI-
MATI TARA RAMCHANDRA
SATHE): The House stands adjourn-
ed till 11 a.m. tomorrow.

The House then adjourned
at five of the clock till eleven
of the clock on Thursday, the
25th November, 1965.