

I am sorry I will have to forgo the pleasure of attending the current session of the Rajya Sabha. * * *

May I humbly request you to kindly grant me leave of absence for the current session of the Rajya Sabha?"

Is it the pleasure of the House that permission be granted to Shri M. J. Jamal Moideen for remaining absent from all meetings of the House during the current session?

No hon. Member dissented.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Permission to remain absent is granted.

THE CARDAMOM BILL, 1965— *continued.*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Chordia had not finished his speech yesterday.

श्री त्रिमलकुमार मन्नालालजी चौरङ्गिग (मध्य प्रदेश): सभापति महोदय, कल जब मैं इलायची के विधायक पर चर्चा कर रहा था तब मैंने बोर्ड के बारे में भी चर्चा की थी। तो उसके बारे में मेरा निवेदन है कि जहां तक इस बिल की खास बातों का प्रश्न है, इसके बारे में दो मत नहीं हो सकते कि लोगों का स्वास्थ्य सुधारने के लिये उसके प्रति आकर्षण बढ़े। हमारे बोर्ड को इसका प्रयत्न करना चाहिये, मगर यह प्रयत्न करने के बाद उस स्थिति का जब निर्माण हो जाये कि हम उत्पादन भी नहीं कर पाएँ और अगर उत्पादन हो जाये तो फिर खरीदने वाला नहीं रह जाये—जैसा कि कपड़े के बारे में हमारे मंत्री जी ने आज जवाब दिया कि हमारे प्रयत्न करने के फलस्वरूप कपड़े का निर्माण बहुत हो गया; बल्कि विदेशों में हमारा मारकेट बहुत बढ़ गया, लेकिन एकदम

पाकिस्तान ने हमारी मारकेट को कैप्चर कर लिया—तो वैसी स्थिति हमारी इलायची के मामले में न हो जाये, और फिर जिस तरह से हमारे कपड़े के व्यापारियों की अपनी मारकेट बंद करने की स्थिति आ रही है वैसी हमारे इन छोटे-छोटे इलायची पैदा करने वालों की स्थिति न हो जाये, इस ओर भी हमें ध्यान देना अत्यंत आवश्यक है।

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN IN THE CHAIR

उपसभापति महोदय, इसी के साथ यह निवेदन कर दूँ कि जो रिसर्च के लिये इसमें व्यवस्था की है, यह बहुत आवश्यक है। रिसर्च के दो पक्ष हैं जो किये जाने चाहिये। इलायची के पौदे में विशेष खुशबू होने के कारण अक्सर बीमारियाँ लगती रहती हैं। उसके लिये योग्य इन्सेक्टीसाइड की रिसर्च की व्यवस्था हो जिससे उसकी बीमारियों का इलाज समय पर हो सके और वे लोग उन बीमारियों के परिणामस्वरूप नुकसान न उठाएँ, इसके लिये खास तौर से ध्यान देने की आवश्यकता है; अन्यथा मेहनत करने के बाद, और सारा श्रम करने के बाद भी और पैसा लगाने के बाद भी केवल बीमारियों की वजह से उनकी जो आय होनी चाहिये, वह नहीं हो पाएगी और इसलिये उन बीमारियों का इलाज करवाने की ओर हमें विशेष प्रयत्न करना चाहिये। हमारे यहां कई ऐसी पैदावार की वस्तुएं हैं जिनमें बीमारियों की वजह से काफी नुकसान होता है। ऐसी फसलें भी हमारे यहां होती हैं जिनमें एक वर्ष में वे आदमी हजारों रुपया कमा लेते हैं और दूसरे वर्ष में उन्हें अपनी गिरह से देना पड़ता है। ऐसी जो गैम्बलिंग की स्थिति होती है, वह बीमारियों की वजह से होती है। जिस क्षेत्र से मैं आता हूँ, वहां पान का उत्पादन होता है और पान का उत्पादन

[श्री विमलकुमार मन्नालालजी चौरड़िया]
करने वालों की ठीक वही स्थिति है कि जिस वक्त उनके वहां बीमारी नहीं लगती है, तब तो उनकी शादियों में हजारों रुपये खर्च होते हैं, और कामों में भी काफी खर्च करते हैं और जिस वक्त लगातार एक दो वर्ष तक उसको बीमारी लग गई तो कपड़े भी फटे पहनने लगते हैं। तो ऐसी स्थिति में हमको इस बात का विशेष ध्यान रखना चाहिये। जिस क्षेत्र में इलायची का उत्पादन होता है उसके आस-पास ऐमा केन्द्रीय रिसर्च इन्स्टीट्यूट कायम किया जाना चाहिये, या रिसर्च की व्यवस्था की जानी चाहिये कि जो इस बात की खोज करे कि उनमें कौन-कौन सी बीमारियां लगती हैं और लग सकती हैं और उनके रोकथाम के लिये क्या क्या रुकावटें हो सकती हैं और उसकी पहले से क्या व्यवस्था की जा सकती है। दूसरा पक्ष यह है रिसर्च का कि हम इलायची से किन-किन चीजों का और उत्पादन कर सकते हैं, वह औषधियों के निर्माण के रूप में हो या दूसरी वस्तुओं के निर्माण के रूप में हो जिससे उसका कम मेहनत करने के बाद अधिक मूल्य प्राप्त हो सके। उदाहरण के लिये, इलायची के छिलकों का उपयोग आयुर्वेद में किया जाता है; उसके छिलके को जला कर, अगर किसी का जी मिचलाता है तो उसको गले में लगाते हैं। तो किस किस मात्रा में उसको दें, कैसी बीमारी में दें और कौन सा उसका लाभ होगा, इसकी खोज-पड़ताल करने की व्यवस्था होनी चाहिये। कई महिलाएँ इलायची के छिलकों का बैग बनाती हैं, चित्र बनाती हैं। इस दृष्टि से जिससे कि उसका उपयोग अच्छी तरह हो सके और लघु उद्योग में भी उसको लगा सकें, इन सारी बातों की खोज करने के लिये हमको रिसर्च की ओर विशेष ध्यान देना पड़ेगा, जिससे कि हम खर्च में कमी और अधिक उत्पादन कर सकें। इस दृष्टि से मैं प्रार्थना करूंगा कि ये दोनों

जो पक्ष हैं : उसकी बीमारी को रोकना और माल उत्पादन हो जाने के बाद माल का अच्छा से अच्छा उपयोग होकर अधिक से अधिक आमदनी हो सके, इन दोनों पक्षों की ओर ध्यान देना अत्यंत आवश्यक है।

खंड 11 में इस बात की व्यवस्था की है :

“Registration of owners of cardamom estates”—उनको रजिस्ट्रेशन कराना पड़ेगा, चाहे कोई छोटा उत्पादनकर्ता है या बड़ा, उसको अपने इस्टेट के स्वामित्व के बारे में रजिस्ट्रेशन करवाना होगा। प्रत्येक स्टेट इसके बारे में नियम बनाएगा। क्या कारण है, जब हमारी केन्द्रीय सरकार इसके लिये बोर्ड का निर्माण कर रही है, तो क्यों नहीं इसका केन्द्रीयकरण करके सारी व्यवस्था को एक ही स्थान से संचालित करें? एक तरह से सबका रजिस्ट्रेशन हो, केवल बोर्ड के यहां पर हो, या केन्द्रीय सरकार इसकी अलग से व्यवस्था करे। अलग अलग प्रान्तों में अलग अलग नियम बना कर अलग अलग ढंग से काम हो। यह कोई न्यायसंगत प्रतीत नहीं होता और इस तरह से जो खंड 11 में आपने व्यवस्था की है कि प्रत्येक स्टेट अपने अपने रूल बनाएगा और रजिस्ट्रेशन करवाना पड़ेगा, फिर उसके बाद यह रजिस्ट्रेशन की व्यवस्था पर आपने बंधन लगाया है कि रिटर्न भरेंगे। रिटर्न भरने के लिये भी जो बंधन आप ने लगाए हैं कि रिटर्न भरने के लिये आप स्टेटिस्टिक्स मांग सकते हैं, तो मैं प्रार्थना करूंगा कि अभी तो ऐसी व्यवस्था है नहीं, मगर प्रान्तीय भाषा में उन के रिटर्न का फार्म जरूर बनना चाहिये। ऐसा नहीं है कि अंग्रेजी की दासता से मुक्त न होने के कारण हम केवल अंग्रेजी में उस फार्म का निर्माण करें, मगर फार्म एक प्रान्तीय भाषा में अवश्य हो और हिन्दी भाषा का उल्था भी उस के साथ साथ हो। जिस तरह से अंग्रेजी और प्रान्तीय भाषा चलती हैं उसी तरह से हम को प्रान्तीय भाषा और हिन्दी चलानी चाहिये और इस के

लिये विधेयक में व्यवस्था होनी चाहिये और बोर्ड को इस के बारे में प्रयत्न करना चाहिये। ऐसा मेरा निवेदन है।

इस में एक बड़ी विचित्र बात लिखी है, जो किमिनल प्रोसीजर कोड में भी देखने में नहीं आई। खंड 13 के उपखंड (2) के अन्तर्गत इस में लिखा है :

"The Board may authorise an officer to visit any estate at any time to verify the accuracy of any return made under this section or to ascertain the productive capacity of the estate"

अब इस में टाइम का भी कोई बन्धन नहीं रखा। हमारे किमिनल प्रोसीजर कोड में ऐसा तो है कि सनसेट हो जाये, उस के बाद या सूर्योदय से पहले कोई भी प्रवेश नहीं करेगा, मगर हमारे इस विधान में इतना व्यापक अधिकार ले लिया गया है कि "एट एनी टाइम" जिस दफा चाहे जहा भी स्टेट में प्रवेश करना हो तो हमारा जाच करने वाला प्रवेश कर सकता है। "एट एनी टाइम" न लिख कर दिन को या आफिस के टाइम में—क्योंकि ग्यारह और बाहर के बीच कोई इलायची चुरा कर भाग जायेगा या कैल्कुलेशन में तकलीफ हो जायेगी, ऐसी कोई बात है नहीं—वह आप लिख देते तो ज्यादा ठीक था, मगर आप इस में ऐसा ह्वेग रख कर अन्नेसेसरीली लोगो की परेशानिया बढ़ाते हैं, तो यह न्यायसंगत प्रतीत नहीं होता। इसलिये मैं प्रार्थना करूंगा कि यह जो "एट एनी टाइम" का आप ने इस में प्रावधान किया है—इस में सशोधन तो है नहीं—इस का ठीक तरह से उपयोग करे। इस के साथ ही यह आप का लक्ष्य क्या था "एट एनी टाइम" रखने का, इस का भी स्पष्टीकरण करेंगे तो ज्यादा अच्छा होगा।

इसी तरह से खण्ड 20 में है :

"(a) the maximum price or the minimum price, or the maximum and minimum prices, which may be charged by a grower of cardamom

or cardamom dealer, wholesale or retail, whether for the Indian market or for export."

यह जो आप कीमत की बात कर रहे हैं, तो कीमत के बारे में मैं पहले ही निवेदन कर चुका हू कि हम यह चाहते हैं कि उत्पादक को भी अधिक मिल सके और जो उपभोक्ता है उस को कम खर्च में इलायची मिल सके। इन दोनों इन्टरेस्ट्स को अगर आप गार्ड कर सकते हैं तो आप का बोर्ड बनाना सार्थक होगा, अन्यथा अगर आप बोर्ड बना कर उपभोक्ता का भी ज्यादा पैसा लगाए और उत्पादनकर्ता को भी कम पैसा मिले, तो ऐसा होगा कि जैसे हलवाई के यहां दूध गरम होता है और मलाई-मलाई वह खा जाता है, बाकी बचा हुआ दूध देता है। वैसे ही बोर्ड की आमदनी का मुख्य हिस्सा बोर्ड के पास चला जाये और उन लोगों को लाभ नहीं पहुंचे, ऐसी स्थिति का कही निर्माण न हो जाये।

इसलिए मैं प्रार्थना करूंगा कि उन को कम से कम जीविका चलाने के लिये तो दाम मिलने चाहिये। अगर आप उन को सपोर्ट नहीं देना चाहते हैं तो कम से कम उत्पादन करने के बाद जो उन का मूल्य आता है, वह तो उन को मिलना चाहिये, ताकि वे अपना खर्च चला सके। इसलिए मेरी प्रार्थना है कि उन लोगो को अधिक से अधिक अपनी चीज के दाम मिल सके, इस के लिए यह आवश्यक है कि आप अधिक से अधिक विदेशी मार्केट ढूँढने का प्रयत्न करेंगे, तो ज्यादा अच्छा होगा।

एक और विशेष बात की ओर मैं आप का ध्यान आकर्षित करना चाहता हू और वह यह है कि हमारे यहां रिवाज हो गया है कि सब कर्मचारियों को प्रोटेक्शन दिया जाये, चाहे वे बोर्ड के अधिकारी हों या कोई कर्मचारी हों। इस प्रोटेक्शन देने के बारे में यह कहा जाता है कि : 'Anything done in good faith' और यह एक तरह की एक फिक्स्ड फ्रेजियालाजी हो गई जिस के आधार पर किसी के खिलाफ

[श्री विमलकुमार मन्नालालजी चौरड़िया]
कोई कार्यवाही नहीं की जा सकती है। अगर कोई काम गुड फ़ैथ में किया गया हो, मगर वह ग़लत काम है, फिर भी उस के बारे में परमिशन लेना या देना कि यह सरकारी कर्मचारी है या बोर्ड का मेम्बर है, कुछ समझ में नहीं आता है; क्योंकि इस काम में कोई क्रिमिनल आफ़ेन्स का काम होने वाला नहीं है। लेकिन इस में भी आप ने जो परमिशन का झगड़ा लगा दिया है कि अगर कोई आदमी बोर्ड के मेम्बर तथा उस के कर्मचारी के खिलाफ कोई मुकदमा चलाना चाहता है तो उस को पहले सरकार से परमिशन लेनी पड़ेगी। लेकिन मेरा निवेदन यह है कि अगर कोई आदमी कोई आफ़ेन्स करता है—चाहे वह बोर्ड का मेम्बर हो, चाहे वह उत्पादक हो और चाहे कोई व्यापारी हो—तो उन सब के खिलाफ समान रूप से कार्यवाही की जानी चाहिये और इस में किसी प्रकार का बंधन नहीं लगाया जाना चाहिये और न ही कोई छूट दी जानी चाहिये। अगर कोई ग़लत काम करता है तो उस के खिलाफ स्वतन्त्रतापूर्वक मुकदमा चलाया जाना चाहिये और उस को किसी प्रकार की छूट नहीं देनी चाहिये।

जो कर्मचारी विधेयक का निर्माण करने है वे ही रक्षण चाहते हैं और इस तरह से जो स्वयं के रक्षण की आदत बढ़ती जा रही है, वह न्यायसंगत मालूम नहीं देती है। इसलिये निवेदन है कि इस तरह की जो प्रवृत्ति बढ़ती जा रही है, वह न्यायसंगत मालूम नहीं देती है। इसलिए निवेदन है कि इस तरह की जो प्रवृत्ति बढ़न जा रही है उस पर अब नियंत्रण आना चाहिये और हमारा सरकार को, चाहे वह बोर्ड का मेम्बर हो, व्यापार हो, या उत्पादक हो, सब को एक ही कैटेगरी में मान कर व्यवस्था करना चाहिये और इस एक खास क्षेत्र के लोगों को छूट नहीं दी जानी चाहिये। इन में जो आप ने प्रोटैक्शन की बात रखी है, वह कम से कम नहीं रखा जाना चाहिये और यह न्यायसंगत भी मालूम नहीं देता है।

इन शब्दों के साथ मैं प्रार्थना करूंगा कि सरकार के सम्मुख जो मुझाव मैंने दिया है, उन पर वह अवश्य विचार करेगा। सरकार ने रूलर्स बनाने का जो काम अपने हाथ में लिया है वह इस में देर नहीं करेगी। ऐसा नहीं कि रूलर्स न बनें और बोर्ड के आदमियों की तनख्वाह मिलती चला जाये, इस तरह की अव्यवस्था को और सरकार अवश्य ध्यान देगा। सरकार जा यह कानून लाई है, वह अच्छे इरादे से लाई है और उस का परिणाम भी अच्छा होगा। मगर यह देखा जाता है कि अगर कानून ग़लत हाथों में पड़ गया तो उस का दुष्परिणाम होता है, यही मुझे निवेदन करना है।

SHRI M. N. GOVINDAN NAIR
(Kerala): Madam Deputy Chairman, I welcome this Bill. This is one of the industries which is earning us foreign exchange to the tune of nearly Rs. 3 crores. But unfortunately, in spite of our difficulties for foreign exchange, the Government has been neglecting this industry. From times immemorial, that is to say from the times of the ancient Babylonians, Assyrians and Egyptians, all those people came to the West Coast to buy our spices. So even in those days cardamom was popular in foreign markets. And here as far as this industry now is concerned, the question of having a market is not the problem. Even in India you can sell much more than what is being done today. But unfortunately the problems facing this industry have not been tackled till now and it is a good thing that the Government has come forward now with this Bill.

With regard to these cardamom plantations, you cannot have cardamom plantation on any kind of land. Cardamom can grow only at a certain altitude. There should also be heavy rainfall on that region and the area should be protected by trees. So this is an industry which can very well develop in the high forests, on the Western Ghats. I think even though

cardamom is produced by three States in India, namely, Madras, Mysore and Kerala, ours is the State which produces the maximum quantity of cardamom, I mean Kerala. Of course, Madras is making the maximum profit. While Madras State is making the maximum profit, we in Kerala are producing the maximum quantity of cardamom.

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA (Orissa): They seem to be cleverer than Keralites.

SHRI M. N. GOVINDAN NAIR: Yes. We supply all the spices and you enjoy them. We supply you cardamom and . . .

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA: Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari enjoys them, not we.

SHRI M. N. GOVINDAN NAIR: You also enjoy them. We supply you pepper. We supply you cardamom and like angles our nurses go round the whole country to soothe you in your illness. But unfortunately you are unkind to our State.

SHRI AKBAR ALI KHAN (Andhra Pradesh): But we supply your State with rice.

SHRI M. N. GOVINDAN NAIR: Yes, and we are thankful to you for that. Madam, the main point is that there is ample possibility for extending the cultivation of cardamom, especially on the Western Ghats. The second main difficulty with regard to the development of this industry is that no proper research work has been taken up either by the Government or by the growers, so much so that the type of cardamom that is grown in our country is not of a high quality. So the immediate attention of this Board, that is being formed under this Bill, should be to find out better varieties or strains by which the production of cardamom can go up in quality and quantity.

With regard to the growers, nearly 70 per cent. of them are small grow-

ers. Of course, there are a few big estates too, but the great majority are small growers. Now, what happens is this. The traders and the speculators are mopping up the profits. So the Board should see that either the State Trading Corporation takes over the entire cardamom trade or under the supervision of the Board some arrangement should be made by which the present system of trade is stopped and the benefit goes to the actual growers and to the industry.

As regards representation on the Board, I think there also the small growers should find better representation. I would also press upon the Government to see whether they cannot arrange it in such a way that elected representatives of the small growers get a place on the Board. Now there is no differentiation between the small grower and the big grower. There are a few big growers and they are dominating the trade. So there should be some differentiation and the Government should see that the majority, the small growers, get proper representation on the Board. The constitution of this Board at the present juncture is a welcome step but the problems facing the industry should be understood. It is one mainly of finding out the market because there are very few competitors in the world. Indonesia is producing cardamom, Ceylon is producing and I think in Guatemala also there is some cardamom grown but such a situation will not be created whereby you will be in difficulty in finding out a market. So, marketing is not at all a problem that is facing the cardamom industry. The main thing on which Government should concentrate attention is research for developing a better variety of cardamom. The variety produced now is so bad that compared to other countries it is of a very low quality.

These are my suggestions and I support this Bill

SHRI C. M. POONACHA (Mysore): Madam Deputy Chairman, I welcome the proposal to constitute a Cardamom

[Shri C. M. Poonacha.]

Board. This matter was being pressed for acceptance by Government for a very long time. In fact, the cardamom industry had to face serious difficulties and large areas had to go out of cultivation because of lack of proper guidance and assistance from Government. As has already been mentioned, Madam, cardamom cultivation is confined to an area where other amenities for fruitful and useful cultivation are not generally available. In the area called "Malnad" where transport facilities are non-existent in the interior, cardamom cultivation is carried on under conditions which are very difficult. From the very beginning, cardamom cultivation had to face serious problems which were difficult to overcome from time to time but later the greatest problem that confronted the cardamom industry was prices. The product, being an export commodity and a good foreign exchange earner, was handled by the big wholesale exporters who used to manipulate the price from time to time and this went against the interests of the growers. The growers had to contend themselves with less remunerative prices in addition to facing other difficulties such as disease, transport difficulties, cultivation problems and a variety of other handicaps. Therefore the Cardamom growing areas in the States of Madras, Kerala and Mysore have been insistently demanding the formation of a Cardamom Board with a view firstly to regulate the prices, secondly to assist the growers in combating the various diseases that affect the cardamom plantations and lastly to help the industry in general by providing other facilities for cultivation, storage, proper research and, most important of all, the export of cardamom and a fair return, a remunerative return to the grower. Though late, this Bill in certain measure satisfies those demands of the cardamom industry.

Coming to one or two details with regard to the formation of this Board, I would like to make the following observations. Particularly what has hit the cardamom industry most is the

price factor, the sales part of it. The growing is carried on, as has been already mentioned, by a large number of small growers owning from half an acre to ten or hundred acres in places which have no acres, in difficult regions and thick jungles. The crop cannot be held by the producer for a long period of time. He has to part with it and so the buyers depress the price at the time when the crop is picked and there is almost distress selling all over the picking period; and when the crop is collected and sales by these small growers are over and the exports take place, there is a boom, prices rise and the middlemen profit out of this. To avoid this, for the last six or eight years co-operatives have been organised in the various States and I must say that the co-operatives have done a very good job but even there they were not able to help the grower to the full extent for the reason that they have their own limitations. They could hold the stocks for a long period of time. The financing banks had placed innumerable restrictions on them. They had no control over finances with the result that the co-operatives also had to face difficulties with regard to the regulation of the market conditions.

The export part of it is at the moment being handled by a few big business houses over whom there is no control at all. This Bill provides for the fixation of maximum and minimum prices and also the quantum that could be sold at each sale by a producer, a wholesale dealer, an agent or a co-operative society. I was wondering why the Government thought it fit to put forth this scheme, particularly coming as it does through the Commerce Ministry. Coming as it does from the Commerce Minister, I am at a loss to know why this scheme has been thought to be the best one, in the context of what they are in the know of about the Coffee Board's functioning. The Coffee Board has been there for the last twenty years or more and it has functioned very well. The quantity of coffee handled by the Board is of the order of sixty to

seventy thousand tons. This quantity is collected, processed, cured, graded, handled, stocked and exported by the Board. In this respect also, a plantation commodity, grown in the same area, cardamom—the production is about three thousand tons—the Board is going to be registered and all the other procedures are incorporated in this Bill, but I do not see the same pattern of handling of cardamom as is being done for coffee by the Coffee Board. Why? If the Coffee Board can handle nearly sixty to seventy thousand tons of coffee, grade it, store it, handle it and then export can't the Cardamom Board collect these 3,000 tons of cardamom—may be 5,000 tons in a period of time if everything goes on well—grade it and then export? Why should they not adopt the same pattern? Why should they not profit by the experience of the Coffee Board which is functioning under this very Ministry and about which they know every details? Could not that pattern be adopted for the Cardamom Board also? That is my question.

I am at a loss to know why this scheme of fixing the maximum and the minimum price is being resorted to and the question of polling is not being adopted. Why is it so? As compared to coffee, cardamom can be stored for a longer period. That is my experience and the quantity involved is only about 3,000 to 4,000 tons. It does not require that much of capacity, that much of administration and set-up as the Coffee Board. This is a very simple thing. In fact, the Committee that you have constituted also has got some experience in this line. What is needed is the scheme of registering the growers. It is a simple matter which is going to be done by the Revenue Departments of the various State Governments. Once these growers are registered then the collection of the crop grading is easy. What is grading? It is simple garbling; it is hand-picked and there is no machinery or any kind of process involved and then, of course, a stage of processing is there; that is, as far as producing the green variety

and the bleached variety, it is a simple process and it is done by the growers according to the demands of the time and that regulates itself. So why should not this Board in very clear terms be empowered to collect the cardamom that is produced in the country and grade it according to the standards? We have already stipulated various grades. Could not this be done by the Cardamom Board? That is what I want to know.

I would very much wish the hon. Minister to kindly look into the matter and adopt the well-tried and successful pattern of the Coffee Board for Cardamom also. Why should there be this deviation? That is what does not appeal to me so far as this Bill is concerned. I would very much insist that all the cardamom that is produced by the growers, the proper grading and classification of varieties and its export should be handled by the Cardamom Board exclusively as in the case of Coffee. Otherwise what will happen is that it will again go into the hands of the exporting channels and there will be this f.a.q. You may stipulate any restriction but I know what is happening all along the line. With my experience, I can say that there is a good deal of mixing up of poor quality with the superior variety in exporting and thereby we have earned a bad name in the consuming countries, particularly the Middle East countries. The trade has not been playing fair and it would not hereafter also play fair. Now you want to go only half way and not full way. You have all the rich experience; you know everything about it and you have a pattern that has been tried and established but you do not want to adopt that here. It surprises me a lot. So, I would appeal to the hon. Minister that he should adopt the same pattern as that of the Coffee Board in the handling of this commodity.

I may even go to step further, Madam. I would even suggest the setting up of a Board for all the spices instead of having a Board for cardamom alone. We can have a Spices

[Shri C. M. Poonacha.]

Board and we can straightway take under its fold cardamom and pepper to start with. Both these commodities are produced in the same area, in the same States, in the States of Madras, Mysore and Kerala. Where cardamom is produced you find pepper also side by side and so the registration of the growers would never be a problem. Both these commodities could be stored for a period of time without any deterioration in quality and both these are important foreign exchange earners. They are grown in the same area, they have more or less the same keeping qualities and they are potential foreign exchange earners. Therefore under a broader canvas if you could constitute one authority called the Spices Board and take over the two items of spices, namely, cardamom and pepper, to start with, you would be doing a distinct service to the area. What is this piecemeal business of tackling things one after another in a half-hearted way? This is what worries me. I would have very much appreciated the hon. Minister tackling the thing squarely. Now when you will have a Cardamom Board, naturally there will be a demand from the pepper growing industry for a similar Board. Would you then go and constitute a Pepper Board separately? Would you have another Board then for, say, cashew? These are exportable commodities which are grown in a particular area.

If we have a Board for all the spices on the pattern of the Coffee Board then it would ensure three things. Firstly, it would ensure a fair return to the industries located in a particular region, that is, the Southern Indian States. Secondly, it would give confidence to the producer and enable him to bestow his full attention on production and nothing else and thirdly, you would step up your foreign exchange earnings. May I cite the example of coffee? Before the constitution of the Coffee Board what was the production? Twenty years back the total production of coffee in India was

roundabout 20 to 22, thousand tons. Today it is nearly 70,000 tons and in about two to three years' time we would reach a production level of one lakh tons. How was this achieved? It is simple. The producers had no botheration about the marketing side of it. The Coffee Board took full care of marketing every bean of coffee whether internally or abroad. Therefore the attention of the producers was only in improving cultivation, in adopting the best methods of cultivation and in increasing production, and naturally the production went up. Similarly in these two items, pepper and cardamom, you can also register a rapid production rise if you would only relieve the producer of the botheration of marketing. So I would very respectfully suggest, if not immediately, at least as soon as possible, consideration should be given to constituting a Board which would handle all spices. Then there is also the other thing. You are importing cloves and of course the S.T.C. is being used for that purpose now. This also could be handled by the Spices Board. One of the important spices that we are importing is this cloves and also nutmeg which can be handled by the Spices Board. Thereby you would be drawing up a scheme that will help the industry and also help us to earn more foreign exchange.

I come to one more point before I finish and that is about research. There was mention about research and I would say that the amount that is going to be provided by levying a cess would only have a marginal effect. You will never be able to do anything substantial with this poor show of a couple of lakhs being provided for a thing like the development of cardamom plantations. In the cardamom plantations, barring the marketing side of it, the main problem is the disease. We have not yet been able to control the disease. Research has not even gone anywhere near finding out what the virus disease is like, how to tackle the disease. So, there will have to be made a vigorous research arrangement

and very soon we will have to find out a remedy to combat the disease, i.e., the mosaic disease and if it is not combated or controlled, well, cardamom cultivation will go out of existence. There is no doubt about it. Then, take, for example, the area that is going out of cultivation year after year and most of the cardamom areas are being converted into coffee areas and used for other cultivation because the disease attacks within two or three years after it has been planted. Then it goes out of existence within a year or two, with the result that the entire capital that is invested goes waste and nobody ventures upon this enterprise, namely, cardamom growing. So, effective research will have to be undertaken and for that very vigorous research arrangements will have to be made. Independent research stations will have to be constituted. In the meantime, seed selection, manurial trials and a variety of other aspects of helping the grower to find a better variety of cardamom and to apply better techniques and methods of cultivation, will have to be done. Up till now it is being done in the old way. Then, there is no standardisation of the cultivation patterns at all. Therefore, this industry, which is capable of earning a very substantial share of foreign exchange, which is capable of helping an area which otherwise is very much backward, is going to help stabilise the economy of the region which does not receive serious attention of the Government at present. After repeated demands over a long period of time and after a series of promises to bring the Cardamom Board into existence with a view to helping the industry as a whole, after four or five years to come with this piece of legislation, which I should think is a half-hearted measure, gives no satisfaction to anybody, not even to the Minister I may say. I should not try to read too much into it. Enough to say that this Bill in its present form, is not going to make any substantial impression so far as the development and marketing of cardamom industry is concerned.

Thank you.

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI S. V. RAMASWAMY): Madam Deputy Chairman, I am thankful to hon. Members who have participated in the debate and who have thrown so many suggestions on the Bill. There has been uniform welcome to this Bill, though certain Members pointed out certain things to be done and emphasised certain points

Taking the last speaker first, Mr. Poonacha, I know, has not got mere theoretical knowledge. He is a planter himself. He has got a very big cardamom estate in Coorg and, therefore, he is speaking with expert knowledge. Apart from that, when he spoke about a Spices Council for peppers, cashewnut, clove, etc., he was, I presume, importing into this his knowledge of things as the ex-Chairman of the STC also. Now, the gravamen of his charge about this Bill is that the pooling system is not there in this Board as it is in the Coffee Board. That is a valid charge and I accept it. It must, at the same time, be remembered that the Coffee Board has been growing over the years. It is not as if they were able to find the pooling system in a perfect manner all of a sudden. What I would respectfully submit to the House is that we did consider this pooling, but we thought it would be better as a Tamil saying goes you sit before you stretch your legs. If you want to stretch your legs even while standing, you are likely to break your spine. Let us, first of all, therefore, constitute this Board, feel our way and then, if necessary, go in for the pooling system, as in the Coffee Board. Nothing will prevent us from doing that. Parliament is here. The matter could be raised and again reviewed and if hon. Members feel that the pooling system should be introduced, we shall do so. In the meantime, let us consider what are the ways in which it is being done.

Hon. Members expressed great concern for the small grower. They also expressed their great desire to see that the export of this commodity increases

[Shri S. V. Ramaswamy.]

and we earn more foreign exchange. Some other Members also emphasised the fact that though cardamom is produced in Kerala, Mysore and Madras, the real profit goes to the few merchants in Bombay. These are matters for consideration, no doubt. Mr. Poonacha was urging the formation of co-operative societies. I would very much welcome if these co-operative societies can be organised in Mysore State, which produces nearly 20 per cent. or a little more than 20 per cent. of the cardamom grown in this country. Out of the 3,000 tonnes produced, I believe about 2,000 tonnes are produced in Kerala State, about 600 tonnes in Mysore and 400 tonnes in Madras State. If in all these States co-operatives are formed, not merely for the purpose of assisting the producers but also to market the produce, it will be a great thing. In fact, it was to see that more and more people entered into the export trade, who have got direct connection with the producing sector also, we recently sent out a delegation under the chairmanship of Mr. Sitarama Reddy, who was Chairman of the Coffee Board and also Chairman of the Committee concerned with the development of cardamom. They went round several countries in the Middle-East. They have established contact with the business people there and they have published a report in which the names of importers are given. It is now open to any producer himself to export, if he so feels, directly to those importers in the Middle-East. It will not be necessary for them to go through Bombay. That is one of the purposes with which that report has been submitted. But then, it must also be emphasised that not all things can be exported. This has been brought under the quality control Act. This has got to be graded and only quality goods can be exported.

Now, one of the important points made by the Sitarama Reddy Committee in its Report is that packing is very poor. Guatemala, which is our rival in this field, is able to pack in a

very attractive manner. Their presentation is so good that even though Guatemala's cardamom may be slightly inferior—it is inferior to ours—it is attractive in the markets in the Middle-East. This is because of their packing and presentation. Some of our people are exporting it in gunny bags with a coating of tar. This is the least that can be done. No worse packing could be thought of than this, and naturally even though the cardamom that we produce is good in quality, the packing is so bad that we do not get a good price.

My friend, Mr. Poonacha, was making a very important point about research as also some other hon. Members. My friend, Mr. Mariswamy, was saying, why is there fluctuation in production; are the business people manipulating? The fluctuations were due to certain natural causes. It is a product of nature. Why is there fluctuation in the production of tea? Why is there fluctuation in the production of coffee? It is because of the vagaries of nature. The monsoon sometimes fails. But in this case, in addition to the vagaries of nature, the cardamom is exposed to a very fell disease. The disease is called mosaic and in Kannada it is called *katte*. *Katte* disease is a deadly thing. I myself went to Sakleshpur and they had a conference on this cardamom plantation. I went and saw some of the plantations there and I myself saw that *katte* disease was. It has baffled the scientists so far. But I must also confess that not very serious attention has been paid in a scientific way for a solution of this problem, for tackling this *katte* disease. There are certain research centres, but I am afraid they are not of that high magnitude and rank which this industry deserves. That is why, Madam, we have been negotiating with the Food and Agriculture Ministry, which is primarily concerned with this research, to hand over research also to us so that we may tackle this in a most effective manner. In fact, we have requested the Food and Agriculture Ministry to write to the F.A.O. for the loan of a virologist and expert

of international repute to tackle this problem.

My friend, Mr. Poonacha, was also mentioning about a Spices Board. I am afraid that is beyond the scope of the present Bill, however laudable the object may be. Pepper, cashew and all these things, as far as the production aspect is concerned, belong to the Ministry of Food and Agriculture. We come into this Cardamom Board because of the export angle. About 70 per cent. is exported; the internal consumption is less. It was in view of this that we were able to think of having a Cardamom Board under the control of the Ministry of Commerce. My friend raises a larger issue. I for one would welcome the Spices Board no doubt so that all the spices may come under one Board, but anyhow in the meantime there is the Export Promotion Council on spices which is dealing with these, and so far as I see, the question of spices is also dealt with by it quite satisfactorily.

My friend Mr. Mulka Govinda Reddy, raised a question about the S.T.C. selling this cardamom and eliminating the middlemen or the profiteers or the exporters, whoever they may be. I am afraid this thing cannot be taken up by the S.T.C. because he might as well argue that coffee may be taken up by the S.T.C., tea may be taken up by the S.T.C. and coir may be taken up by the S.T.C. For all these commodities, Boards have been set up in order to regulate and control without interfering very much with the scope within which the private sector can also function, because ours is a mixed economy. We cannot take over everything. The S.T.C. therefore cannot think of dealing with this. We should leave this to the private sector but at the same time regulate it in such a manner that the producer also gets the maximum benefit. In fact, two years ago the prices slumped so much that the S.T.C. did step in as a price support measure. But fortunately for this industry, the prices ruling today are far more than the floor prices that were fixed two years ago, so that the floor price has no meaning what-

soever, and we have removed that order. It is ruling at a very high price, and those who are having these cardamom estates are reaping a rich reward.

My friend also mentioned, as also Mr. Govindan Nair and others, about the composition of this Board. I do not see, reading clause 4, that there is anything wrong. My friends were concerned about the small producers. It very clearly mentions about representatives of the Governments of the principle cardamom-growing States. There are only three States: Kerala first, Mysore second, and Madras third. Then come the cardamom-growing interests. It does not mean only the large-scale interests. I am very sure that the small growers will have very good representation. My friend, Mr. Mulka Govinda Reddy, also urged something else, that the Government should not nominate but that these Associations should themselves be able to send in names which the Government should accept. I am afraid, Madam, I cannot accept this proposition. For instance, in the recent constitution of the Coffee Board, 12 names were suggested by the UPASI, that is, United Planters Association of South India. They thought that whatever names were suggested by them, the Government should *ipso facto* accept those names. I am afraid Government cannot abdicate its functions in favour of a private body and accept whatever is suggested by them. In this case I have no doubt the Central Government, the Commerce Ministry, will informally consult these three Governments of Kerala, Mysore and Madras, and it is up to the State Governments who have got local knowledge of the Associations dealing with these subjects to select, choose and send up the names to this Ministry which will certainly take those things into consideration and see that the best possible representation is given not merely to the large interests but also to small interests.

My friend on this side suggested that the amount that was collected would

[Shri S. V. Ramaswamy]
be very small. We are just going to collect 1 per cent. on Rs. 3 crores. That will give Rs. 3 lakhs. If it is 2 per cent, it is going to be Rs. 6 lakhs, and not Rs. 60,000 as my friend suggested. He omitted one cipher. Rupees six lakhs would be a sizeable sum with which to start this institution, and this, as I said, is only on exports. If subsequently, as we think, we impose an excise duty upon the total production of cardamom and not merely a duty on the exports, then the amount will be sizeable and we shall be able to resort to financing even on the lines on which the Coffee Board is functioning. And we shall be able to resort to financing, on the lines on which the Coffee Board is functioning, the small growers.

I would submit that the Bill, as it is, well conceived though it is not complete. I am looking forward no doubt to the day when, if necessity arises, pooling also will be introduced as in the case of the Coffee Board.

I am thankful to the hon. Members for having paid tributes to the way in which the Coffee Board has functioned. The same tributes I may as well extend to the Tea Board because it has also done wonderful work. Exports of tea in the past four or five years have gone up from about Rs. 110 crores to Rs. 130 crores. Likewise, the Coir Board and Rubber Board have also done very good work. So also, Sir, with the goodwill, assistance and co-operation of the hon. Members who would be placed on this Board, I have no doubt that this industry will receive the help and assistance that it requires and will help advance the prosperity of this industry.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"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."

The motion was adopted.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: We shall now take up the clause by clause consideration of the Bill.

Clauses 2 to 33 were added to the Bill.

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

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

"That the Bill be passed."

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The House stands adjourned till 2.30 P.M.

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

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

STATEMENT RE FINANCE MINISTER'S VISITS TO CZECHOSLOVAKIA AND THE U.S.S.R.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Bhagat will now make a statement.

THE MINISTER OF PLANNING (SHRI B. R. BHAGAT): With your permission, Madam, I wish to lay on the Table the statement of the Finance Minister on his visit to Czechoslovakia and the USSR.

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA (Orissa): On a point of order. This is supposed to be a statement by the Finance Minister himself on his impressions regarding his tour abroad. The Rajya Sabha would definitely like to have the privilege of asking him questions. It seems that the hon. Finance Minister has been boycotting the Rajya Sabha for the last two days. Yesterday during the Question Hour he was