

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Then how to raise it otherwise?

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: I am always right, Sir, but it takes the Government ten years to understand.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I do not know. You know the Rules of the House.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: I applied the rules saying that somehow or the other we should have some information. These are matters of importance. Many things you have rejected and I am not raising those but this relates to certain statements from Britain and America with regard to economic aid, military aid, inspection of arms and all that. Naturally I want the Prime Minister to set the records straight by making a statement whichever way you like. I am prepared for that.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I cannot suggest any way. You can discuss it with me.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: All right, I will discuss it with you, Sir.

**RESOLUTION *RE* APPOINTMENT OF A  
PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE TO  
ENQUIRE INTO THE SOARING  
PRICES OF ESSENTIAL  
COMMODITIES AND TO SUGGEST  
REMEDIAL MEASURES—*continued***

MR. CHAIRMAN: We now go back to the Resolution of Shri Jagat Narain. I would like to remind Members that there is a time limit of thirty minutes for the mover and the Minister to give the reply and fifteen minutes for other Members.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA (West Bengal): The Minister does not give the reply. The Mover gives the reply. The Minister only intervenes.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes, I am sorry. You are right, not for the first time. I said, you are right not for the first time.

[THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN in the Chair.]

श्री जगत नारायण ( पंजाब ) : डिप्टी चेयरमैन साहिब, पिछले दो दिनों से फूड के मसले के बारे में इस हाउस में काफी बहस हो चुकी है और मेम्बरों ने अपना अपना नुक्तानिगाह पेश किया । आज हमारे मुल्क की ऐसी हालत है और जैसा कि हमारे फूड मिनिस्टर साहब ने कल अपने ख्यालात का इजहार किया था सो बहुत से मेम्बरों ने उन के साथ ताव्दुन किया । मैं फूड के बहस के सिलसिले में किसी तरह का क्रिटिसिज्म करना नहीं चाहता हूँ जिस से किसी तरह की कोई तलखी पैदा हो, लेकिन मैं चन्द जरूरी बातें इस हाउस के सामने रखना चाहता हूँ जिस से यह साबित हो जाय कि आज जो महंगाई है, आज हमें खाने की चीजों के मिलने में जो दिक्कत होती है, उस के लिए हमारी सरकार जिम्मेदार है । जो प्रस्ताव आपके सामने पेश है उस में सिर्फ यह कहा गया है कि सरकार एक कमेटी मुकर्रर करे जो तमाम हालत का जायजा ले और जायजा लेने के बाद यह जो फूड की समस्या का सिलसिला है, जिस में हमें करोड़ों रुपया बाहर भेजना पड़ता है, फारेन एक्सचेंज खर्च भी करना पड़ता है, उसको कैसे बचाया जा सकता है । मैं इस बारे में अपनी तरफ से कुछ कहने की कोशिश नहीं करूंगा बल्कि जो फॉगर्स हैं उन को आपके सामने रखना चाहता हूँ और कुछ अपने सुझाव रखना चाहता हूँ ।

यह मेरे पास अगस्त, 1965 का रिव्यू आफ दी सिचुएशन है जो कि सरकार ने हमारे पास भेजा है । इस पैम्फलेट में यह लिखा है कि अगर हम बाहर से अनाज नहीं

[श्री जगत नारायण]

मंगाते हैं तो हमारे मुल्क में इतना अनाज पैदा होता है :—

सन् 1961-62 में 82.7 मिलियन टन पैदा हुआ ।

सन् 1962-63 में 78.4 मिलियन टन पैदा हुआ ।

सन् 1963-64 में 80.2 मिलियन टन पैदा हुआ ।

सन् 1964-65 में 88.4 मिलियन टन पैदा हुआ ।

इस तरह से इन सालों में हमारा इतना प्रोडक्शन हुआ । अब सवाल यह पैदा होता है कि जितना यह प्रोडक्शन हुआ है उस से हम सारे देश को फीड कर सकते हैं या नहीं । इस सिलसिले में मैं यह अर्ज करना चाहता हूँ कि 88.4 मिलियन टन हमारी उपज 1964-65 में हुई और इस वक्त जो हमारी आबादी है वह करीब 45 करोड़ के है । अगर उसका हिसाब करें तो जैसा मैंने कहा कि हमारी उपज जो है वह 87 मिलियन टन के करीब है, इसमें से, 1.40 मिलियन टन को छोड़ दिया जाय ताकि जो अनाज चूहे खा जाते हैं, बेअर हाउसेज में खराब हो जाता है, स्टोर करने में खराब हो जाता है, वह इस में शामिल कर लिया जाय । जैसा मैंने कहा कि हमारी पैदावार सालाना 87 मिलियन टन है । इस हिसाब से मैं यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि जब 1 मिलियन टन 10 लाख टन के बराबर होता है, 1 मिलियन टन बराबर है, एक करोड़ क्विंटल के, तो 87 मिलियन टन बराबर हुआ 87 करोड़ क्विंटल के । एक टन बराबर होता है 27 मन के । कल यहाँ पर कबूल किया गया कि जिन बड़े बड़े शहरों में राजनिंग किया जायेगा वहाँ पर एक दिन में एक आदमी को 12 औंस मिलेगा । अगर एक आदमी को एक पाँड तक भी रोजाना की खुराक हुई तो इस तरह से महीने में

14 किलोग्राम हुई और साल में 168 किलोग्राम होगी । इसलिए अगर मुल्क में पैदावार 87 मिलियन टन के बराबर है तो 87 मिलियन टन बराबर हुआ 87 करोड़ क्विंटल के । इसलिये इतनी खुराक 51 करोड़ 78 लाख लोगों को मिल सकती है जब कि हमारे देश की आबादी करीब 45 करोड़ के है । अगर आप कहेंगे कि हमें बीज के लिए भी अनाज चाहिये तो उसके बाद भी हमारे पास काफी अनाज बच जाता है जब कि हम बाहर से करीब 210 करोड़ रुपये का अनाज मंगा रहे हैं । इस तरह से हम करीब 10 अरब रुपये खुराक मंगाने में खर्च कर रहे हैं लेकिन जैसा मैंने अभी बताया कि जितना हम खुराक पैदा कर रहे हैं उस के मुताबिक वह खुराक हमारे मुल्क के लिए काफी है । मैं ने इस बारे में आपको आंकड़े बतलाये और अब मैं आपके सामने दूसरे आंकड़े रखना चाहता हूँ । हमारी जो कुल पैदावार है वह करीब 87 मिलियन टन के है और हमारी जो आबादी है वह करीब 45 करोड़ के है, अगर हम एक आदमी को रोज एक पाँड भी खुराक दें तो जो हमारा खर्च होता है वह करीब 75 मिलियन टन होता है और इस तरह से हमारा 11 मिलियन टन अनाज साल में बच जाता है । हमारे एक इकनामिस्ट ने इस बारे में जायजा लिया है और उन्होंने इस तरह लिखा है :

"There is no shortage of food as such in the country. The real source of trouble is the fear of shortage that has developed in recent years. Even if the total population is 480 million, the country's total requirement on the basis of 12 oz. per person per day in the urban areas and 18 oz. per person per day in the rural areas comes to 78 million tons. India produced 87.5 million tons last year. Even if 7.5 million tons were set aside for seed and wastage, the country would still have a margin of two million tons.

It is obvious that inadequate procurement and inefficient distribution are mainly responsible for the present shortage."

तो इन आंकड़ों से यह साबित होता है कि जितना अनाज हम पैदा करते हैं वह हमारे लिए काफी है क्योंकि हमारा जो खर्चा है वह 75 मिलियन टन का है। जब हमारे मुल्क में इतनी उपज होती है तो क्या संभव है कि हमें दो अरब रुपये का अनाज बाहर से मंगाना पड़ता है। इसमें से करीब 50-60 करोड़ रुपया शिपमेंट में खर्च हो जाता है। जब हमारे मुल्क में इतना अनाज पैदा होता है और हम इतना खर्चा बाहर से अनाज मंगाने में कर रहे हैं, तो फिर समझ में नहीं आता कि किस तरह से हमारे देश में अनाज की कमी हो जाती है। इस वक्त भी मैं यह कहता हूँ और शायद आप कहें कि मैं कोई नुस्खाबोनी करता हूँ। यह जो आपको आगे बताया कि गवर्नमेंट आफ इन्डिया ने सप्लाई किया है, उसमें उन्होंने यह लिखा है: Market arrivals वह दूसरे सफा पर है:

"It has been observed that the market arrivals of major foodgrains have in recent years, been showing a fall from season to season. Thus, in the case of rice, the marketing season for which is from October to September, arrivals in 94 selected markets in the country declined by 5.1 per cent in 1962-63 over 1961-62 and by 20.3 per cent in 1963-64 over 1962-63 despite an increase in production in 1963-64. During 1964-65, a year of record rice production, this downward tendency in market arrivals has continued, the arrivals during October 1964 to July 1965 being 9.7 per cent lower than in the corresponding period of the previous year. In the case of wheat, the marketing season for which is from April to March market arrivals in 60 selected markets declined by 5.2 per cent in 1963-64 over 1962-63

and by 25.7 per cent in 1964-65 over 1963-64. Even in 1965-66 despite a substantial increase in production, arrivals continued to show a fall, being 13.0 per cent lower in April to July, 1965 than the same period in the previous season. Market arrivals of jowar also revealed a similar trend. The progressive decline in the flow of arrivals from rural areas is attributable, *inter alia* to larger retention by the agriculturists for consumption and for payments in kind and, in the case of big producers, to the withholding of stocks in expectation of higher prices."

वह गवर्नमेंट आफ इन्डिया का अपना जायजा है जो कि उन्होंने इस पैसफ्लेट में दिया है। यह जो अनाज है यह बड़े बड़े लैंडलार्ड्स ने रोक रखा है ताकि कीमतों में इजाफा करके वे ज्यादा से ज्यादा अपना मुनाफा कमा सकें। मैडम, अगर आज डी० आई० आर० का बार व्यापारियों पर चल सकता है, बड़े बड़े उन लोगों पर चल सकता है जिनको हम यह समझते हैं कि हमारी पालिसी के खिलाफ हैं, तो मुझे बड़े अफसोस से यह कहना पड़ता है कि ये जो बड़े बड़े लैंडलार्ड्स हैं, जिन्होंने इस वक्त ऐसे हालात पैदा कर दिये हैं कि आज लोगों को एक वक्त खाना मिलना मुश्किल है, ऐसे लोगों के खिलाफ डी० आई० आर० क्यों नहीं इस्तेमाल में लाया जाता। जो अपने अनाज के जखीरे भर कर रखे हुए हैं, उनसे वह जखीरा निकलवाने में हमारी गवर्नमेंट क्यों शिश्कती है? मैं व्यापारी नहीं हूँ। आप व्यापारियों को पकड़िये, मुझे कोई ऐतराज नहीं है। ऐग्रीकल्चरिस्ट्स को पकड़िये, उसमें भी मुझे कोई ऐतराज नहीं है। मैं तो एक अखबार नवीस हूँ। मगर मैं यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि जब हमारा मुल्क इतना अनाज पैदा करता है कि 45 करोड़ इंसानों को खिला कर के भी छः सात

[श्री जगत नारायण]

मिलियन टन अनाज बच रहता है, तो फिर यह समझ में नहीं आता कि हमारी सरकार इस मामले में क्या कर रही है और वह क्यों शिथिल होती है उन लोगों को पकड़ने में जिन्होंने अनाज के अम्बार अपने गांवों में या देहात में इकट्ठे कर के रख लिये हैं।

मुझे अपने पुराने जमाने की याद है। मुझे वह थोर याद नहीं है। जायद मौलवी साहब को याद होगा। दुनिया की जब पहली बड़ी जंग हुई थी, तो उस वक्त हमारे पंजाब में एक रैली ब्रादर्स हुआ करते थे। रैली ब्रादर्स की एक बड़ी भारी फर्म थी जिसकी शाखाएं सारे हिन्दुस्तान में थीं। वह रैली ब्रादर्स जो रेट सुबह निकालते थे, सारे हिन्दुस्तान में वही रेट हुआ करते थे। आज सब से ज्यादा परचेज करने वाली हमारी सरकार है, सब से बड़ी स्टॉकिस्ट हमारी सरकार है। आज लोगों के पास स्टॉक नहीं है। सारा स्टॉक करती है हमारी सरकार और बाहर के मुल्को से भी अनाज हमारी सरकार मंगाती है। फिर भी हमारी सरकार प्राइस फिक्स नहीं करती है। सब से बड़ी गलती हमारी सरकार की यह है कि वह हमेशा यह अनाउंस करती है कि यह मिनिमम प्राइस है, मगर आज तक हमारी सरकार ने मैक्सिमम प्राइस फिक्स नहीं किया, सिर्फ इस खयाल से कि कहीं जो बड़े बड़े किसान हैं, वे नाराज न हो जायें और हम उनके वोटों से महसूस न हो जायें। आज वोटों का सवाल नहीं है। आज आपको अपोजीशन ने पूरा तावबुन दिया है इस मामले को हल करने में। लेकिन आप यह यकीन रखिये कि अगर जवानों को यह पता लगे कि उनके परिवार के जो लोग हैं उनको बड़ी मुश्किल से दो वक्त की रोटी मिलती है, तो उनके हासिले पस्त हो सकते हैं। जहां तक प्राइसेज का सवाल है, मैडम, आपने महसूस किया है या नहीं, मगर हम लोगों ने महसूस किया है कि

पिछले तीन चार दिनों में गन्धुम का निख बड़ गया है और पहले जो सच्ची बाजार में आठ आने सेर मिलती थी वह एक रुपया किलो मिल रही है। और फिर हालत यह है कि आज दिल्ली में आप किसी स्टोर पर चले जाइये, या कहीं जाइये राइस बिल्कुल नदारद है और जो राइस स्टोर्स पर रखा हुआ है वह खाने के काबिल नहीं है। तो मैं यह अर्ज कर रहा था कि पिछले तीन चार दिनों में ही प्राइसेज इतनी सोर कर गई हैं। पिछले डेढ़ साल में 30 परसेंट प्राइसेज सोर कर गई हैं। ये सारे फैक्ट्स ऐंड फिगर्स मेरे पास हैं, लेकिन इतना टाइम नहीं है कि सारे फैक्ट्स ऐंड फिगर्स मैं सुनाऊं। तो 30 परसेंट प्राइसेज राइज हुई है पिछले डेढ़ साल में। पिछले साल प्राइसेज 13 परसेंट राइज हुई और इस साल छः महीने में 17 परसेंट राइज हुई है और इन तीन चार दिनों में प्राइसेज मज्जीद राइज हुई हैं। तो आज हालात इस तरह के चल रहे हैं। मैं यह समझता हूँ कि जिस तरह रैली ब्रादर्स सुबह जो भाव निकालते थे, वही भाव सारे हिन्दुस्तान में हुआ करता था और उससे ज्यादा भाव पर कोई व्यापारी खरीदता नहीं था, उसी तरह आज हमारी सरकार जो है, वही खरीदार है, गन्धुम की सब से बड़ी स्टॉकिस्ट है और जो बाहर से अनाज आता है वह भी हमारी सरकार के पास होता है। तो इन हालात में सरकार जो रेट मुकर्रर करे, वही रेट सारे बाजारों में होना चाहिए और भावों में कोई उतार चढ़ाव नहीं होना चाहिए। मालूम नहीं क्यों हमारी सरकार इस बारे में शिथिल होती है और मैक्सिमम प्राइस फिक्स नहीं करती है।

एक बात याद रखिये। बहुत अच्छा कहा उस दिन हमारे फाइनंस मिनिस्टर साहब ने, उन्होंने कहा कि मैं बचपन से यह जानता था कि फूड स्टैप्स पर बाकी चीजों की प्राइसेज मुकर्रर होती हैं। उन्होंने उस

दिन अपनी तकरार में कहा कि जो भाव गन्धुम, मक्का वगैरह के होंगे, उसी के मुताबिक भाव बाका सभा जल्दियात को चीजों के होंगे। उनके अगर रेट्स बढ़ेंगे तो गन्धुम और दूसरों खाने पीने की चीजों के रेट के मुताबिक बढ़ेंगे। जितने गन्धुम वगैरह के रेट होंगे उसी के मुताबिक दूसरों चीजों के रेट होंगे। लेकिन आज हालत यह है कि फूडस्टफ्स के रेट दबाव बढ़ते चले जा रहे हैं और फम होने का नाम ही नहीं ले रहे हैं।

मुझे याद है कि 1954 में 10 रु० मन गन्धुम पंजाब में बिकता था। उस वक़्त खयाल यह हो गया था कि कहीं उसके भाव 10 रु० के बजाय 9 रु० न चले जायें और किसान गन्धुम बाजना हाँ कहीं बन्द न कर दें, इसलिये उनको इतिहास देने के लिये पंजाब सरकार को यह कहना पड़ा था कि अगर 10 रु० के नीचे गन्धुम का रेट जायेगा, तो गन्धुम सरकार खरीद लेगी। आप आंकड़े देखें, तो आपको मालूम होगा कि जब बटवारा हुआ था तब भी गन्धुम का रेट पंजाब में दस रु० मन था और 1954 में भी 10 रु० मन के करीब था। मगर उसके बाद से भाव इतना तेज़ी से बढ़ते चले गये हैं कि पांच साल दिन पहले मैंने दिल्ली में 30 रु० मन गन्धुम खरीदा है और पंजाब में जहाँ पहले 16 या 17 रु० मन का भाव था, वहाँ आज 25 रु० का भाव है और इन तीन चार दिनों में दो रु० मन भाव और बढ़ गया है। इस लिहाज से यह एक बड़ा अहम मसला है और यह जो प्राइसेज बढ़ रहे हैं, इसकी तरफ आपको पूरा ध्यान देना चाहिये और अगर आप इस तरफ ध्यान देंगे, तो मैं आपको यकीन दिलाता हूँ कि आपकी बार एक्ट में पूरी मदद मिलेगी। भूखा इंसान कभी नहीं लड़ सकता। मैं यह समझता हूँ कि आप प्राइस फिक्स नहीं कर रहे हैं, इसकी वजह से आज प्राइसेज इतनी बढ़ रही हैं। दूसरी

वजह मैं एक और बतलाना चाहता हूँ। शायद 16 या 17 तारीख को मैंने यहाँ पर एक सवाल किया था कि पंजाब से आपने गन्धुम किस रेट पर प्रोवयोर किया, किस रेट पर आपने सप्लाय किया दूसरे सूबाज्जत को, उस सिलसिले में जवाब दिया गया—

"SHRI D. R. CHAVAN: Only in Punjab wheat is purchased. It is true that the purchase price varies between Rs. 52 and Rs. 56 while the issue price at the f.o.r. destination varies between Rs. 70 and Rs. 75"

मैडम, 19 रुपए का फर्क है जो खरीदा गया और जो सप्लाय किया गया उसमें। उस दिन चेयरमैन साहब ने भी रिमार्क किया कि इतना खर्च कैसे हो सकता है। हमारे फूड मिनिस्टर साहब ने जवाब दिया कि हमारे इन्सोडेन्टल खर्च इतने हो जाते हैं। जब मैं जालन्धर गया तो मैंने पता किया कि इन्सोडेन्टल खर्च कितने होते हैं एक क्विन्टल पर। मुझे व्यापारियों ने बताया और एक इन्स्पेक्टर को पास बिठला कर मैंने पूछा कि ठीक बतलाओ कि इन्सोडेन्टल चार्ज कितने खर्च होते हैं एक क्विन्टल पर। उन्होंने यह बताया कि हमारे यहाँ एक दाम्नी होता है वह 75 पैसे, सेल्स टैक्स 75 पैसे, मार्केट कमेटी फी 25 पैसे, सिलाई, भराई, उठवाई 15 पैसे। ये मिला कर 1 रुपये 95 पैसे बनते हैं। इसके दो रुपये लगा लें। उन्होंने बताया कि 8 आने दो महीने तक गोदाम में रखने के लिए। ढाई रुपये मैक्सिमम खर्च होता है और बढ़ाये हैं इन्होंने 19 रुपये। ये भेजते हैं एक० ओ० आर०, अपना खर्च नहीं, बोरे का खर्च भी खरीदार को देना पड़ता है। सारा मिलाकर ढाई रुपये खर्च होता है सरकार का और रेट इन्होंने ज्यादा लिया है। तो आप यह समझ लीजिये साढ़े सोलह रुपये ज्यादा आर्ज किया, चाहे पंजाब गवर्नमेंट ने

[श्री जगत नारायण]

चार्ज किए, चाहे गवर्नमेंट आफ इंडिया ने किए—मुझे इसका कोई इल्म नहीं है। आप इमेजिन कीजिए साढ़े सोलह रुपए के भाव एकदम बढ़ा रहे हैं। इसके लिए कौन जिम्मेवार है? चाहे पंजाब सरकार हो या सेंट्रल गवर्नमेंट हो। पंजाब सरकार तो यूनियन सरकार की मर्जी के खिलाफ कुछ नहीं कर सकती। आज जो भाव बढ़ रहे हैं उसकी जिम्मेदारी, मैं समझता हूँ, हमारी सरकार पर है।

जैसा कि मैंने कहा, मैक्सिमम प्राइस ये फिक्स नहीं कर रहे हैं। साढ़े सोलह रुपए प्रति क्विंटल ज्यादा ले लिया, एक-दो रुपए होता तो कोई बात नहीं थी। व्यापारी को आप रोज कोसते हैं, उनको आप जेल में भेज देते हैं कि इतना तुम ब्लैक करते हो। अगर गवर्नमेंट साढ़े सोलह रुपए ज्यादा चार्ज करती है तो फिर रेट कैसे कम हो सकते हैं।

मैडम, हमारे यहां भीगी हुई गन्धुम थी। पंजाब गवर्नमेंट ने उसको व्यापारियों से खरीद करवाई। उन्होंने खरीद की 41 रु० में और बेची 49 रुपए में। उसके बाद इन्स्पेक्टर ने वह भोगी हुई गन्धुम दुकानदार को दे दी। उन्होंने 49 रुपए में ले ली। वह पंजाब सरकार ने 55 रुपए में खरीदी और बाहर सप्लाय करते हैं 70 रुपए में। इन मौजूदा हालात में, जब इतनी इमर्जेंसी है, और हमारी यह कोशिश होनी चाहिए कि हम कम से कम निखों पर गन्धुम को सप्लाय करें तो अगर सरकार ही साढ़े 16 रुपए या 15 रुपए ज्यादा लेकर प्राइसेज को बढ़ाती है तो फिर दाम कैसे नहीं बढ़ेंगे?

मैं यह अर्ज कर रहा था कि हालात जैसे चल रहे हैं उनका असर क्या होता है। आज पोजीशन यह है कि हम इतने कर्ज में जकड़े

हुए हैं कि हमें कुल मिलाकर 30 खरब रुपया कर्जा देना है। आज जो बच्चा पैदा होता है वह मोर्टगेंज है दूसरे मुल्कों के पास 500 रुपयों में। अगर आप देखें तो हमको एक खरब 55 करोड़ रुपया हर साल सूद देना पड़ता है 30 खरब का। यह कैसे चल रहा है जब कि हमारे यहां उतना अनाज पैदा होता है कि वह मुल्क के लिए काफी है।

(Time bell rings.)

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You have taken 7 minutes last time and you have already taken over 15 minutes.

श्री जगत नारायण : मुझे पांच मिनट और दीजिए। मैं अभी कम्प्लीट किए लेता हूँ।

अभी जैसा मौलवी साहब ने परसों अपनी तकरीर में बताया था, लुधियाने में पैकेज प्रोग्राम चल रहा है। वहां क्या हुआ? मैक्सिको की गन्धुम लाकर वहां उन्होंने खेतों में बोया है और उसके साथ खाद का इस्तेमाल किया है और आप हैरान होंगे, जैसा मौलवी साहब ने बताया, एक एकड़ में जहां 5-6 मन गन्धुम पैदा होती थी, उसमें उन्होंने 87 मन से लेकर 105 मन तक पैदा किया है। तो उन्होंने एक एकड़ से इतना पैदा किया है। एवरज निकालें तो प्रति एकड़ कितने मन बँटता है? आप अन्दाजा कीजिए वह कितना बनता है। 20-25 गुना ज्यादा बनता है। अगर हम पैकेज प्रोग्राम से फायदा उठाने की कोशिश करें और सारे हिन्दुस्तान में उसको लागू करने की कोशिश करें तो हमारा फूड का कोई प्राब्लम नहीं रहेगा। जितना ज्यादा जोर हम ज्यादा जगह में पैदाईश पर दे रहे हैं, उसके बजाय हम यह कोशिश करें कि पैदावार ज्यादा हो तो तमाम मुश्किलात का हल हो सकता है। इस लिए मैं समझता हूँ कि पैकेज प्रोग्राम जिसका वहां पर तजुर्बा किया

गया मैक्सिको की गन्धुम लाकर, उसे अपनाया जाय । और हमर जो वहाँ पर बड़े बड़े अफसर थे—एक अफसर का नाम मैं भूल गया—

شہی عبدالغنی : سردار گورمیل سنگھ

†[ श्री अब्दुल गनी : सरदार गुरमेल सिंह । ]

श्री जगत नारायण : सरदार गुरमेल सिंह, जिन्होंने यह सारा काम किया, तजुखा किया, उन जैसे लोगों की आप को खिदमात लेनी चाहिए ताकि वे सारे हिन्दु-स्तान में—सारे हिन्दुस्तान को छोड़ दीजिए—अगर पंजाब में हर जगह यह तजुखा करें तो पंजाब आगे से जो ग्रेनरी आफ इंडिया कहा जाता है सचमुच सारे हिन्दुस्तान की ग्रेनरी अक्वेल ही बन सकता है अगर इस पैकेज प्रोग्राम पर तमाम जिलों में काम किया जाय ।

तो, मैडम, मैं समझता हूँ कि आज इस महंगाई के लिए हमारी सरकार जिम्मेवार है । आज के मौजूदा हालात में जब कि हम अपने हिन्दुस्तान की आजादी की जंग में मशरूफ हैं, जब चारों तरफ से हम पर हमला हो रहा है, यह निहायत जरूरी है कि हम अपना अनाज खुद पैदा कर सकें और उसकी कीमत को बनाए रखें । इस के लिए मैं समझता हूँ कि सरकार को एक कमेटी बनानी चाहिए

एक मिनट, मैडम, और लूंगा । शायद यह एतराज करें कि पार्लियामेंट के मेम्बर एग्रिकल्चर के इतने बड़े माहिर नहीं हैं जितने दूसरे हैं । मुझे इसमें कोई एतराज नहीं । पार्लियामेंट से बाहर कमेटी बना लीजिए । मैं तो समझता हूँ कि पार्लियामेंट में भी इतने माहिर लोग हैं उनकी कमेटी

बन सकती है और इन तमाम बातों पर वह अपनी तबज्जह दे सकती है—दोनों हाउस में ऐसे लोग हैं जो इन बातों को समझते हैं । मेरी गवर्नमेंट से दरखास्त है कि वह ऐसी कमेटी बनाए । बहुत सी गलतियां हो सकती हैं जिनको कमेटी के सामने रखा जाय तो वह रास्ता बता सकती है । दूसरे देश इस वक्त हमें जो धमकियां दे रहे हैं कि हम हथियार नहीं देंगे, और अनाज नहीं देंगे उनके सामने हाथ फैलाने की जरूरत नहीं रहेगी । हम हिन्दुस्तान में ही अपना अनाज पैदा कर लेंगे, हथियार और दूसरी चीजें बना लेंगे । इस लिए मैं चाहूंगा कि गवर्न मेरे प्रस्ताव को स्वीकार करे ।

*The question was proposed.*

SHRIMATI TAR A RAMCHANDRA SATHE (Maharashtra): Madam Deputy Chairman, it is unfortunately true that due to many reasons the Government is not able to hold the price line, which is generally going high up. Sometimes the prices do come down, but, again very steeply they rise. Nobody will ever deny that the prices of commodities, such as necessities, comforts and luxurious things have gone up. The common man does not worry if the price of luxurious things goes up. He is much more concerned with the price of essential commodities, those commodities which are required for his very daily existence. At the same time, we must not forget the fact that the prices of other commodities such as things of comfort and luxurious goods do affect the prices of essential commodities. The argument put forward by the peasant is quite convincing. He says that he also has to pay a high price for other commodities and that is why he also has to increase his price. For the foodstuff he has to buy which he does not get from his own farm, he has to pay for that and also for other commodities which he requires for his daily life, and he is

[Shrimati Tara Ramchandra Satlie.] quite justified in saying so. I will now take an example which applies to all other manufactured goods. As an illustration I would invite your attention to the report of the Tariff Commission published in 1956. It has been stated in the report that the Commission were not able to ascertain accurately the price of motor cars manufactured by the producers in the country in the absence of sufficient cost records. In such a case it is not known to what extent the price paid by the consumer includes an element inefficiency of production arising on account of (1) wasteful use of materials, (2) employment of inefficient or surplus labour, and (3) existence of unutilised capacity, etc. Similarly any hidden element of profit appearing in the production cost cannot also be ascertained. So, what applies to the motor car industry applies to several other industries like manufacture of tractors or other machinery and especially to the agricultural implements and aids like oil engines for pumping water from wells which the farmer requires. Consequently it is not known to what extent the agriculturist pays for inefficient production or hidden profit of the producers on whom he has to depend, which in turn forces him to charge a higher price for his own product. I hope the Government will look into the matter, which will ultimately help to control the price of foodgrains and other goods. With these words I conclude, and I thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak on the resolution.

SHRIMATI LALITHA RAJAGOPA-LAN (Madras): Madam Deputy Chairman, I support the resolution moved by Shri Jagat Narain, but at the same time I would like to point out that unless the Government takes the initiative and takes steps to streamline the price level of commodities, this Committee cannot function efficiently.

One should study the food problem with the past background. According to the Review of the Food Situation, the year 1964-65 witnessed a record production of foodgrains in the country estimated at over 88 million tonnes making an increase of 10 per cent over the production of previous years; but we should view this increase with the shortfall in 1962-63 and 1961-62, that is, rice by 3.8 million tonnes and wheat by 1.3 million tonnes. While the production of foodgrains in 1962-63 and 1963-64 remained below the level reached in 1961-62, the domestic demand, because of the rise in population and per capita income, continued to move upwards. This growing pressure of demand and reduced market supplies contributed to the stress and strain on the food economy.

Madam, but the Government should have kept a check on this trend at the initial stage. No doubt the Government set up Food Corporations in 1965 to undertake purchase of food-grains, storage, movement, transport, distribution and sale of foodgrains; but this is confined only to South India. These should be set up all over India. To maintain and stabilise the price at this juncture when the country is passing through critical times should be the utmost concern of not only the Government but the traders as well. Statutory rationing, opening of more fair price shops in each locality, distribution through these channels, are the avenues for stabilising prices. Increase of Government godowns, avoidance of wastage in storage, transit, unloading, etc., should also be taken note of by the Government.

The rise in prices of commodities in day-to-day life can be attributed to various reasons. The scare that commodities may not be available, the growing demand, the situation in the country and the defects of distribution are to my mind attributes to the *vise* in prices.



Madam, the scare that is created by the public themselves that in future, for instance, wheat or rice may not be available induces the public to rush for these things and buy more than the requirements and hoard it. Naturally the retailer scenting the anxiety of the public tries to raise the prices and sometimes even dictate terms.

To avoid this scare the Government should see that the foodgrains are periodically supplied to the authorised dealers and fair price shops for the benefit of the consumers. In this connection I would like to point out the introduction of sugar cards. Of course the sugar card has its own benefits. At least people are satisfied that they will be able to get the amount of sugar given in the card. But each Member of Parliament gets 7 kg. per month. But do all of them need it? Again 4 adults and 3 children get 7 kg. and an individual Member gets 7 kg. Is this distribution proper? In the case of those who do not buy the sugar, what happens to the stock of sugar with the shopkeepers? Again, Madam, with the presentation of the sugar card we are to get maida and suji, but do we get them? As for the distribution of 5 kg. of rice per sugar card. It is also not available at all places. Moreover, the wheat-eater may not require this quantity of rice. Will the Government step in and do something about this unmethodical distribution? I feel that the distribution should be based on the number of persons in a family as it is done in Bombay and Madras. If that is done effectively, there will be no room for soaring up of prices of commodities nor the scare for hoarding more than they require.

Madam, the Government has not only to regulate the prices of the essential commodities like rice and wheat but also to restrict the supply of certain commodities like the baby

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foods and see that it reaches the persons who really need it.

The most important thing, Madam, is that every shopkeeper should be compelled to display the price list. If the price list is uniform, the consumer can buy at any place without hesitation. I regret to say, Madam, that though this is a simple matter for the Government, they have not made any effort to enforce this arrangement on all the shopkeepers. Mere request by the Government will yield no result. For instance, during the grave food situation in the early months of this year the Food Minister uttered a note of warning to the traders to come out with their hoarded stocks and gave them a time limit of one month. But did the traders come out with their hoarded stocks? Did we succeed in that? If that had no effect, how do you expect a request to reach the ears of traders?

Yesterday in the 'Indian Express', Madam, there was a news item that the prices of essential commodities had shot up. But where are the commodities? I want to Kharibaoli to get wheat, but no wheat was available. I have brought a tin of til oil for Rs. 59.75 but for this I paid two months back Rs. 45 only. A small Glaxo tin, whose original price was Rs. 4.25, can be had now for Rs. 8. There is no 98 paise per kg. rice in the market. If you want to get rice you can get it only at Rs. 1.80 or even Rs. 2 per kg. This tendency should be checked at some level.

The Government should assume a positive and active role in holding the price line, minimising the consumer's distress and ensuring equitable distribution of foodgrains in the country. Statutory rationing, restriction on the movements of foodgrains, assessment of surplus and deficit areas and procurement should be fully implemented to streamline the prices.

[Shrimati Lalitha Rajagopalan.]

Unless the Government takes up the lead in this matter and paves the way, the appointment of a Committee cannot serve the purpose. We have, to take into consideration the situation we are facing now, and I hope the appeal made by the Food Minister to the traders will open their eyes to the realities of life, and they will co-operate with the Government in this task and relieve the anxiety of the common man. Madam, the Committee no doubt if and when constituted with the cooperation of the Government and the public can render immense service to the common man in eradicating the evils arising out of the food situation, but I repeat that the main task in this regard lies with the Government and to a certain extent with the traders.

With these words, Madam, I support the resolution and I thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak on this.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Madam Deputy Chairman, I am grateful to the Mover of this Resolution because it gives us a chance to discuss one of the most important problems facing the country today exclusively. When I say 'exclusively' it is because we will be in a position to discuss this very subject.

I listened to the speech of the previous speaker with considerable interest and it is sometimes refreshing to find that from those Benches, more especially from the ladies, come very useful suggestions. But as far as they are concerned, they are speaking against wont; they, however, sometimes offer good suggestions which should be accepted.

I have chosen this particular debate to analyse economically the pheno

menon of rising prices today, and I do not wish to introduce any other extraneous factors either by way of politics or otherwise. I think here is a matter over which we are all concerned and in regard to which a national solution has to be found. If we take the rise in prices—I have got the latest bulletin supplied to us by the Department of Economic Affairs which gives some good, if not always correct, information—we find today that the wholesale price index of all commodities taken together stands at about 167-3, that is as on August, 21 this year. The Price index of food articles is about 174 as on the same date. Now this would indicate the steep rise in prices. If you have in mind the entire period since planning started, the wholesale prices under the Second Five Year Plan went up by 30 per cent. There was a big rise in 1963-64—the wholesale price index registered a rise of 91 per cent. And in the ten months of 1964-65 again, they have risen. That is the rise in this particular period. Now, we find that the wholesale price is constantly rising and we always find that the food prices dominate in that. I mention this fact because on the one hand it brings suffering to the mass of the people and on the other hand, the spiralling food prices generally influence the upward trend of the prices of all other commodities. I do not go into that detail. That is the phenomenon. The retail prices are much higher, and as a matter of fact, the wholesale price indices have hardly any relation to the retail prices obtaining in the country. Normally, one should get some indication as to exactly where we stand with regard to the retail prices but I must say that we do not get much indication because the rise in retail prices is out of all proportion to the wholesale prices. That is what the wholesale Price indices supplied to us by the Ministry of Economic Affairs would suggest.

Madam, let me go into the other aspect of the matter. Now, the cost of living indices, as a result, are naturally going up and they are an incomplete picture of the grim situation. In this period of planning, taking the entire period, we find in real terms that the *per capita* income has increased only by 1-5 per cent, per annum. That is the latest computation by the Finance Ministry as well as by the Planning Commission—per capita income, not money income. The value of the rupee stands at 17 paise; that is to say, it is almost less than 20 per cent of what it was some time back. Consumption articles have registered a very high rise in prices and as a result, the prices are beyond the reach of the overwhelming majority of our nation. That is to say, if we have any price structure, it is essentially an anti-national price structure which is in operation today. When the overwhelming majority are not in a position to reach that price, you cannot say that the price structure is one that corresponds with the requirements of the nation. When I say 'nation', I have in mind all classes excepting the very few at the top.

Now, let us see how this price rise is taking place. We get all explanations from various sources and I shall presently deal with them step by step. Firstly, there has been an increase in money supply. Well, it is understandable in a developing economy that there would be an increase in money supply. Let us see the phenomenon, how it has progressed. In 1960-61, money supply was Rs. 2,876 crores. The next year it was Rs. 3,046 crores. The next year it was Rs. 3,310 crores and then in 1963-64 it was Rs. 3,749 crores. And now today, according to the latest document that I have got from the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, it is Rs. 4,120 crores on 20th August. That is the money supply position today. In other words, we find that since 1960-61, the money supply has in-

creased by 30 per cent—in these few years, there has been an increase of 30 per cent. Well, this is the position. Therefore, expansion of currency, expansion of money supply is there because of a developing economy **and** also for other reasons, which we must reckon with. But that is not the only thing. We find that deficit financing is one factor which leads to this increase in money supply. Under the First Plan, deficit financing was of the order of Rs. 333 crores. Under the Second Five Year Plan, it was Rs. 954 crores. In the first three years of the Third Plan, it totalled Rs. 551 crores. It has declined under the Third Plan but significantly enough, even when deficit financing is declining compared to the previous Plans, the prices are shooting up. Therefore, it is not correct to say that deficit financing is the only factor which is creating an inflationary pressure on our economy.

Madam Deputy Chairman, that brings me on to another aspect of the matter. Deficit financing is in the public sector now. It is a public sector enterprise, I shall say. But deficit finance is provided also by agencies in the private sector. That has to be taken note of and that brings me on to bank advances in the country. By the end of April, 1965, scheduled bank advances reached the peak of Rs. 2,144 crores—I am giving the Reserve Bank figures—as against the assets of the scheduled **banks** which totalled Rs. 2,800 crores. Now, this gives a picture of the terrific expansion of scheduled bank advances in the country. It is an expansion of money circulation. It is a kind of deficit finance, so to say, in the private sector. There, you will note that the seasonal expansion has been particularly pronounced. In 1960-61, according to the Reserve Bank's bulletin again—this expansion stood at Rs. 198-5 crores; in 1964-65 it stood at Rs. 407 crores—the seasonal expansion of bank credit by the sche-

[Shri Bhupesh Gupta.]

duled banks in the country. It is not merely the Government which is printing notes and pushing more money into circulation but the banks in possession of private monopoly capital including of course the State Bank also—but that is not monopoly owned; but all the scheduled banks taken together—are pushing money into circulation and that money goes into the hands of profiteers and so on who indulge in hoarding of foodgrains and various other things.

In the same period, you will find another phenomenon which is helping the rise in prices. Non-Plan expenditure on revenue account is increasing in the country. If you take the Centre and the States together, you will find that in 1961-62, the non-Plan expenditure stood at Rs. 1,616 crores; in 1962-63 it was Rs. 1,951 crores and in 1963-64 it was Rs. 2,411 crores. And in 1964-65, according to the Budget estimates, it is Rs. 2,556 crores. Therefore we find that the non-Plan expenditure is going up in this manner. That money does not go in for investment, it is non-Plan expenditure, for administration and other purposes which, of course, includes defence. During 1962 and 1964, the non-Plan expenditure on revenue account went up by Rs. 950 crores. Therefore, all these elements which give rise to prices are in operation. Then let us see how the private sector is behaving and contributing to the rise in prices. I will not go into the general details. I will only mention a few facts.

Here I should like to say that when we began bank advances, we found that unsecured advances by the end of June 1961 stood at Rs. 183.3 crores. By 1965 the unsecured advances by the banks to the private sector rose to Rs. 300 crores. That is how things are rising. These are all Reserve Bank figures and I hope they will not

be challenged by the Government at least. Such is the position with regard to this matter. I am not going into what the banks in the private sector did in the first Plan. In the second Plan, the private sector in the mineral industry was asked to invest about Rs. 1,200 crores. This money came from the banks and foreign agencies, I mean part of it. But they have been given encouragement to make investment and come in for all kinds of manipulations and so on. The line of the Government is to allow the kind of incentive on rising prices to the private sector, monopolists and so on—big, organised industry I have in mind. Therefore, the moment you allow them to invest Rs. 2,000 crores or more—now, for example, we find it is much higher; Rs. 3,000 to Rs. 4,000 crores have been asked for—you will get a return out of the money that you are investing and the tendency is to raise the prices. They do so by manipulation with matters relating to cost accountancy and various other things. Therefore, in order to enable these people to invest more and earn more in it and so on, the tendency today is to allow them to invest recklessly. And we know what is happening. For example, 101 scheduled industries in the country earned a profit of Rs. 68.14 crores after taxes in 1955. And that figure rose to Rs. 115,68,00,000 in 1960 after taxes. The dividend declared in 1955 in 101 companies was a little over Rs. 39 crores. And in 1960 it almost doubled, it was Rs. 71 crores. These are figures given in the companies books which have been tabulated only by the Reserve Bank authorities. Therefore, you see it becomes a fetter in our economy that we allow the private sector investment in the hands of the organised monopolists and big business which indeed creates inflationary pressures in our economy, and then we leave them free to determine their prices and carry on speculation, stock exchange and so on. Seven or nine stock exchanges in the country

are having bumper business today when the misery of the people is going up. That is the situation. Forward trading and other things we allow. We even allow them to take advantage of the money representing the counterparts. Under PL 480 certain advances are made. From that fund Rs. 80 crores are already earmarked for that. Therefore, you see, in the private sector which you are pampering, I mean the private sector monopolists and big, organised industry and so on, concentration of wealth is taking place. You are giving incentive in a very clever way by enabling them to raise the prices creating economic climate and conditions in such a manner that they are in a position to push up their profits and raise prices.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Your fifteen minutes are over.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Two minutes more. In 1953-54 it stood at Rs. 431 crores. Today it is Rs. 1,632 crores. Excise duties are rising in this period by pushed prices from Rs. 67-54 crores in 1950-51 by over Rs. 600 crores. Therefore, you get all this thing. Then there is unaccounted money which comes to nearly 4,000 to 5,000 crores which, of course, creates inflationary pressures. Therefore, here are some suggestions:

(1) Reorientate the policies of the Government, economic and fiscal policies.

(2) Bring about institutional and structural changes in our economy. Without that you cannot control prices. Food prices should be brought down through State trading. I do not want to dilate upon it. Monopoly operations should be curbed and, ultimately, banks should be nationalised. There should be drastic reduction in

*measures* the indirect taxes which raises prices. There should be arrangement for cost accountants appointed by the Government who shall fix the prices of essential commodities that we have in the market. Ceilings on earnings and profits have become an imperative necessity today and the supply of I essential commodities such as food and I various other things should be effect-j ed through government agencies and co-operatives. Therefore, from all I sides you have to attack the rising prices. That is not possible by mere speeches. So tinkering with the problem will not do. The basic policy has got to be changed, and the basic policy calls for immediate action against monopolists.

Madam> the points as I have enumerated are responsible for the , price rise in the country. Government is responsible for the present day capitalist planning in our economy because you want to fleece the people not only by taxes but also through the institution of rising prices in order that you can encourage the monopolists so that i they can bring more money for non-I developmental expenditure and other budgetary expenditure. Therefore, I say the entire policy of fleecing the people through the instrument of rising prices which the Government has adopted in a premeditated manner is part and parcel of its capitalist planning regardless of the interest of the people. It must be given up and replaced by a popular, reoriented price policy in which the private monopolist, deficit financing, indirect taxes, bank advances, speculation, forward trading, stock exchange operation will be eliminated as quickly as possible. Certainly, to begin with, they must go.

SHRI M. C. SHAH (Gujarat): Madam Deputy Chairman, the Resolution moved can be split into two parts: 1 (i) to enquire into the soaring prices

[Shri ML C. Shah.]

of essential consumer commodities in the country, and (2) to suggest ways and means to check the prices.

Now, Madam, though the reference is to soaring prices of essential consumer commodities, the main item is rise in prices of foodgrains. The House debated only very recently the food situation in the country. The Food Minister in his reply yesterday declared in the House what steps he is going to take in the near future to see that the food situation is eased. Madam, the country is passing through a very critical stage in its history. We are facing an undeclared war with Pakistan, and therefore Defence must have a pride of place over all our requirements. The second place goes to the developmental side of the economy in our country. We have been promised that in spite of this acute condition, in spite of the requirements of Defence, the development of the country will not suffer. In regard to the food situation several remedies have been suggested but I would like to suggest that in this period of crisis, the nation as a whole must have one common food policy for the whole country. We should all share the joys and sorrows of the country and therefore it is very necessary that there should be one rational food policy which will result in uniformity of prices throughout the country. For the present we have seen the variation of the prices in the surplus States and the deficit States. I would most humbly urge on the Government to consider whether this leads to national integration, where it is a precondition that we must all face the crisis. It is therefore very necessary that all these barriers should be removed and the people must share the joys and the sorrows entirely as a nation. I remember that when in 1956-57 we had a severe famine in Gujarat, because there were no such artificial barriers, the merchants could bring

the required foodgrains from any part of the country and those foodgrains were sold at very reasonable prices and there was no discontent. We have been told that there is a bumper crop this year but in spite of this food is not available in the market. Let us see the unusual condition in which we are living. That there is a bumper crop is admitted and it is because of good rains. The Government was asked the reason why in spite of the bumper crop, food is not to be seen in the market. Various reasons have been given and one of the reasons is that the farmers have now got a holding capacity and they do not bring the stocks to the market. I for one do not agree with this reason. I am afraid this is a statement given out to conceal that the Government is not in a position to bring out the stocks in the market. What is the condition of the farmers? A recent national review suggests that in the rural areas the people are becoming more and more indebted. Indebtedness is increasing in spite of the Five Year Plans in the rural areas. How many farmers, I would request the Government to tell us, have that capacity? I am afraid not even two or three out of hundred will be there. Therefore we must see that practical measures are brought to see that the stocks come into the market and people get it. In to-day's 'Statesman' there is an article showing how within three weeks the prices of foodgrains and vegetables have soared up in the capital of the country—in Delhi itself—and the writer has given certain reasons. In spite of the fact that Punjab is near by, no foodgrains are available from Punjab because there are no trucks. All the trucks have been requisitioned for defence purposes. I would submit whether our Railways cannot come and do the needful and bring the foodgrains from Punjab to Delhi? Why should there be no such co-ordination between the various Departments of the Government, to see that though defence is

given top priority, the people do not suffer? One can understand if there is a deficit or if there are no food-grains. But people cannot tolerate the condition that in spite of the bumper crop, in spite of the crops being available, the people have to starve. Look at the prices and the soaring prices. Consider the question how a family with five members, getting Rs. 200 or Rs. 250 can manage. Will it be possible for that family, with an income like that, to have two square meals under the present conditions? I can understand if it is necessary in the interests of the coun. try, in the interests of facing the critical situation, if the Government were to ask the people to forego one meal e day and be satisfied with only one meal, I am sure the common people will face it with great pleasure.

SHRI ABDUL GHANI: Is this true?

SHRI M. C. SHAH: Whether this is true is the question. Therefore I would request the Government to realise that the reasons that are trotted out do not convince the people and so certain other measures are necessary. We have been told that the farmers will be given incentive prices. We are also told that the consumers will get foodgrains at reasonable prices. It is very good, if we see that it fructifies in practice but what are the conditions of the farmers and what are the conditions of the consumers in the urban areas? Therefore I submit, as in the last world war when we had complete rationing and people could bear those conditions^—we are practically in the same war-like conditions—and as promised yesterday, all cities with a population of more ~than one lakh should be cordoned off and there should be statutory rationing in them. Unless this is done I am afraid the food situation will not improve and -the people will have to suffer. These

are bold steps and they should be taken and put into practice as early as possible. These are not normal conditions. We are passing through abnormal times and abnormal times require abnormal speedy decisions and speedy implementation thereof. Unless this is done the situation will not remain under control. We have recently seen food riots in several parts of the country. Fortunately for us in this critical condition all political parties have agreed and said that they are going to see that no untoward situation arises in the country and they have pledged their full support to the Government. Under these conditions, why should not the Government take certain bold steps to see that the entire nation gets a fair deal and gets the minimum requirements at reasonable cost and if this is not done, the situation is so grave and so serious that I am not sure how long people will be able to endure all these unrealistic conditions.

Another point made out yesterday was about distribution. Shri Reddy said that the total food production is to the tune of 88-5 million tons and as it is, the per capita distribution comes to 14'45 ozs. If this is so, where is the difficulty? We have imports. We are importing foodgrains from foreign countries but suppose certain conditions arise and it is not possible to have any import from foreign countries. We must visualise that condition also and be prepared to put up with whatever is available in our own country, from our indigenous sources. But if 14-45 ounces are there available per head, I feel that there cannot be any difficulty whatsoever and the people would be satisfied to carry on with this quantum but the question is of proper distribution. Somehow or the other there is bungling in the distribution side of our administrative machinery and this has to be improved. Unless this is done, one would not be amazed if *there are*

[Shri M. C. Shah.] agitation in the country which all of us want to avoid.

The second part of the Resolution deals with suggesting ways and means to check the prices. Now for checking prices the normal economy will depend upon demand and supply, but it is also essential to see that, whatever is our supply, it is fairly and evenly distributed and there is no discontent. Now there are two problems before us; one is the steep rise in population and the other is that there is no similar rise in our agricultural production. Therefore the per-acre production has to be increased and all necessary steps have to be taken to see that this production comes up to the requirements of this country, in the very near future. Our Food Minister yesterday showed us how he wants to tackle this problem, and he said that modern methods and modern technology have to be adopted for the increase in agricultural production. I wish him; all success, and I wish to say, situated as we are we are facing a great crisis that the people have full faith in the Government, that the people will bear any difficulty, any grievance, with great pleasure. But Government also should convince the people that they are doing their best to meet the situation and to meet the demands of the people in a fair and equitable manner.

Thank you, Madam.

SHRI N. SRI RAMA REDDY (Mysore): Madam Deputy Chairman, I am very glad that a subject of great importance and far-reaching consequence has been allowed to be discussed here through the good offices of Mr. Jagat Narain, and everyone of us shares the concern which the hon. mover showed in moving his Resolution.

Certainly, Madam, the question of spiralling prices has been causing great concern to the country. Holding of the priceline is of great importance for a sound economy and its proper progress. Now various reasons are given for this price rise and it has been particularly ever since our Second Five Year Plan was started. Madam, in this connection it is worth while to know how the increase in deficit financing has resulted in the increase in prices year after year.

Madam, according to my analysis, the tendency with regard to rising prices started in the year 1955-56, towards the end. In the first year of our Second Plan, in 1956-57—I am just giving a short history of "the price rise in this country—in 1956-57 the rising trend of prices commenced. In 1957-58 the situation in prices aggravated. In 1958-59 and the following year there was a blend of elements, elements of stagnation and forces of sustained growth with a basic Inflationary tendency, with the result that prices, slowly and steadily, kept on increasing. During 1961-62 inflationary pressures gathered strength and bank credit to the Government rose sharply; that is, from 1961-62 we suspended what was called deficit financing; that is, printing of notes was suspended, and there was a different form of deficit financing that came into existence. These inflationary pressures gathered strength and bank credits to the Government rose, which was only Rs. 114 crores in the previous year, and the next year, soon after the suspension of deficit financing, bank credit to Government rose to Rs. 279 crores. Of course I am not much of a financial man, but they say there is not much difference between deficit financing and rise in bank credit to the Government. In other words, inflationary pressures were still being exercised.

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA (Orissa): You are an economist is not a financial expert.



SHRI N. SRI RAMA REDDY: Unfortunately, Madam, in the next year, during 1962-63, we had to face the treachery of the chauvinistic Chinese Government with the result that our defence expenditure increased enormously and inflationary pressures were further aggravated. But then, on account of the extra expenditure that was involved in defence, we never gave up our Plans. Our development tempo was kept up equally strongly and in a very prominent position, with the result that the country had to face both defence and development from the year 1962-63, which mattered very much for the prices, and the spiralling of prices became more acute. Thus, this is the short history. During 1963-64, Madam, rapid rise in money supply bringing more bank credit to the Government again took place with the result that inflation pressures further aggravated. Therefore I made a small analysis for the benefit of the Members of our House.

AN HON. MEMBER: We are thankful for it.

SHRI N. SRI RAMA REDDY: Thank you very much. It can be seen now how the prices have been increasing and at what rate they have been increasing if they have been increasing at all. Let us see. Now with regard to the First Plan, Madam, between 1951-52 and 1955-56, the prices of food articles fell by 22 per cent—during the First Plan. The same rose during the Second Plan period by 48 per cent, and during the Third Plan, during the first four years of the Third Plan, they rose by 34 per cent. Thus, after the end of four years of the Third Plan, the total rise in the prices of food articles in this country, according to the figures given by the Finance Ministry, has been 86 per cent. 86 per cent is the total rise in the prices of foodgrains in this country during this Plan period. Then liquor and tobacco, though not of every great significance, which had fallen in prices during the First Five

Year Plan by 33 per cent rose during the Second Plan by 36 per cent and, during the first four years of the Third Plan by 26 per cent, and during all these Plan periods by 71 per cent. Fuel, power, light and lubricants, Madam, during the Second Plan period, showed an increase in prices of 26 per cent, though during the First Plan they maintained the level—there was no rise or fall, and during the Third Plan up to now the increase has been 14 per cent, and the net increase by the end of the four years of the Third Plan including the earlier Plan periods is 43 per cent. Industrial raw materials, during the First Plan, fell by 34 per cent during the Second Plan rose by 27 per cent and during the four years of the Third Plan by 27 per cent. The result is that by the end of the first four years of the Third Plan the net increase in the price of industrial raw materials is 78 per cent. Then there are the manufactured goods and there also the position is similar. I do not want, to give all the details for all the Plans, but by the end of the first four years of the Third Plan the net increase there has been 65 per cent. For all the commodities put together, by the end of the first four years of the Third Plan, the prices registered an upward trend by 71 per cent. Now this is the story of prices Plan by Plan in this country. Now the question is: Can this country stand this price rise, or can it not? According to me, Madam, this has been a little far too much for the country's economy and proper checks ought to have been placed in the very early stages; proper recognition should have been given during the Second Five Year Plan itself so that slow and gradual curbs could have been placed year after year and the prices controlled. Madam, I recollect that Great Britain, during the Second World War, controlled the prices so very effectively, especially the prices of food articles, that nobody ever felt that he was being fleeced on account of the rise in

[Shri N. Sri Rama Reddy.] prices. They were able to keep the prices under limit all through; I do not know by what magic they did it, and we ought to do the same thing and this rise in prices must be halted. There is absolute necessity for it and we are with the mover in this matter. Now there are various causes, Madam, for this rise in prices. Of course they follow economic laws. It is not what we wish that matters. Whatever economic laws are dictated from time to time, the prices follow them. Therefore it is for us to control the economy in such a way that the price-line could be hold. But this fact had been ignored to a certain extent. True, in a developing economy, as was pointed out by Mr. Bhupesh Gupta, a certain price-rise is a necessity and nobody can avoid it. This is the economic law. But can it rise by 5 per cent, 6 per cent, 7 per cent, 8 per cent, 10 per cent? For instance, Madam, the prices of food articles, during the years 1963-64, and 1964-65 (up to July) have risen, even according to the statement of the Finance Minister, by 12-9 per cent, and within another three or four months the price have risen by another 6 per cent or 7 per cent. Can we stand all these things? Can our economy suffer all these blemishes? No, it cannot suffer. But something has got to be done. What cannot be helped by way of normalising the economy must be made good by proper controls. Let us see, Madam, if the Government have made any effort to exert their monetary and fiscal controls to normalise this price level. Madam, with regard to monetary disciplines, since 1964-65 the Reserve Bank of India was steadily intensifying efforts at grappling with inflationary pressures by monetary means, and tightening of the liquidity requirements of the Scheduled Banks came into force in September, 1964. Repetitive increases in the bank rates in order to make money dearer have had no effect. Other qualitative and quantitative

controls that were tried also have had no effect. We have seen within one year of bringing into force of these measures, the prices of food-grains have increased. The prices of food articles have gone up. Of course, there is rise in the prices of everything. But in food articles it has taken place to the extent of 12-9 per cent. Therefore, Madam, these monetary controls have had no effect in controlling the prices. I would request the hon. Finance Minister to devise some other method of controlling prices because his monetary methods, his monetary disciplines, have had no effect. With regard to excise duties, of course, Shri Bhupesh Gupta spoke about indirect taxes. That is one method of curbing consumption. It may be true that they curb consumption. But they have got a tendency of raising the prices, of increasing prices from stage to stage. Probably my hon. friend was having some figures. I have also got figures with me and I can say that there is a 200 per cent increase in the excise duties ever since planning was started in the year 1950-51. Will they not affect all these things? Certainly they will. Therefore, all these things have produced the present result. The only thing that can be done with regard to controlling and holding prices is to have controls. Controls have become absolutely essential in the present emergency. We cannot get away from it, because our monetary disciplines have not produced the desired results. Our fiscal policies have not produced the desired results. And so we have to depend on rationing. If there had been better production then things would have been different. If there was increased production and enormously increased production, that would have brought down prices. But that problem is a very big problem. Even industrial production is falling. This year this fall has come down to 6.4 per cent. In the first year of the Third Plan it was 11 per

cent, in the second year it came down to 8 per cent and in the third year to 7 per cent and in the fourth year, it is said it is only 6.4 per cent. That is the position with regard to industrial production. With regard to the present food position, the khariff crop has been very much affected. I do not know to what extent it is affected, but it is true that all over India the kharif crop has been affected, with the result that production is not going to be as much as it was during the last year. Therefore, the only way to get over the present crisis is to impose strict controls and rationing. Certainly I am very happy Shri Subramaniam announced the introduction of rationing in all the urban areas having one lakh and more population. I shall go to the extent of saying that in all the areas where there are non-agricultural populations, let us introduce rationing in the present difficulty. Why only have it for places having a population of one lakh and above? I would suggest...

SHRI AKBAR ALI KHAN (Andhra Pradesh): The difficulty is about the administrative machinery.

SHRI N. SRI RAMA REDDY: Let us have it in all urban areas, wherever non-agricultural population is concentrated. Whether it is a big area or a small area, rationing in such areas is an absolute necessity. That is to say controls should be given effect to.

SHRI JOSEPH MATHEN (Kerala): It is not as if we are not having the control measures. It is the question of implementing them.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please wind up. Your fifteen minutes are over.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA (Uttar Pradesh): Madam, he has only just begun.

SHRI N. SRI RAMA REDDY: There fore, what I want to say is . .

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Reddy, the fifteen minutes are over. Please wind up now.

SHRI N. SRI RAMA REDDY: It is very necessary that the price line should be held, not only for the sake of our defence which is now occupying a paramount and premier position for the survival of this country, but also for development all round. The holding of the price line is very essential because without that we are not able to achieve our targets in the Five Year Plans. Therefore, for the sake of development and defence, both of which are of the greatest consequence to us, of life and death importance to us at the present moment, the price line shall have to be held. It has to be held by a rigid system of control in the country. I am one who is a very enthusiastic supporter of the zonal system also. This zonal system should be there and the controls should be there.

The DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I have now to request you to wind up. The fifteen minutes limit is given to every speaker under the rules.

SHRI N. SRI RAMA REDDY: Having said that much, I would say that controls are necessary for our industrial production also. For increasing production in all spheres, we should have controls. We cannot escape it and we shall have to impose it on ourselves to meet the country's requirements. So first of all we should keep the price line. Having said that, I would request my hon. friend Shri Jagat Narain to withdraw his Resolution, because this is not something to be determined by any commission or committee.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: That will do.

SHRI N. SRI RAMA REDDY: It is entirely for the hon. Minister to attend to this. Thank you, Madam, for giving me this much time.

# **ANNOUNCEMENT RE GOVERN- MENT BUSINESS**

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SAXYA NARA-YAN SINHA) ; With your permission, Madam, I rise to announce that Government business in this House for the week commencing 13th September, 1965, will consist of:—

(1) Further consideration and passing of the Goa, Daman and Diu (Extension of the Code of Civil Procedure and Arbitration Act) Bill, 1965.

(2) Consideration and passing of [ the following Bills, as passed by Lok Sabha:—

The Companies (Amendment) Bill, 1965.

The Aligarh Muslim University (Amendment) Bill, 1965.

The Payment of Bonus Bill, 1965.

The Union Territories (Direct Election to the House of the People) Bill, 1965.

The Insurance (Amendment) Bill, 1965.

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA (Orissa): Madam, is the present session going to be extended? We would like to know that very much.

SHRI SATYA NARAYAN SINHA: I am very glad the hon. Member reminded me about it, for I have already announced it in the other House and I want to do the same here. This session will not be extended and the House will adjourn *sine die* according to schedule.

SHRI G. MURAHARI (Uttar Pradesh): Madam, are we going to discuss the International Affairs next week?

SHRI SATYA NARAYAN SINHA: No.

SHRI G. MURAHARI: At least before the House adjourns?

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Not next week, anyway. The House now stands adjourned till 2 P.M.

The House adjourned for lunch at half past twelve of the clock.

The House re-assembled after lunch at two of the clock, THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA) in the Chair.

# **RESOLUTION RE APPOINTMENT OF A PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE TO ENQUIRE INTO THE SOARING PRICES OF ESSENTIAL COMMODITIES AND TO SUGGEST REMEDIAL MEASURES—continued.**

श्री बिमल कुमार मन्नालालजी चौर-  
ड़िया (मध्य प्रदेश) : उपसमाध्यक्ष महोदय,  
जो प्रस्ताव माननीय जगत नारायण जी  
ने प्रस्तुत किया है उस पर विचार प्रकट करने  
के लिये मैं खड़ा हुआ हूँ । महंगाई देश में  
भीषण रूप धारण करती जा रही है ।  
कांग्रेस के ही नहीं बल्कि जो भी विचारक देश  
के हैं वे सब चाहते हैं कि देश में महंगाई न हो,  
महंगाई में कमी आए । हमारे गृह मंत्री जी ने  
भी वक्तव्य दिया, हमारे वित्त मंत्री जी भी  
वक्तव्य देते हैं, कि महंगाई बढ़ने नहीं देंगे मगर  
उन प्रयत्नों के बावजूद, उन वक्तव्यों के बाव-  
जूद भी महंगाई बढ़ती जा रही है ; उसमें  
किसी तरह की कमी हो नहीं पा रही है ।