

The House met at eleven of the clock,
MR. CHAIRMAN in the Chair.

...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Q. No. 261.

(Q. Nos. 261 and 262 - Hon. Members absent)

Is there a virus?

(Q. Nos. 263 and 264 - Hon. Members absent)

DR. (SHRIMATI) NAJMA A. HEPTULLA: Sir, Lok Sabha virus has come here.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes, that is what I thought.

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: Sir, yesterday the hon. Chair had made a comment to bring a change in the rules. I want to request you, going by this, there is a very wrong message going across the country. At the earliest, you please see to it that the rule is amended. The entire House will stand by the Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much.

(Q. Nos. 265 and 266 - Hon. Members absent)

श्री अवतार सिंह करीमपुरी : सर, आदरणीय मंत्री जी का जो जवाब है, वह देश के लिए बहुत ही चिन्ताजनक है, क्योंकि एड्स के patients, जो 2007 में 1,62,879 थे, वे 2009 में अभी तक 4,03,563 हो चुके हैं। मैं मंत्री जी से यह clarification चाहता हूँ कि मैंने अपने सवाल में पूछा था कि जो HIV + एड्स के patients हैं, उनके नाम सार्वजनिक करने का कोई proposal under consideration है, तो जवाब 'नहीं' में है। इतनी preventive measures लेने के बावजूद एड्स patients की संख्या में इतनी बढ़ोतरी हो रही है और सरकार का कहना है कि उसने इसके बारे में awareness और education देने के लिए कई तरह की campaigns launch की हैं, लेकिन इसके बावजूद उड़ीसा, जहाँ 2007 में HIV का एक patient था, इस साल अब 3,219 patients हैं। मैं मंत्री जी से यह जानना चाहूँगा कि जब इनकी सारी awakening campaigns fail हो गई हैं, तो इन्होंने जो ground दिया है कि stigma की वजह से और समाज में उनका रुतबा बना रहे, इसलिए वे नाम disclose नहीं करना चाहते हैं, क्या वे देश की जनता को बचाने के लिए अब इस पर विचार करेंगे कि उनके नाम सार्वजनिक किए जाएँ और जनता में भी एक campaign launch करेंगे कि जिनके नाम सार्वजनिक किए जाएँ, उनके साथ कोई भेदभाव न किया जाए?

SHRI DINESH TRIVEDI: Hon. Chairman, Sir, first of all मैं माननीय सदस्य और हाउस को भी यह बताना चाहूँगा कि हमारे ये campaigns fail नहीं हुए हैं। यदि आप आँकड़े देखें, तो prevalence rate में जरूर कमी आई है। यह चिन्ता का विषय अवश्य है, मगर इन्होंने सवाल किया है कि आप confidentiality क्यों रख रहे हैं और इसको सार्वजनिक क्यों नहीं करते। Sir, the problem is -- you and the House will appreciate -- the stigma attached and anybody who suffers from any disease has the right of confidentiality. It is a question of human rights as such.

(Contd. by NBR/1B)

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SHRI DINESH TRIVEDI: I don't think there is any issue involved. Even the international bodies have always emphasize कि जिसे भी कुछ हुआ है, उसको stigma नहीं होना चाहिए। उसे पूरा human right protection मिलनी चाहिए। उनको भी dignity के साथ जीने का पूरा अधिकार है। इसके लिए हम इस बात को गोपनीय रखेंगे।

श्री सभापति: दूसरा सवाल पूछिए।

श्री अवतार सिंह करीमपुरी: महोदय, मैं दूसरा supplementary कर रहा हूँ। इस बात पर मेरा फिर से यह कहना है, I do agree, कि हमें उनके साथ safety रखनी चाहिए और हमें उनका social status बना कर रखना चाहिए, लेकिन इसके कारण जो नुकसान हो रहा है, उसके ऊपर सरकार को जरूर सोचना चाहिए, नहीं तो आने वाले समय में यह एक बड़ा challenge हो जाएगा।

सर, मेरा दूसरा supplementary यह है कि हम यह जानना चाहते हैं कि अगर यह HIV positive लोगों के नाम अभी declare करना नहीं चाहते तो क्या सरकार यह प्रावधान करने का कोई विचार करेगी कि वह marriage से पहले HIV positive का कोई टेस्ट compulsory बनाए? क्योंकि यह बहुत संजीदगी का विषय है, इसको ज्यादा मजाक में लेने की जरूरत नहीं है। हम यह इसलिए कह रहे हैं कि जो बच्चे एड्स-पीड़ित पैदा होंगे, उनके भविष्य के लिए कौन जिम्मेवार है? तो क्या इसके ऊपर कोई नीति बनाने का या इसके ऊपर कोई कानून लाने का या इस पर कोई विचार करने का सरकार के पास कोई proposal है? हम यह कहना चाहेंगे कि सरकार को यह करना चाहिए।

श्री सभापति: आपने सवाल पूछ लिया, thank you.

श्री दिनेश त्रिवेदी: सर, यह एक सोच जरूर है, मगर इसके लिए एक व्यापक discussion होना चाहिए। इस पर पार्लियामेंट में और पार्लियामेंट के बाहर भी चर्चा होनी चाहिए, उसके बाद ही सरकार कुछ सोच सकती है। फिलहाल सरकार के पास ऐसा कोई प्रावधान नहीं है।

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SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM: Sir, the hon. Minister has said that confidentiality has to be maintained and has also mentioned about the human rights. All the details are supposed to be included in the Act that the Government is going to bring before the House. I would like to know from the hon. Minister what is the status of the HIV/AIDS Bill. It is pending for a long-time. Would the hon. Minister throw some light on that? Can he fix up some specific timeframe? We have been hearing about this Bill for a long-time. We would like to know about these details.

And, Sir, I would like to thank the hon. Minister of Health for coming and participating on the World AIDS Day organised by the Parliamentary Forum on HIV/AIDS. I wish to know the status of the Bill with timeframe.

SHRI DINESH TRIVEDI: Sir, it is a process. All these things, first, are weighed by the Legal Department and then it goes to the Cabinet. So, at this point of time, it is not possible to pinpoint a timeframe. But, we are, certainly, aware of these things and it is a continuous process of discussions.

SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM: Sir, six years have already been lapsed.

MR. CHAIRMAN: That is all right.

SHRI H.K. DUA: Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether instances at hospitals where doctors refused to give even first aid to HIV/AIDS patients have come to his notice. If there are, how many such instances in the country have come to his notice?

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SHRI DINESH TRIVEDI: Sir, it is a criminal offence. We are all aware that this is unacceptable. As far as instances are concerned, I do not have readymade figures at the moment. But, I will be very happy to provide the same to the hon. Member. The Question is on the expenditure.

डॉ०(श्रीमती) नजमा ए० हेपतुल्ला: सर, क्यूबा एक ऐसी country है, जहाँ HIV/AIDS पर तकरीबन पूरी तरह से काबू पा लिया गया है। तीन-चार साल पहले एक conference के सिलसिले में मेरा वहाँ जाना हुआ था। डॉक्टर से बात करने के बाद हमें पता लगा कि वहाँ पर गिनती के तीन cases थे। किस तरीके से बच्चों को यह disease transmit नहीं हो, they have been able to find a way out. So, will the Government consider either going there or discussing with any of those people in Cuba to control HIV/AIDS or transfer of HIV/AIDS from pregnant women to children?

SHRI DINESH TRIVEDI: Sir, I am grateful to the hon. Member. Certainly, we will take all these points in a positive manner. Whatever is going to be effective in controlling this dreadful disease, we certainly take notice and whatever is required to be done, we will, certainly, do it.

(Ends)

(FOLLOWED BY PB "1c")

Q. NO. 268

DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Sir, I would like to know whether the Government of India is following any international standards of security audit by which our security system is in tact in the context of the terrorist attack in various positions.

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL: Sir, I think, all of us are equally concerned about the security as the rest of the world, and, therefore, we do follow the best possible security measures. In fact, after the hijacking of our aircraft, the entire security at all major airports has been handed over to the CISF so that there are uniform standards which are applicable. Also, we have a Bureau of Civil Aviation Security which monitors security at all airports across the country, and thus, try to adopt best practices which are followed elsewhere. It is an on-going process. I cannot give any specific details until asked for. But I can only assure the House that over a period of time, our security systems have gone better. We have more modernisation; we have more technological upgradation also, including better manpower training at the airports.

However, in our context, security at airports is of prime concern, and with the increasing activity which we witness in many of our cities and across the country, I think, we need to be even more vigilant; and we are taking all possible measures in our context.

DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Sir, for practical purposes, we find that under the system, which is followed now, the CISF is not treating the passengers with proper respect and honour. They are treating everybody in a manner as if he is a terrorist. So, I would like to

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know how they can be trained in a proper way. Their manpower has been increased but the security measures should be taken without harassing the passengers. So, what new methods are being followed by the system to find out the real culprits and not harassing the regular passengers?

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL: Sir, if there is any specific instance which the hon. Member would like to point out, I will be happy to get it corrected. But, to say in general that in our security systems all passengers are being harassed at the airports would be unfair to the security personnel also for the simple reason that we have all travelled across many countries in the world, and, I think, our system is quite relatively user and passenger friendly. In fact, it is not as cumbersome as in many other countries. So, I do not wish to say in generality that it is not in line with the best practices. However, if there is any area for improvement, if you have any suggestions or if you have come across any ill-treatment, please bring it our notice. We will be happy to try to get it corrected.

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: Sir, on earlier occasions also and the Minister is also aware, the Regulator as far as airport security is concerned, is the Bureau of Civil Aviation Safety which is a small organisation which looks after the overall security of the airports. But the operational level and the field level is controlled by the CISF which was inducted during the NDA regime. Now, the question here is that the CISF, the controlling authority of the CISF, is the Ministry of Home. It is not responsible. Even if the Minister wants to take an action against

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a constable of the CISF, he doesn't have the authority for that. So, there is a complete dichotomy in the situation where the Civil Aviation Minister of the Ministry has no control on the CISF. I have nothing to say about the performance of the CISF; it is doing well. But if the Minister is accountable for the action of CISF, what is the authority of the Minister on that organisation because they report to the Home Ministry and the Home Secretary?

(Contd. by 1d/SKC)

1d/11.15/skc

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY (Contd.): And there is a very loose coordination, because there is a regulator called COSCA who heads this organisation in the Civil Aviation Ministry. The entire field force is that of the CISF, which has nothing to do. I would just like to ask the Minister whether he is thinking of devising, or requesting the Government, to create a stronger channel of control as far as the airport security and CISF are concerned, which is related to his Ministry. Or, is the Minister thinking of setting up a separate force, or co-opting force from the CISF to be responsible to the Civil Aviation Department? Has the Minister something in mind about this?

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL: Well, technically you are right that CISF is in the domain of the Home Ministry. However, I do not think it is completely at arm's length from the Civil Aviation Ministry. After all, the BCAS is in charge of overall security. CISF also reports to the...

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: No, it does not report...

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SHRI PRAFUL PATEL: I said, technically you may be right but it does not work like that. After all, there is an interface. It is not as if the CISF would not listen to the suggestions or any issues which the Civil Aviation Ministry or the BCAS may raise. So, there is a dialogue; there is an interface. Technically speaking, that is true, but overall security of the airport cannot be in isolation. After all, it is part of a city and it is part of our country. Therefore, the Home Ministry also has to look after the other facets of security. Anything outside the airport precincts falls in the domain of the local police and, therefore, the Home Ministry and the Civil Aviation Ministry have to work together.

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: Sir, most countries in the world do not have any exempted categories based on a VIP culture where they are exempted from security frisking. We are one of the few countries in the world which has it. Therefore, the security personnel at the security checks are always faced with a Hobson's choice as to whom to frisk and whom not to frisk. Is the Minister willing to consider a regime where everybody is subjected to the same security treatment, irrespective of any special preferred status of individuals?

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL: Well, I think this decision has to be taken by everybody including the Members of Parliament. I recall, in this very House, there was an incident where the security of a very important person became such a big issue that all...(Interruptions)...

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: No Member of Parliament can seek this immunity.

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SHRI PRAFUL PATEL: Please, I am not trying to defend anybody. I am only trying to say that these are decisions that all of us, in our collective wisdom, have to take. I follow a protocol laid down as per the rules of business, and there are certain categories which are exempt, and I only follow what has been given to me. I do not devise categories. Our Ministry is only following the protocol which has been spelt out. If there is any change to be made, I think it would involve a larger discussion.

SHRI BALBIR PUNJ: Protocol spelt out by whom?

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL: As far as I am concerned, I cannot say anything on this because I am nobody to decide on my own whether the 'x' category or 'y' category of people should be exempted or not.

SHRI BALBIR PUNJ: Mr. Chairman Sir, who sets these categories?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please. I think, the procedure is known.

SHRI BALBIR PUNJ: No, Sir. It is not known. We would like the hon. Minister to educate us on that.

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: The Minister said that he got this exercise in legacy. (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please.

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL: I hope, at least, most of you know that there is an order of precedence which has been set out. It is not decided by the Ministry of Civil Aviation and that is notified...(Interruptions)...

SHRI BALBIR PUNJ: You are speaking for the Government of India. It is decided by the Government and you are speaking on behalf of the Government of India.

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SHRI PRAFUL PATEL: I mean to say that it is an order of precedence which is notified.

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: We all know what you are saying and the question is very clear to you. You know what we are asking.
(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Naik.

SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Sir, recently, there were two unpleasant incidents where the former President of India, Shri Abdul Kalam, and veteran actor, Shri Shahrukh Khan, were frisked by officials of a foreign airlines at one of their airports. Shri Abdul Kalam and veteran actor, Shri Shahrukh Khan, were frisked and humiliated. A lot of noise about the incident was raised even in the House. The Minister had assured that appropriate measures would be taken in this regard. I would like to know from the Minister about the follow-up action he has taken after former President, Shri Abdul Kalam, and actor Shahrukh Khan were frisked and humiliated.

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL: Sir, these are all security audits. I can only say that in the case of the former President, we had taken up this issue and I think, after an apology has been tendered, that matter has been put to rest. I do not think we should rake up these issues again and again.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question No. 269.

(Followed by hk/1e)

HK/1e/11.20

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SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Sir, I know that I am late. But kindly give me a chance.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am afraid you were not here.

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Kindly give me a chance.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I would like to, but I can't.

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: It is still going on. Give me a chance this time. One question only. I came before the question was over and my colleague was already there. Give me a chance. I will quickly ask a question. ..(Interruptions).. Can I?

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is all right. I give you one minute. Ask the relevant question.

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Thank you, Sir. I will not take more time. I just want to know from the hon. Minister: Is it also a fact that audit by FAA is going on in the country? If it is going on for air-worthiness, whether he has details of such airlines and what corrective steps are being taken on that?

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL: Sir, the question pertains to security audit by FAA. I have only answered that there is no security audit which is conducted by FAA. We are not under their jurisdiction for conducting security audit. That is our view. We are to follow international best practices and norms. The question that you are trying to ask me is about FAA audit of the procedures which are being followed by the DGCA. There is an IASA Certification which is required. It is an International Airworthiness Certification. The norm which is to be

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followed by most countries, that FAA audit for India has been completed and we have got an IASA Category-1 Certification which means that all our systems are in place according to the best practices prevalent anywhere else in the world.

(Ends)

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SHRI MOINUL HASSAN: Sir, power generation is one of the important sectors so far as the infrastructure is concerned. As we know, Sir, in the 11th Plan power generation in this infrastructure sector was targeted at 78,000 MW. Sir, report comes that 11th Plan is to be completed in 2012 and only 50 per cent of the target is completed which is by the public sector generation companies. May I know from the hon. Minister as to what is the present status of it? Is it possible that before completing the 11th Plan in 2012 full capacity or full targeted generation power will be completed?

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am afraid it may not be possible to reach the target of 78,000 MW's addition to the existing power generation capacity. Though the Mid-Term Appraisal has not been finalised, but from the information which we are having, it appears that, of course, they have lowered the target from 78,000 MW to 62,000 MW. We are trying to reach that target, but after the Mid-Term Appraisal of the Plan being completed, then it would be possible to arrive at the firm figure.

SHRI MOINUL HASSAN: Sir, from the table which is supplied as an answer I can see that the investment in gas infrastructure happens to be the least though the inter-eastern region and also the major part of the southern region is starved of gas supply. Kindly let me know what the progress of the Jagdishpur-Haldia Pipeline is which is aimed to connect the eastern region with gas supply channel? I am asking this because this project was taken up before the 11th Plan. Is there any possibility of

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completing this project in this Plan period so that eastern India, at least, can get gas?

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Sir, the question relates to the investment in the infrastructures. But the question relating to specific projects and conducted by the particular Department or Ministry will have to be addressed by ..(Interruptions)..

SHRI MOINUL HASSAN: Sir, the Minister may know this. ..(Interruptions)..

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: That is all right. But we have to put the notice and they will have to prepare and answer the question. But the general allocation in respects of the gas, as the hon. Member started by observing that it is minimum, is least.

(Contd. by 1f/KSK)

KSK/11.25/1F

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE (CONTD): It is natural because regarding exploration work, we entered into the new Exploration Policy with the private sector - gas and oil - that if you strike it, you get it. You may try to get it at 40 places, 50 places, 60 places, but when it actually strikes, then, you get it. Therefore, we do not spend substantially of our own public sector resources for exploration. Exploration work is left to the private sector. And, thereafter, as per the New Exploration Licensing Policy, the administrative Ministry - Petroleum and Natural Gas Ministry - conduct and thereafter, the Government enters into arrangements with the private contractors and private sector. So far as the availability of gas is concerned, experts are saying, but unless we strike and identify

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the zones and are in a position, after exploration, for going to the exploitation, it would be difficult to continue.

SHRI SHYAMAL CHAKRABORTY: Sir, I would like to ask the hon. Finance Minister that you have a policy called 'Look East Policy'. It is a very good Policy. We appreciate it very much. But, for the development of the economy, infrastructure of ports is very much important. What we are observing is that one of the major ports is a riverine port, that is, Kolkata-Haldia, but dredging is very much inadequate. That is why, the Kolkata and Haldia port system is in distressed condition. So, the economic activity is coming down in Eastern India, particularly in West Bengal. Why inadequate money has been allocated for that?

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Mr. Chairman, Sir, this is also a specific question in respect to the Department of Shipping and Transport who undertakes the job of dredging of different ports. My responsibility, as the Finance Minister, is to provide money for investment in infrastructure. And, thereafter, infrastructure which is spread in large number of administrative Ministries, they ought to spend project wise, and the Planning Commission makes allocations. Therefore, if you want to expand the canvas of the question, it would be extremely difficult. I can give the figure in respect of the allocation during the current Plan, that is, the Eleventh Five Year Plan. In terms of percentage, port allocation is 4.28 per cent. In absolute terms, it is Rs.87,995 crores. That would be the allocation for development of infrastructure facilities in ports

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during the Eleventh Plan starting from 2006-07 and coming to an end on 31st March, 2012.

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Sir, I would like to know about airports, which is also a very important sector. Though the hon. Finance Minister does not deal directly, but I would like to know that why this sector's share in projected investment is only 1.51 per cent. The amount is hardly Rs.30,968 crores.

Secondly, I would like to know about irrigation.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Only one point please.

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Allocation for irrigation, including watersheds, is Rs.2,53,301 crores. Irrigation comes under Central Government funds and State Government funds. I would like know that for irrigation, whether this amount of Rs.2,53,301 crores is exclusively invested by the Government of India. So, what is the modality? Every year, what is the approximate investment that we can expect in irrigation?

And, also, I want to know why such an insignificant investment is proposed in airports.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Sir, the question was for the investment during the Eleventh Plan in the infrastructure sectors, and the Plan investment consists of State-sector Plan and Centre-sector Plan. Therefore, this figure, which we are giving, that is, Rs.20,56,150 crores, the total investment, that is consisting of the Centre-sector investment and the State-sector investment in the infrastructure. And, when you distribute a hundred, when you talk of percentage, you cannot go

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beyond hundred, and if you give 32 per cent to power, then 15 per cent to road, 12.5 per cent to other important sectors, naturally, for certain other sectors, in the kitty of percentage, it will come down.

(continued by 1g - gsp)

-KSK-GSP-VNK-11.30-1G

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE (CONTD.): Secondly, at the airports, substantial modernisation, expansion works and infrastructural activities are going on through the private sector routes.

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is a very important question. I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Finance Minister towards increasing the targets fixed for investment in physical infrastructure, from five per cent of GDP to nine per cent of GDP. But, Sir, on the expenditure side, on the implementation side, according to the answer given by the hon. Minister yesterday, we are lagging behind, for instance, in some projects, by 40 months, and, in some projects, by 60 months. The cost overrun is also increasing by leaps and bounds. That being the case, what is the mechanism, what is the system that has been evolved by the Ministry of Finance or the Prime Minister's Office -- we read something about it in the newspapers -- to see that they are regularly monitored and the targets are achieved. What is the system that has been adopted; what is the response so far; and, what are the results so far?

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Sir, it is true that we are not so good and efficient in delivering, particularly, in implementing these projects. Particularly, from the conceptual stage to the implementation stage,

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there is a big gap. At the same time, with the establishment of the Cabinet Committee on Infrastructure and regular monitoring through the Prime Minister's Office in that Cabinet Committee, which is chaired by the Prime Minister himself, some improvement is noticeable. Already, there is some slippage, which is visible. For instance, there is an expectation, and, some sort of commitment has been made, with regard to construction of 20-kilometres road per day. If we want to construct 20-kilometres road a day, naturally, in the pipeline, there should be almost 20,000-kilometres road for the year so that we can complete it. 20-kilometres a day means more than 7,000-kilometres a year, which means a minimum of 14,000-kilometres in two years. The preparation of the project report in a road takes almost twelve to fourteen months. Therefore, an attempt should be made to reduce this period, and, at different stages, these types of exercises are being made. Some improvement has taken place but it is not to the desirable extent.

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: Sir, while appreciating the target increase of the investment in physical infrastructure from five per cent of GDP to nine per cent of GDP, I would like to say that the share towards water supply and sanitation is only 6.99 per cent, which aims at fulfilling the basic needs of the common man. Would the Ministry of Finance consider enhancing the share towards water supply and sanitation?

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Sir, these targets are fixed by the Planning Commission. The Planning Commission proposals are approved by the NDC. The NDC consists of the State Chief Ministers and the Cabinet Ministers. Therefore, it is not possible for any individual

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ministry just to say that we will increase this, or, we will decrease this. During the course of five years, as and when we find, and, it is proved, that in certain sectors, the expenditure is not up to the expectations, or, in some areas, expenditure is picking up, in the mid-term appraisal, we make a course correction. That mid-term course correction is possible but that will have to be done in consultation with the Planning Commission.

(Ends)

(Followed by sk-1h)

-gsp/sk/11.35/1H

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SHRI D. RAJA: Sir, our respected Finance Minister is the most senior Minister in the Government. He is a very experienced Minister. He will appreciate my question in the interest of the nation and in the interest of the democratic polity in the country. The Obulapuram Mining Corporation has earned the notoriety to be called as mines mafia in the recent times. The people of Andhra Pradesh and the people of Karnataka are agitated and are in a campaign against the illegal activities of these mines. My question is, Sir, this Obulapuram Mining Corporation had earned a whopping more than Rs. 10,000 crore, if my figures are correct. If they are not correct, I stand to be corrected.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question please.

SHRI D. RAJA: Illegal mining of iron ore by two companies in the border areas of Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka is depriving the Government revenue to the tune of Rs. 300 crores every year. My question is, whether the Finance Ministry is considering to institute a kind of CBI inquiry or Income Tax authorities inquiry into the illegal fudging of funds and accounts by this Corporation?

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Sir, so far Income Tax inquiry is concerned, if we find out any case of tax evasion or tax avoidance, the Income Tax Department can definitely set in motion. They do not require any permission. It is their routine job. This is based on the intelligence collected. As and when the Economic Intelligence Collection Unit collects information, they set the motion in operation and do so. So, if any such things come to the notice of the Government, they will

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do so. And, if the hon. Member has any specific information, he can send it and we can act on it, so far as income tax is concerned.

The CBI does not come within the purview of the Finance Ministry. First there must be a request from the State Government concerned for specifically identifying the criminality which is involved to institute a CBI investigation.

So far the question was related to whether they have been given any tax exemptions from different taxes by the Central Government, my answer is, Central Government has not given any tax exemption in respect of this particular concern and whatever taxes are due from them, we have collected them.

SHRI D. RAJA: Sir, again the answer is related to service tax, I agree. But illegal activities of this Mining Corporation is in public domain. I would like the Government to take *suo motu* notice of this and try to address the concerns of the people. Having said that, Sir, my second question is, I have some copies related to code of conduct for Ministers. Some of the Ministers in some State Governments are related to this Mining Corporation, and when the accusations are made, they flew down to the capital of other States, justify their activities and challenge the very questions raised with regard to their illegal activities. I would like to ask the senior Minister, our very respected Finance Minister, whether they can continue as Ministers when they are related to these Mining Corporations, or, they are having shares in these Mining Corporations. Being in position as Ministers, they try to influence the political development and repeatedly show or demonstrate the dirty role

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of money power which ..(Interruptions).. clearly jeopardises our democratic process.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please speak on the subject.

SHRI D. RAJA: This question is not related to service tax; it relates to Obulapuram Mining Corporation. Being the senior Minister, we would like him to respond in the interest of democratic polity in our country.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Sir, if somebody violates any norm or any code, there are remedial measures. There is a regularly, duly-constituted Government in the State. If any Minister in the State Government violates code of conduct, it can be brought to the notice of the Governor. He can exercise his Constitutional power, whatever has been vested in him.

(Continued by 1J-YSR)

-SK/YSR/11.40/1J

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE (CONTD.): Therefore, if something merely appears in the media or if somebody has some perception..(Interruptions)..

MR. CHAIRMAN: Silence, please.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: On the basis of that, I cannot make any commitment on the floor of the House. I can go on the basis of facts. And the fact here is that when we sent a team of officers to a State to assess the situation there, immediately attacks were made against the Central Government that we were interfering in the normal domain of the State Government. Therefore, these issues, where we can interfere and where we cannot interfere, also have to be kept in view. Simply

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because some hon. Members say that they want Centre's intervention in the matter, it is not possible. Therefore, if there is any violation in the mining sector, or if it is illegal mining, the Department of Mines will look into it. There are regular institutional arrangements for it. Mines inspectors are there and their job is to look into illegal mining. If some Ministers have violated the code of conduct or have unduly exercised their influence in the decision-making of the State Government, the proper place to agitate is not Parliament but State Assembly and the Governor of the State. (Interruptions)

SHRI D. RAJA: Sir,..(Interruptions)..

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Raja, your turn is over. (Interruptions)

SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Sir, as the hon. Minister has rightly said, the Centre has not given any tax exemption to the mining industry. There are traditional miners in Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh. Now they have almost closed it and the mafia have taken over the mining industry in Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh. They are a threat to the democratic set-up as rightly stated by Mr. Raja and it is true.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Supplementary, please.

SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Sir, I just want to know from the hon. Minister whether the Environment Minister has given any clearance for mining in Obulapuram. Second part of my question is, whether any tax exemption has been given by the State Government. And which Government has given the tax exemption?

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Sir, so far as environment clearance is concerned, the information, which we have got from the authorities

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concerned, is that the environment clearance has been taken by the concerned authorities who are conducting environment clearance.

So far as the State Government is concerned, yes, I have the information that the Government of Andhra Pradesh has not given any concession in respect of Obulapuram Mining Corporation or their activities; but they are participating in building up a steel plant where some concessions have been given by the State Government of Andhra Pradesh. This is for Brahmani Steel. Concessions which the State Government has given to it include 25 per cent of VAT for five years; reimbursement of power charges to the tune of 75 per cent at the rate of 75 paise per unit for five years; 100 per cent waiver for registration and mortgage fee; and they have allocated Rs. one crore for the development of infrastructural facilities at the plant site.

SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY: Sir, the basic issue is tax evasion. This Obulapuram Mining Corporation is exporting iron ore to China by under-invoicing and whatever the differential amount is there, they are parking it in tax haven state. I request the Minister, through you, to investigate into this matter through the IT Department and the Vigilance Department. It is a clear violation of FEMA.

(Followed by VKK/1K)

-YSR/VKK-MCM/1k/11.45

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Sir, all violations of FEMA and over-invoicing or under-invoicing are offences under Customs Act and due action should be taken.

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श्री आर०सी० सिंह : सर, हमारे देश में ऑयरन ओर लिमिटेड है और हमारे यहां जो स्टील फैक्ट्रीज हैं, उनमें खपत 78 मिलियन टन की है, जबकि प्रोडक्शन 300 मिलियन टन का हो रहा है। तो रेस्ट ऑयरन ओर किन शर्तों पर कहां जा रहा है, इसके बारे में सरकार से जानकारी चाहता हूँ?

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Sir, it is correct that we require it for our own steel production. It is also correct that it is one of the important export items. But, if the hon. Member wants to ban export of iron ore, that is a policy matter and Question Hour is not meant for discussion on policy matters.

(Ends)

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श्री रुद्रनारायण पाणि : सर, उड़ीसा में भी इललीगल माइनिंग हो रही है.....(व्यवधान)

श्री सभापति : पाणि जी, बैठ जाइए।.....(व्यवधान) पाणि जी, बैठ जाइए। प्लीज, पाणि जी, बैठ जाइए।.....(व्यवधान). You are violating the Rules of the House. आप बैठ जाइए।.....(व्यवधान) आई एम सॉरी। (Interruptions)

श्री रुद्रनारायण पाणि : *

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record. I will have to invoke the Rule against the Member if you don't sit down. (Interruptions) Please sit down. (Interruptions) Please resume your place. (Interruptions) I would request the party whip. (Interruptions) Please bring me the Rule Book. I invoke Rule...(Interruptions)... Mr. Pany, will you please resume your place? This indiscipline is not permissible. Please resume your place. (Interruptions)

* Not recorded.

(Q. No.271 -- Hon. Member absent.)

सुश्री सुशीला तिरिया : सर, माननीय मंत्री जी ने मेरे प्रथम प्रश्न के उत्तर में "नो, सर" कहा है। लेकिन रिप्लाई में मंत्री जी ने बोला है कि उनके पास मिसयूज करने से संबंधित 242 कंप्लेंट्स हैं। सर, मुझे इसकी जानकारी नहीं हो पाई कि यह मिसयूज है या कंप्लेंट किया है, जबकि दोनों चीज अलग-अलग हैं। मंत्री जी, इसको क्लेरिफाई करें? क्योंकि उनके पास 242 कंप्लेंट्स होने के बाद भी there is no misuse of funds meant for energy. सर, क्या राज्य सरकारों के ऊपर सब कुछ निर्भर करके इन्वेस्टिगेशन और मिसयूज ऑफ फंड्स के लिए राज्य सरकारों को कहा जाता है तथा राष्ट्रस्तरीय निगरानी कर्ता भी नियुक्त किए जाते हैं, ऐसा रिप्लाई माननीय मंत्री जी ने दिया है। तो इस तरह से उड़ीसा के लिए राष्ट्रस्तरीय निगरानी कर्ता नियुक्त किया गया है या नहीं, यह मेरा प्रश्न है?

श्री सी0पी0 जोशी : सभापति महोदय, माननीया सदस्या ने पूछा कि साइजेबिल फंड्स के बारे में कितनी कंप्लेंट्स हैं। हमें कुल 1010 कंप्लेंट रिसीव हुई हैं। इनमें से 483 को डिस्पोज किया गया तथा 529 पैडिंग हैं। जो कंप्लेंट रजिस्टर है, उसमें 242 कंप्लेंट में से 93 कंप्लेंट डिस्पोज हुई हैं और उसमें 13 कंप्लेंट्स ऐसी हैं, जहां पर 7.72 करोड़ का मामला embezzlement के साथ जुड़ा हुआ है। इसलिए माननीया सदस्या ने जो प्रश्न पूछा, उस संदर्भ में यह उत्तर दिया गया है। जहां तक NLMS अपोइंट करने का सवाल है, बेसिकली ऐक्ट के हिसाब से पहले प्रिवेंसेज को स्टेट गवर्नमेंट को एड्रेस करना है। स्टेट गवर्नमेंट कानून के अन्तर्गत सारी कंप्लेंट को एड्रेस करती है और जो कंप्लेंट हमारे पास आती है और ग्रेव नेचर की होती है, उसके संबंध में हम NLMS अपोइंट करते हैं।

सुश्री सुशीला तिरिया : सर, मेरा दूसरा सप्लीमेंट्री है। उड़ीसा में आदिवासी और एस0सी0, एस0टी0 महिलाओं को NREGA अच्छी तरह से कवर करता है। सर, मैं यह जानना चाहूंगी कि जहां पर आदिवासी, * और महिलाएं काम करती हैं.....(व्यवधान)

श्री अवतार सिंह करीमपुरी : सर,.....(व्यवधान)

श्री सभापति : आप बैठ जाइए, आपकी टर्न नहीं है। Please resume your place.
(Interruptions)

श्री अवतार सिंह करीमपुरी : सर, * शब्द अनपार्लियामेंट्री है।.....(व्यवधान)

* Not recorded.

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श्री सभापति : अगर है तो वह रिकार्ड में नहीं जाएगा। आप बैठ जाइए, वह रिकार्ड में नहीं जाएगा।.....(व्यवधान)

सुश्री सुशीला तिरिया : सर, मैं खुद दलित हूँ, इसलिए एस0सी0, एस0टी0 बोल रही हूँ।.....(व्यवधान)

श्री अवतार सिंह करीमपुरी : दलित होने से आपको इस तरह बोलने का लाइसेंस थोड़ी मिल जाता है।.....(व्यवधान)

श्री सभापति : आप बैठ जाइए।

सुश्री सुशीला तिरिया : ठीक है, मैं संशोधन कर रही हूँ। सांसद महोदय को अगर कुछ तकलीफ हुई है तो मैं खुद दलित हूँ, इसलिए मैं इसमें संशोधन कर रही हूँ, एस0सी0, एस0टी0 कह रही हूँ।

(1L/GS पर क्रमशः)

GS-MKS/11.50/1L

सुश्री सुशीला तिरिया (क्रमागत) : जहां पर महिला एस0सी0, एस0टी0 हैं, उधर जॉब कार्ड होल्डिंग बहुत ज्यादा संख्या में होता है। सर, उड़ीसा में जॉब कार्ड होल्डिंग्स की कितनी कम्प्लेंट्स हैं, उनमें से कितनी डिसपॉज-ऑफ हुई हैं ? मुझे जानकारी है कि हिन्दुस्तान टाइम्स और इंडियन एक्सप्रेस के द्वारा ऑन-लाइन कम्प्लेंट्स लॉज होने के बावजूद अभी तक कोई डिस्मिशन नहीं हो पाया है। मैं जानना चाहती हूँ कि इन कम्प्लेंट्स को डिसपॉज-ऑफ करने के लिए, इन पर डिस्मिशन लेने के लिए कितना समय चाहिए ? सर, जो 7000 अभी तक ऑन लाइन रिकार्ड में जॉब कार्ड होल्डर्स हैं, उनको अभी तक काम नहीं दिया गया है, उनको अलाउंस देने के लिए आप क्या कार्यवाही करने जा रहे हैं ?

श्री सी.पी. जोशी : सभापति महोदय, उड़ीसा से 33 कम्प्लेंट्स रिसेव हुई हैं, उनमें से 16 कम्प्लेंट्स डिसपॉज-ऑफ हुई हैं और 17 कम्प्लेंट्स बाकी हैं। जहां तक जॉब कार्ड का सम्बन्ध है, जॉब कार्ड का पंचायत लेवल पर जितने आदमी काम पर जाते हैं, डिमांड करते हैं, तो उतने आदमियों को काम मिलता है। हमारे पास जो जानकारी उपलब्ध है, उसमें

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उड़ीसा की मात्र 33 कम्प्लेंट्स रिसीव हुई थीं, उनमें से 16 हमने डिसपॉज की हैं और 17 की जानकारी स्टेट गवर्नमेंट से मांग रहे हैं।

MR. CHAIRMAN: Dr. K. Malaisamy. ...(Interruptions)... Dr. Malaisamy, please go ahead.

DR. K. MALAISAMY: Sir, I have seen from the reply that a number of complaints have been received, and they have been rightly referred to the State Governments which are the implementing agencies. Sir, when, in States, the persons involved in complaints are likely to be the ruling party men, will there be a free and fair inquiry and corrective measures? For that, what is your way out?

SHRI C.P. JOSHI: Sir, recently, we have given instructions to States and we have also given them a direction that they should have a concept of 'Ombudsman'. We are asking the State Governments to appoint Ombudsmen in every district of their States, and this process is continuing. In due course of time, we will review it and see to it that this takes place.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Rajniti Prasad.

श्री राजनीति प्रसाद : सर, माननीय मंत्री जी ने जो क्वेश्चन का जवाब दिया है, तो टोटल negate कर दिया है और कहा है कि (a) से लेकर (e) तक इनका आन्स्वर "No" है। सर, मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि जब 242 कम्प्लेंट्स इनको मिली हैं, तो (a) से लेकर (e) तक यह कहना कि कुछ भी नहीं है, आन्स्वर "No" है, तो उनमें पनिशमेंट देंगे या नहीं देंगे, क्योंकि आन्स्वर No है? मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से सिर्फ इतना ही पूछना चाहता हूँ कि NREGA का कार्य बहुत पवित्र कार्य है और जिसके कारण आप लोग सरकार में आ गए। उसी का मामला इतना गंभीर है, तो क्या ऐसे राज्यों में जहां NREGA ठीक से

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काम नहीं कर रहा है, तो उसके लिए वहां पर कोई आब्जर्वर आप भेजने का काम करेंगे ? यही मेरा सवाल है और कोई सवाल नहीं है।

श्री सी.पी. जोशी : सभापति महोदय, NREGA में एक साल का funds करीब Rs.40,000 crores है। माननीय सदस्य ने प्रश्न यह पूछा है कि sizeable fund का उपयोग नहीं हुआ है। मैं बताना चाहता हूं कि Rs.40,000 crores के प्रपोशनेट में 1010 कम्प्लेंट्स हमें रिसीव हुई हैं। इन 1010 कम्प्लेंट्स में 242 कम्प्लेंट्स में से मात्र 13 कम्प्लेंट्स ऐसी हैं, जहां पर amount 7.72 crores का है, इसलिए हमने पहले वाले उत्तर में No कहा है। जहां तक माननीय सदस्य ने कहा है कि NREGA को ठीक ढंग से implement करने के लिए क्या कदम उठा रहे हैं। सभापति महोदय, हर एक माननीय सदस्य district level Monitoring Committee का सदस्य है। हमने कहा है कि वह तीन महीने में मीटिंग करे, इसकी जानकारी ले और हमें सूचना दे। Ombudsman के संबंध में हमने राज्य सरकारों को निवेदन किया है। हमने MIS का सिस्टम प्लेस कर रखा है। ये सब प्रयास करने के बाद हम कोशिश कर रहे हैं कि स्टेट गवर्नमेंट तुरन्त गति से काम करेगी और Ombudsman के माध्यम से यदि स्टेट गवर्नमेंट कम्प्लेंट्स को ठीक ढंग से address नहीं कर पा रही है, तो Lokpal की नियुक्ति उस चीज़ को ठीक ढंग से address कर पाएगी और यह स्कीम ठीक ढंग से लागू हो पाएगी।

श्री राजीव शुक्ल : सभापति जी, जो हमारा सवाल था, वह भी इसी से संबंधित था। मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से यह जानना चाहता हूं कि जो 40 per cent siphoning off की बात है जिसके बारे में उन्होंने कहा है कि सूचना एकत्रित की जा रही है। मैं पूछना चाहता हूं कि ऐसी शिकायतें ज्यादातर किन राज्यों से हैं ? और जब राज्य सरकारें अपने स्तर पर monitoring नहीं कर पा रही हैं, तो क्या Central Monitoring Agency बनाने का विचार है, क्योंकि NREGA के मामले में सफलता बहुत जरूरी है ?

(1एम पर आगे)

Q.NO. 272(CONTD.)

श्री सी.पी. जोशी : सभापति महोदय, मध्य प्रदेश की एक कम्प्लेंट के संबंध में IBN में डिस्प्ले हुआ कि इस "नरेगा" के अंतर्गत बहुत ज्यादा भ्रष्टाचार हो रहा है। उस कम्प्लेंट के बाद हमने मध्य प्रदेश की सरकार को इसकी जांच करने के लिए लिखा और CAG को भी लिखा कि वह इसकी जांच करें। हमने NLM में अपॉइंटमेंट करके पता लगाने का काम किया। We are addressing this problem. जो यह 30 से 40 परसेंट फंड को siphon करने की बात कर रहे हैं, यह सत्य नहीं है। हमने इसके बारे में पूरी जानकारी प्राप्त करके CAG को इन्वॉल्व करने की कोशिश की है, हम स्टेट गवर्नमेंट से भी सूचना ले रहे हैं और Obudsman के लागू करने के बाद, हम समझते हैं कि इस तरह की सूचना आ रही है, उसके बारे में जनता के सामने सही तथ्य सामने आ पाएंगे। जो जनरल कमेंट 30-40फंड का जो करने का है, मैं समझता हूं कि यह स्थिति सही नहीं है।

(समाप्त)

Q. NO. 273

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please. Please observe decorum in the House.

SHRI T. K. RANGARAJAN: Sir, my first supplementary is: What is the total value and percentage of the NPA, Non-Performing Assets, of these banks? What efforts are under way to reduce these outstanding liabilities?

SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA: Sir, the NPA of the nationalised banks is around 2.8 per cent at present, and efforts are being made to reduce this NPA by issuing various circulars and instructions by the Government, as well as, by the Reserve Bank of India.

SHRI T. K. RANGARAJAN: Sir, it is 2.8 per cent. By merely issuing circulars will you be able to recover those monies? Big people, heavyweights, have borrowed. There are 101 ways to escape from that NPA and finally you will write them off. What exactly are you doing?

My second supplementary is this. I think there is a uniform policy. What are you doing, as a Minister? Every Ministry is having the same type of Non-Performing Assets. Take, for example, Indian Oil Corporation. Its Non-Performing Assets are to the tune of Rs.530 crores. There are two big people involved. I know who they are.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Supplementary, please.

SHRI T. K. RANGARAJAN: My supplementary is this. What is the method that you are going to adopt?

MR. CHAIRMAN: We are running out of time. Do you want an answer to your question or do you want to make a statement out of turn?

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SHRI T. K. RANGARAJAN: The question is: What are the immediate steps taken by you to recover the money and to reduce the NPA?

SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA: Sir, several steps have been taken to reduce the NPA, and there are guidelines from the Reserve Bank of India to reduce the NPA and to recover the money. The banks are using the OTS, One Time Settlement Scheme, as per the guidelines of the Reserve Bank of India. The hon. Member would be happy to know that by taking several steps, the NPA of the various banks is coming down every year. The banks are recovering. The SARFAESI Act is being followed in all the cases.

(Ends)

Q. NO. 274

DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE: Sir, my first supplementary is: What major steps are you going to take to recover the losses? Have you prepared any plan?

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL: Sir, there are various measures which have been initiated to stem the extent of loss, that is, first to reduce the quantum of expenditure and to make sure that there is revenue enhancement. There is a difficult time for the aviation industry as also for our national carrier. I am sure that various steps have been taken. Since the time is less, I will send a proper answer in writing to the hon. Member.

(Ends)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question Hour is over.

VK-LP/1N/12.00

(MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN in the Chair)

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

SHRI G.K. VASAN: Sir, I lay on the Table;

I. A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers, under sub-section (1) of Section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:

(a) Ninth Annual Report and Accounts of the Ennore Port Limited (EPL), Chennai, for the year 2008-09, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India thereon.

(b) Review by Government on the working of the above Company.

II. A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers, under Section 5(E) of the Dock Workers (Regulation of Employment) Act, 1948:

(a) Fifty-eighth Administration Report and Annual Accounts of the

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erstwhile Bombay Dock Labour Board (Ex-BDLB), Mumbai, for the year 2008-09, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.

- (b) Forty-eighth Administration Report and Annual Accounts of the Visakhapatnam Dock Labour Board (VDLB), Visakhapatnam, for the year 2008-09, together with the Auditors Report on the Accounts.
- (c) Review by Government on the working of the above Boards.

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL: Sir, I lay on the Table, a copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following Notifications of the Ministry of Civil Aviation, under Section 14 A of the Aircraft Act, 1934 together with Explanatory Note on the Notifications:

- (1) G.S.R. 744 (E), dated the 12th October, 2009, publishing the Aircraft (Thirteenth Amendment) Rules, 2009.
- (2) G.S.R. 757 (E), dated the 16th October, 2009, publishing the Aircraft (Fifteenth Amendment) Rules, 2009.
- (3) G.S.R. 823 (E), dated the 18th November, 2009, publishing the Aircraft (Carriage of Dangerous Goods) Amendment Rules, 2009.

SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA: Sir, I lay on the Table;

I. A copy (in English and Hindi) of the Ministry of Finance (Department of Financial Services) Notification No. S.O. 2383(E), dated the 15th September, 2009, publishing the Nationalised Banks (Management and Miscellaneous Provisions) (Amendment) Scheme, 2009, under sub-section (6) of Section 9 of the Banking Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) Act, 1970.

II. A copy (in English and Hindi) of the Ministry of Finance (Department of Financial Services) Notification No. S.O. 2384(E), dated the 15th September, 2009, publishing the Nationalised Banks (Management and Miscellaneous Provisions) (Amendment) Scheme, 2009, under sub-section (6) of Section 9 of the Banking Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) Act, 1980.

III. A copy (in English and Hindi) of the Ministry of Finance (Department of Financial Services) Notification No. S.O. 2402 (E), dated the 18th September, 2009, publishing Corrigendum to S.O. 2383 (E), dated

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the 15th September, 2009.

IV. A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following Notifications of the Ministry of Finance (Department of Financial Services), under sub-section (3) of Section 48 of the Life Insurance Corporation of India Act, 1956:—

- (1) G.S.R. 631 (E), dated the 2nd September, 2009, publishing the Life Insurance Corporation of India Class I Officers (Revision of Terms and Conditions of Service) Amendment Rules, 2009.
- (2) G.S.R. 753 (E), dated the 15th October, 2009, publishing the Life Insurance Corporation of India (Special Allowance for In-House Development of Actuarial Capability) Amendment Rules, 2009.
- (3) G.S.R. 818 (E), dated the 12th November, 2009, publishing the Life Insurance Corporation of India Development Officers (Revision of Certain Terms and Conditions of Service) Rules, 2009.

V. A copy (in English and Hindi) of the Ministry of Finance (Department of Economic Affairs) Notification No. G.S.R. 829 (E), dated the 17th November, 2009, publishing the Coinage of the One Hundred Rupees and Five Rupees coined to commemorate the occasion of 60 years of the Commonwealth Rules, 2009, under sub-section (3) of Section 21 of the Coinage Act, 1906.

VI. A copy (in English and Hindi) of the Ministry of Finance (Department of Economic Affairs) Notification G.S.R. 748 (E), dated the 13th October, 2009, publishing the Post Office Savings Account (Amendment) Rules, 2009, under sub-section (3) of Section 15 of the Government Savings Banks Act, 1873.

VII. A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers, under Section 29 of the Life Insurance Corporation Act, 1956:

- (a) Fifty-second Annual Report and Accounts of the Life Insurance Corporation for India (LIC), Mumbai, for the year 2008-09, together with the Auditors Report on the Accounts.
- (b) Review by Government on the working of the above Corporation.
- (c) Thirty - ninth Valuation Report of the Life Insurance

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Corporation of India as on 31st March, 2009.

VIII. A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the Annual Report on the working and activities of the following Banks for the year 2008-09, together with Accounts and Auditors Report thereon, under sub-section (8) of Section 10 of the Banking Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) Act, 1980:

1. Corporation Bank
2. Oriental Bank of Commerce
3. Vijaya Bank

IX. A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the Annual Report on the working and activities of the following Banks for the year 2008-09, together with Accounts and Auditors Report thereon, under sub-section (8) of Section 10 of the Banking Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) Act, 1970:

1. Bank of Baroda
2. Canara Bank
3. Dena Bank
4. Indian Bank
5. Indian Overseas Bank
6. Punjab National Bank
7. UCO Bank

SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA: Sir, I lay on the Table;

I. A copy (in English and Hindi) of the Ministry of Finance (Department of Revenue) Notification No. G.S.R. 805 (E), dated the 10th November, 2009, amending Notification No. G.S.R. 277 (E), dated the 1st April, 2003, to substitute certain entries in the original Notification, under Section 159 of the Customs Act, 1962, together with Explanatory Memorandum on the Notification.

II. A copy (in English and Hindi) of the following papers:

(a) Annual Report and Accounts of the National Institute of Public

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Finance and Policy, New Delhi, for the year 2008-09, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.

(b) Review by Government on the working of the above Institute.

SHRI MURLI DEORA: Sir, I lay on the Table;

I. A copy (in English and Hindi) of the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas Notification G.S.R. 812 (E), dated the 12th November, 2009, publishing the Appellate Tribunal for the Petroleum and Natural Gas (Procedure, Form, Fee and Record of Proceedings) Rules, 2009, under Section 62 of the Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board Act, 2006.

II. A copy (in English and Hindi) of the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas Notification G.S.R. 615 (E), dated the 29th August, 2009, amending Notification No. S.O. 219 (E), dated the 26th March, 1981, to substitute certain entries in the original Notification, under Section 10 of the Oilfield (Regulation and Development) Act, 1948.

III. A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers, under sub-section (1) of Section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:

- (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the Balmer Lawrie Investments Limited (BLIL), Kolkata, for the year 2008-09, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India thereon.
- (b) Ninety-second Annual Report and Accounts of the Balmer Lawrie and Company Limited, Kolkata, for the year 2008-09, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India thereon.
- (c) Fifty-sixth Annual Report and Accounts of the Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL), Mumbai, for the year 2008-09, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India thereon.
- (d) Fifty-seventh Annual Report and Accounts of the Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL), Mumbai, for the year 2008-09, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India thereon.

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India thereon.

- (e) Fifth Annual Report and Accounts of the Indian Strategic Petroleum Reserves Limited (ISPRL), New Delhi, for the year 2008-09, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India thereon.
- (f) Annual Report and Accounts of the Biecco Lawrie Limited (BIECCO), Kolkata, for the year 2008-09, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India thereon.
- (g) Forty-fourth Annual Report and Accounts of the Engineers India Limited (EIL), New Delhi, for the year 2008-09, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India thereon.
- (h) Reviews by Government on the working of the above Companies.

IV. A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers, under sub-section (4) of Section 20 of the Oil Industry (Development) Act, 1974:

- (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the Oil Industry Development Board (OIDB), New Delhi, for the year 2008-09, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India thereon.
- (b) Review by Government on the working of the above Board.

SHRI DINESH TRIVEDI: Sir, I lay on the Table;

I. A copy (in English and Hindi) of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (Department of Health) Notification S.O. 1868 (E), dated the 31st July, 2009, regarding appointment of the 31st July 2009, as the day on which provision of Sections 36 to 47 of the Act shall come into force, under Section 93 of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006.

II. A copy (in English and Hindi) of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (Department of Health) Notification G.S.R. 651 (E), dated the 9th September, 2009, publishing the Drugs and Cosmetics (5th Amendment) Rules, 2009, under Section 38 of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940.

III. A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers:

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- (a) Annual Report of the AIDS Prevention and Control (APAC) Project, Voluntary Health Services (VHS), Chennai, for the year 2008-09.
- (b) Annual Accounts of the AIDS Prevention and Control (APAC) Project, Voluntary Health Services (VHS), Chennai, for the year 2008-09, and the Audit Report thereon.
- (c) Review by Government on the working of the above Project.

SHRI MUKUL ROY: Sir, I lay on the Table, under sub-section (1) of Section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956, a copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers:

- (a) Thirty-seventh Annual Report and Accounts of the Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL), Kochi, for the year 2008-09, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India thereon.
- (b) Review by Government on the working of the above Company.

SHRI S. GANDHI SELVAN: Sir, I lay on the Table, under Section 38 of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940, a copy (in English and Hindi) of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (Department of AYUSH) Notification G.S.R. 764 (E), dated the 20th October, 2009, publishing the Drug and Cosmetics (Sixth Amendment) Rules, 2009, together with delay statement on the Notification.

SHRI VILAS RAO DESHMUKH: Sir, on behalf of SHRI ARUN YADAV, I lay on the Table, a copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers, under sub-section (1) of Section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:

- (i)(a) Thirty-seventh Annual Report and Accounts of the Scooters India Limited (SIL), Lucknow, for the year 2008-09, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts and the comments of the

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Comptroller and Auditor General of India thereon.

- (b) Twenty-fifth Annual Report and Accounts of the Tyre Corporation of India Limited (TCIL), Kolkata, for the year 2008-09, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India thereon.
- (c) Forty-fourth Annual Report and Accounts of the Triveni Structural Limited (TSL), Naini, Allahabad, for the year 2008-09, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India thereon.
- (d) Forty-ninth Annual Report and Accounts of the Tungabhadra Steel Products Limited (TSPL), Hospet, Karnataka, for the year 2008-09, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India thereon.
- (e) Thirty-ninth Annual Report and Accounts of the Bharat Pumps and Compressors Limited (BPCL), Naini, Allahabad, for the year 2008-09, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India thereon.
- (f) Fiftieth Annual Report and Accounts of the Heavy Engineering Corporation Limited (HEC), Ranchi, for the year 2008-09, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India thereon.
- (g) Annual Report and Accounts of the M/s Bridge and Roof Company (India) Limited, Kolkata, for the year 2008-09, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India thereon.
- (h) Statement by Government accepting the above Reports.
- (ii)(a) Fifty-seventh Annual Report and Accounts of the Hindustan Cables Limited (HCL), Kolkata, the year 2008-09, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India thereon.
- (b) Sixty-second Annual Report and Accounts of the NEPA Limited, Nepanagar, Madhya Pradesh, for the year 2008-09, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts and the comments of the

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Comptroller and Auditor General of India thereon.

(c) Reviews by Government on the working of the above Companies.

SHRI PRADEEP JAIN: Sir, I lay on the Table, a copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers:

- (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the Council for Advancement of Peoples Action and Rural Technology (CAPART), New Delhi, for the year 2007-08, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.
- (b) Statement giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (a) above.

(Ends)

श्री उपसभापति : आप जाइए ..(ब्यवधान)..में आपकी बात सुनूंगा, मगर आप अपनी सीट पर जाइए ..(ब्यवधान)..

**REPORTS OF THE DEPARTMENT RELATED PARLIAMENTARY
STANDING COMMITTEE ON CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS**

SHRI A.A. JINNAH (TAMIL NADU) : Sir, I lay on the Table, a copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following Reports of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Chemicals and Fertilizers (2009-10):

- (i) First Report (Fifteenth Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants (2009-10) of the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers (Department of Pharmaceuticals);
- (ii) Second Report (Fifteenth Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants (2009-10) of the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers (Department of Fertilizers); and
- (iii) Third Report on Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations of the Committee (2008-09) contained in their Twenty-seventh Report (Fourteenth Lok Sabha) on Performance of Fertilizer Industry in Public, Private and Cooperative Sectors.

(Ends)

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**STATEMENTS OF THE COMMITTEE ON WELFARE OF
SCHEDULED CASTES AND SCHEDULED TRIBES**

SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL (GUJARAT): Sir, I lay on the Table, a copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following Statements of the Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes:

- (i) Final Action Taken Statements of the Government on the Recommendations/Observations contained in Chapter - I of the Twenty-seventh Report (Fourteenth Lok Sabha) on Reservation for and Employment of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in United India Insurance Company Limited.
- (ii) Final Action Taken Statements of the Government on the Recommendations/Observations contained in Chapter - I of the Thirtieth Report (Fourteenth Lok Sabha) on Reservation for and Employment of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in Airports Authority of India.

(Ends)

MOTION FOR ELECTION TO THE NATIONAL SHIPPING BOARD

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI G.K. VASAN): Sir, I move the following Motion:

That in pursuance of clause (a) of sub-section (2) of Section 4 of the Merchant Shipping Act, 1958 (44 of 1958), read with sub-rule (2) of Rule 4 of the National Shipping Board Rules, 1960, this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Chairman may direct, one Member from among the Members of the House, to be a member of the National Shipping Board in the vacancy caused due to the resignation of Shri Su. Thirunavukkarasar from the membership of Rajya Sabha w.e.f. the 9th November, 2009.

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

(Ends)

श्री उपसभापति : आप जाइए ..(व्यवधान)..मैं आपकी बात सुनूंगा, मगर आप अपनी सीट पर जाइए ..(व्यवधान)..

SHRI RAJNITI PRASAD: Sir, I may be allowed to speak.

श्री उपसभापति : राजनीति प्रसाद जी, आप एक मिनट मेरी बात सुनिए..(व्यवधान)..

(akg/10 पर जारी)

AKG-RG/10/12.05

श्री अली अनवर अंसारी : महोदय, हम लोगों ने 'चौथी दुनिया' अखबार के खिलाफ नोटिस दिया है। यह अखबार पूरे हाउस को ... (व्यवधान) ...

श्री उपसभापति : आपने Privilege Notice दिया है। The Privilege Notice is under the consideration of the Chairman.

श्री अली अनवर अंसारी : महोदय, यह बहुत गम्भीर मामला है ... (व्यवधान) ... सरकार हम लोगों को ... (व्यवधान) ... हम लोगों को बेइज्जत कर रही है ... (व्यवधान) ...

श्री उपसभापति : आप बैठिए ... (व्यवधान) ... मैं बताता हूँ ... (व्यवधान) ...

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श्री अली अनवर अंसारी : कोई अखबार पूरे हाउस के बारे में लिखे ... (व्यवधान) ... आसन पर भी आक्षेप किया गया है ... (व्यवधान) ... दो साल सात महीने से रंगनाथ मिश्र कमीशन की रिपोर्ट रखी हुई है ... (व्यवधान) ...

श्री उपसभापति : अंसारी साहब, आप बैठिए ... (व्यवधान) ... Please sit down ... (Interruptions) Nothing is going on record. ... (Interruptions)

श्री अली अनवर अंसारी : *

श्री उपसभापति : आप बैठिए प्लीज़ ... (व्यवधान) ... आप ज़रा रूल्स पढ़िए ... (व्यवधान) ...

श्री साबिर अली : सर, हम आपका protection चाहते हैं ... (व्यवधान) ...

श्री उपसभापति : आप क्या protection चाहते हैं ... (व्यवधान) ... आप क्या protection चाहते हैं ... (व्यवधान) ... आप बैठिए ... (व्यवधान) ...

श्री साबिर अली : *

श्री उपसभापति : आप क्या बोल रहे हैं ... (व्यवधान) ... Please sit down, I am on my legs. Please sit down ... (Interruptions) देखिए, अंसारी साहब, आप बैठिए ... (व्यवधान) ... आप क्या कर रहे हैं ... (व्यवधान) ... प्लीज़ आप बैठिए ... (व्यवधान) ... मैं खड़ा हूँ, आप बैठिए। देखिए, एक अखबार में जो कुछ आया हुआ है, उसके ऊपर आपने चेयरमैन को एक Privilege Notice दिया है ... (व्यवधान) ... ठीक है, मैं उसकी merits पर नहीं बोल रहा हूँ। आपने नोटिस दिया है। रूल्स के हिसाब से the notice is under the consideration of the hon. Chairman. Once he takes a decision, the matter will be notified. इसके ऊपर दूसरी कोई कार्रवाई हमारे सदन में नहीं है। इसके ऊपर मैम्बर्स की तरफ से भी कोई नोटिस नहीं है। अगर आप इसको उठाना चाहते हैं, तो आप proper notice दें, फिर आप इसे उठा सकते हैं।

श्री साबिर अली : सर, नोटिस है ... (व्यवधान) ...

श्री उपसभापति : कहाँ है नोटिस? ... (व्यवधान) ... कहाँ है नोटिस? नोटिस तो नहीं है ... (व्यवधान) ... Mr. Madhu, what is it that you want?(Interruptions) Where is

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the notice?(Interruptions) That is not the notice. Showing a newspaper is not the notice. You are all experienced Members. Please sit down...(Interruptions) I agree that a Privilege Notice has been given. That is under the consideration of the hon. Chairman. Beyond that, there is no matter before this House, and it will not be taken up...(Interruptions)

SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM: It is the request of all the Members...(Interruptions)

श्री उपसभापति : आप क्या चाहते हैं? ... (व्यवधान) ... रिपोर्ट को टेबल करना चेयर का काम नहीं है ... (व्यवधान) ... आप उस पर नोटिस दीजिए कि रिपोर्ट को टेबल करना है, that will be considered. ... (Interruptions) आप इस तरह से नहीं उठा सकते ... (व्यवधान) ...

श्री साबिर अली : सर, हम आपका protection चाहते हैं ... (व्यवधान) ...

श्री उपसभापति : आप बेकार में अपना और हाउस का वक्त जाया कर रहे हैं ... (व्यवधान) ... देखिए, आप जो चाहते हैं, अगर उसके लिए proper notice दें, तो वह consider किया जाएगा। आप जो भी कहें, बगैर नोटिस के कुछ नहीं होगा ... (व्यवधान) ... मैं आपसे यह कह रहा हूँ कि आप ... (व्यवधान) ... देखिए, अजीज पाशा जी, आप नोटिस के बगैर ... (व्यवधान) ... Nobody wants to listen. What can I do? ... (Interruptions)

SHRI D. RAJA: Sir, the issue is very simple. The issue is being raised repeatedly in this House. The Government should make some categorical assurance that the Report will be placed on the Table of the House. That is all they want. The privilege matter is a separate issue.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: It is not for the Chair to ask the Government to lay any Report on the Table of the House. If the Government has not tabled the Report of any Commission of Inquiry, you give a notice. Accordingly, it will be considered...(Interruptions)

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श्री तारिक अनवर : सर, इस बात को कई बार इस हाउस में उठाया गया है, इसलिए यह जरूरी है कि जल्द-से-जल्द इसको पेश किया जाए। ... (व्यवधान) ...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I have identified Shri N.K. Singh.

(1पी/एससीएच पर आगे)

SCH-TDB/12.10/1P

श्री तारिक अनवर: डिप्टी चेयरमैन सर, यह रिपोर्ट लगभग सार्वजनिक हो चुकी है, लेकिन उसे अभी तक राज्य सभा के पटल पर रखा नहीं गया है और इसी वजह से यह असंतोष है ... (व्यवधान)

श्री उपसभापति: इसीलिए मैं कह रहा हूँ ... (व्यवधान) तारिक अनवर जी, मैं कह रहा हूँ कि अगर आपको रिपोर्ट रखवानी है, तो आप नोटिस दीजिए ... (व्यवधान) In whatever form which is available to you, give a notice. That will be considered, and then it will be discussed. ... (Interruptions)...

SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: Sir, we have given the notice so many time. ... (Interruptions)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: There is no notice pending on this issue before us. ... (Interruptions) ... There is no notice pending before us. ... (Interruptions)...

SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: Sir, the Scheduled Castes, Dalits, Muslims and Christians ... (Interruptions) ... their benefit issue is ... (Interruptions)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: It is just being raised, but there is no structured notice before the Chair as to in which form you want to raise it. ... (Interruptions) ... There is a form ... (Interruptions)...

SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: Sir, I am just making a point. ... (Interruptions)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, I am telling you to give a notice. ... (Interruptions)...

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श्री अली अनवर अंसारी: हाउस चल रहा है और मंत्री बाहर मीडिया के सामने बयान दे रहे हैं ...(व्यवधान)

SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: Sir, it has been raised in the Zero Hour.
...(Interruptions)...

SHRI N.K. SINGH (BIHAR): Sir, I think that you would very kindly recall that with your permission, in this very Session, I am not talking now of the various other Sessions when this has been repeatedly raised, we have raised this issue repeatedly at the time when the issue of Mr. Chidambaram's laying the Liberhan Commission Report was being considered. Many of the Members were agitated that this Report of the Ranganath Mishra Commission, which is available freely under the RTI, fully printed in newspapers, media debates are going, should be laid on the Table of the House. Sir, the hon. Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office, who was present on that day, seems to have given some kind of an indication that the Government was taking note of the serious observations which the Members were making for lack of disclosure of a Report which is now publicly available. So, I think, it is only fair, Sir, that you direct the Government that they must come out with a more coherent response to a matter which is agitating all of us.

...(Interruptions)...

श्री अली अनवर अंसारी: हाउस चल रहा है और मंत्री बाहर बोल रहे हैं, यह कैसे चलेगा ...(व्यवधान)

श्री अली अनवर अंसारी: सर यह हाउस की अवमानना का सवाल है, हाउस का मखौल उड़ाया जा रहा है ...(व्यवधान)

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Unless the report is under the Commission of Inquiries Act, it is not possible for the Chair to direct the Government

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to lay all the reports which the Government gets. ...(Interruptions)... आप जरा सुनिए न। ...(व्यवधान) प्लीज़ जरा मेरी बात सुनिए। ...(व्यवधान) If the report is under the Commission of Inquiries Act, the Government is duty-bound to lay the report within the stipulated time under the Commission of Inquiries Act. There are several reports which are before the Government. And at this stage, I will not be able to say much because I don't know whether it is under the Commission of Inquiries Act or not. If it is under the Commission of Inquiries Act, then, give the notice why the Government has not laid the report within six months, as stipulated in the Act. Then, the Chair will consider it. ...(Interruptions)...

SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT (WEST BENGAL): Sir, may I raise a point? ...(Interruptions)... Sir, there are procedures in Parliament in which the Chair gives protection to the Members of the House who, across party lines, have raised the issue that the Ranganath Mishra Commission Report should be laid in Parliament. We may have differences. There may be some who say that it should not be implemented, there are those of us who feel that it should definitely be implemented. But, the point is, when public money is being spent, so much time, energy and money is spent, all the Members are agitated saying lay it on the Table of the House, Sir, you can, as the custodian of the interests and the rights of all the Members in the House, at least, indicate to the Government that it would be appropriate for them to lay the Report on the Table. ...(Interruptions)... Just examine the matter, Sir. ...(Interruptions)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The Chair will have to examine it. ...(Interruptions)... The Chair will examine whether it can issue a direction

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to lay the Report. ...(Interruptions)... I will have to examine it. I cannot say that...(Interruptions)...

श्री तारिक अनवर: यह पूरे हाउस की भावना इन्होंने रखी है, अब आप अपने द्वारा इस पर उचित कार्यवाही कीजिए ...(व्यवधान)

श्री उपसभापति: ठीक है।

SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Sir, the hon. Members have already expressed their viewpoints. ...(Interruptions)... Let the Report be tabled in the House. ...(Interruptions)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I hope the Government has taken note of the feelings of the hon. Members. ...(Interruptions)... It is for the Government to react. I cannot give any direction to the Government to lay the Report. ...(Interruptions)...

(Followed by 1q-kgg)

kgg-psv/1q/12.15

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Let us take up the Calling Attention. (Interruptions)

SHRI D. RAJA: Under what Act the Ranganath Misra Commission was constituted is not the issue we are challenging. We want... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You are asking the Government to lay the report. That is the point. (Interruptions)

SHRI D. RAJA: You can ask the Government...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Under what rule can I ask? (Interruptions)

SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: Sir, ask the Minister to respond. (Interruptions) Just a direction will do. (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I would request the hon. Members to maintain order. The Members' feeling is known to the Government. I

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hope the Government would take note of what the feeling of the Members is. (Interruptions) मंत्री क्या कर रहे हैं? ...(व्यवधान)... यह कहाँ है? ...(व्यवधान)... आप बोल रहे हैं, आप नोटिस दीजिए न? ...(व्यवधान)... मंत्री जी ने बयान दिया है, आप नोटिस दीजिए ...(व्यवधान)...

SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: No, Sir, that is not enough. (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Beyond this, I cannot say anything. (Interruptions)

The House is adjourned for fifteen minutes.

The House then adjourned at seventeen minutes past twelve of the clock.

SSS/1R/12.30

**The House reassembled at thirty-two minutes past twelve of the clock,
MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN in the Chair.**

...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Let us now take up Calling Attention Motion.

SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Sir, it is a matter of concern. We had raised the matter. Already the Minister of Minority Affairs has gone to the television channel and announced that he is going to implement the Ranganath Mishra Commission Report.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Where?

SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: In the TV channel he did it but in the Parliament he is not raising. It is a serious thing. The Minister of Minority Affairs has gone to the TV channel and announced that he is going to implement the...(Interruptions)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: When?

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SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Just now. He has gone to the TV studio in the Parliament. Sir, it is a serious thing. The Minister has gone to the TV studio and announced that he is going to implement the recommendations of the Ranganath Mishra Commission Report. What is this? (Interruptions) Let the Parliamentary Affairs Minister come here.

श्री अली अनवर अंसारी : हाउस चल रहा है और मिनिस्टर बाहर जाकर बोल रहे हैं..(व्यवधान)

SHRI PENUMALLI MADHU: Look at the darkness. (Interruptions). Sir, you have to protect us. (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I don't know...(Interruptions)

PROF. P. J. KURIEN: Sir, we have already sent for the Parliamentary Affairs Minister to be here and give his reaction on this.

SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Till then, Sir, you can adjourn the House. Let the Minister come. What is wrong in it? It is a matter of concern of the minority community and the backward sections of our society. Naturally,...

PROF. P. J. KURIEN: You allow the business to resume. The Minister will come. Sir, the Parliamentary Affairs Minister will be...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: He will be coming and then we can take it up.

SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: It is a matter of concern and related to the minority community and the backward sections of our society.

PROF. P. J. KURIEN: Please allow the business to resume. The Parliamentary Affairs Minister will be coming.

SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: How can it be possible?

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MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: He will be coming and, then, we will take it up.

PROF. P. J. KURIEN: Sir, the Parliamentary Affairs Minister will be coming soon. Let him allow the business to resume.

SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Sir, it is a matter of concern and related to the millions of people in this country belonging to the minority and backward community. Let the Minister come and assure the House when they are going to lay the Report on the table of the House. When is he going to come? (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: He has come. (Interruptions)

श्री उपसभापति : आप बैठिए। ..(व्यवधान).. आप बैठिए न। ..(व्यवधान)

(followed by NBR/1S)

-SSS/NBR-AKA/1S/12.35.

SHRI N.K. SINGH: Mr. Minister, at least, you could have informed us first...(Interruptions)...You could have informed the House first ...(Interruptions)...We are told that you have made some comments about the Report on some TV channel...You inform us first ...(Interruptions)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The House is agitated about non-laying of the Ranganath Misra Commission Report on the Table. The Report has been published in some newspaper. This matter has been raised in the House two or three times...(Interruptions)...One minute. One minute ...(Interruptions)...Since the hon. Minister was not there, I am just explaining...(Interruptions)...Not briefing...(Interruptions)...

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**THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE
MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED):** Mr.

Deputy Chairman, Sir, I am grateful that the hon. Members have expressed their concern, desire and anxiety to see the Report. To tell you the truth, Sir, the matter is under consideration of the Government. We had said so. There was also a requirement under the RTI. We were asked to disclose it under the RTI. The matter is before the High Court. So, it is *sub judice*. We have told to High Court exactly the same thing. The matter is being considered actively by the Government. As soon as the Government takes a decision, we will bring it before the House. There is no question of not bringing it before the House.

SHRI SABIR ALI: Sir, this is not the matter. We are asking the Government to lay the Report on the Table of the House ...(Interruptions)...We want the hon. Minister to lay it on the Table of the House...(Interruptions)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: What is that you want? ...(Interruptions)... Please sit down...(Interruptions)...

SHRI SABIR ALI: Sir, the hon. Minister is delaying the matter ...(Interruptions)...We are asking as to when the Report would be laid on the Table of the House...(Interruptions)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You see, the Minister has said that the matter is under consideration of the Government...(Interruptions)...I cannot go beyond that...(Interruptions)...No, no...(Interruptions)...Mr. Sabir Ali, please go to your seat...(Interruptions)...The point is, you wanted response from the Government and the Government has responded. The matter ends there.

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SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Sir, when is the hon. Minister going to place it on the Table of the House?...(Interruptions)...At least, that assurance the hon. Minister can give...(Interruptions)...

SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Sir, at least, this assurance has to be given to the House...(Interruptions)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The point is, you wanted the response of the Government and the Government has responded...(Interruptions)...The matter ends there...(Interruptions)...

SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: He can give an assurance to the House...(Interruptions)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: This will be discussed it in the Business Advisory Committee...(Interruptions)...Let us continue with the Business ... (Interruptions)...

SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED: Sir, the House still has to debate an earlier Report of a very great importance. The other House is debating it...(Interruptions)...What is the hurry?...(Interruptions)...First we will discuss the Liberahan Report...(Interruptions)...

SHRI SABIR ALI: Sir, the hon. Minister is misleading the House ... (Interruptions)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, you wanted response of the Government. The Government has responded. Now, let us take up the Calling Attention...(Interruptions)...The present status of the W.T.O. negotiations, Shri Moinul Hassan...(Interruptions)...

श्री अली अनवर अंसारी : यहां बोलने में आपको क्या दिक्कत है ..(व्यवधान).. आप बता दीजिए हाऊस में। ..(व्यवधान)..

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MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I have already called him...(Interruptions)..I have already taken up...(Interruptions)...What is the matter? आप बैठिए। ..(व्यवधान)..अंसारी साहब, आप बैठिए। ..(व्यवधान)..

SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN (UTTAR PRADESH): Sir, the reply given by the hon. Minister is the same that was given by hon. Minister who was in-charge of this portfolio. We are hearing the same thing again. We want that this Report be placed by tomorrow. Please. You cannot say it is not possible. You cannot keep on postponing it for years together. Whom are you supporting? Whom do you want to cover? This is not fair. We have been asking in the House and the hon. Minister for laying the Report. His predecessor had said the same thing. Now, he is saying the same thing. We are not ready to listen the same thing for the second time.

(Ends)

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD (BIHAR): Sir, we have a different, distinct view about this issue. But, I am raising only one thing. I saw the hon. Minister on a channel in question. He said, 'within six months I am going to bring it.' Is it fair on his part, when the Session is going on, to make this kind of a policy statement on a TV channel ...(Interruptions)...This is a very fundamental issue...(Interruptions)...The hon. Minister may kindly explain this to the House...(Interruptions)...

SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED: Sir, I need to explain to my learned friend. My learned friend has been I & B Minister. He should watch television a little more carefully. We were being asked whether in our Manifesto...(Interruptions)...

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SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: I have seen and listened to every word of yours, Mr. Minister.

SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED: You cannot force words into my mouth. We have very clearly said in our Manifesto that we are going to take a view on OBC Lists, which includes OBC Minority people. Sir, you know Karnataka model and Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh models. We have committed to this model in our Manifesto.

(CONTD. BY PB "1T")

-NBR/PB/1T/12.40

SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED (CONTD.): Nothing has been said about this Report. I can get my learned friend a copy of the CD. If he had only watched carefully, he would have known that I cannot and will not say anything on the Report because I do understand some parliamentary procedures as well. ...(Interruptions)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: He has clarified. ...(Interruptions)... He has clarified. ...(Interruptions)... He has clarified. ...(Interruptions)... He has clarified, please. ...(Interruptions)...

SHRI SABIR ALI: Sir, through you, I would like to put only one question. My question is, whether they are going to table the Report or not?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You see, they have said, 'it is under consideration.' Now, whether they do it or not, I cannot say. ...(Interruptions)...

SHRI SABIR ALI: You should ask. ...(Interruptions)... You should ask, when will it be done? ...(Interruptions)...

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MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No; no ...(Interruptions)... Now, Mr. Moinul Hassan. ...(Interruptions)... Mr. Moinul Hassan. ...(Interruptions)... Mr. Moinul Hassan, call the attention of the Minister. ...(Interruptions)... Call the attention of the Minister. ...(Interruptions)..

CALLING ATTENTION ON THE PRESENT STATUS OF W.T.O. NEGOTIATIONS

SHRI MOINUL HASSAN (WEST BENGAL): Sir, I beg to call the attention of the Minister of Commerce and Industry to the present status of the WTO Negotiations. ...(Interruptions)...

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ANAND SHARMA): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, the Doha Round of trade negotiations at the World Trade Organisation (WTO) has been underway since 2001. The years 2007 and 2008 saw intensive discussions and considerable progress on many elements of the Agriculture and non-agricultural market access (NAMA) modalities. (These include the formulae and methodology for cutting tariffs on agricultural and industrial goods, reducing domestic subsidies in agriculture, phasing out export subsidies as well as the contours of flexibilities/exemptions from tariff cuts on both agricultural and industrial goods.)

The July 2008 WTO Mini Ministerial meeting ended without any agreement on some key issues like special safeguard mechanism (SSM) in agriculture and sectoral initiatives in NAMA.

Following the impasse at the July 2008 mini-Ministerial, members expressed the need for an early resumption of talks. Based on subsequent discussions, the Chairs of the Agriculture and NAMA

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Negotiating Groups brought out revised draft modalities on 6 December 2008. The draft modalities are available at the WTO site too.

India has always been a strong protagonist of the multilateral trading system. We have consistently maintained that an early conclusion of the Doha Round is in our best interests.

Going by the commitment expressed by world leaders at international meetings for an early conclusion of the Doha Round, India took the initiative to re-energise the on-going discussions, by holding an informal Ministerial Meeting during September, 2009. The meeting signalled considerable political enthusiasm for an early conclusion of the Doha Round.

Discussions at the WTO have been resumed at the Senior Officials' level on technical requirements and modalities.

The 7th WTO Ministerial meeting was held in Geneva from 30th November-3rd December, 2009. The general theme for discussion was "The WTO, the Multilateral Trading System and the Current Global Economic Environment."

The Conference was not a substantive negotiating round but a platform for Ministers to review the functioning of WTO, including the Doha Round, and to discuss issues such as monitoring and surveillance of disputes, accessions, Aid for Trade, technical assistance and international governance.

The main negotiating issues and the key elements from India's perspective in the Doha Round are to honour the development dimension; protecting the interest of poor farmers and industry and seeking greater market opportunities for its farmers and industry.

India has been engaging with its coalition partners to ensure that India's key interests are maintained. (Ends)

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MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Yes, Mr. Moinul Hassan; you have seven minutes.

SHRI MOINUL HASSAN (WEST BENGAL): Sir, the 7th WTO Ministerial meeting was held in Geneva from 30th November to 3rd December, 2009. Sir, the main theme of the discussion was "The WTO, the Multilateral Trading System and the Current Global Economic Environment".

Sir, my point is, the Ministerial meeting was held at the backdrop of the global economic crisis which has led to a collapse in global trade. According to the WTO estimates, the global trade has seen at least 9 per cent decline in 2009. Our country is not out of the purview of this crisis.

(Contd. by 1u/SKC)

1u/12.45/skc

SHRI MOINUL HASSAN (Contd.): So, every citizen wants to know how we protect our interests in different areas, particularly, agriculture and employment-intensive small-scale industries.

Sir, WTO consists of various negotiating groups in Geneva, and, as I understand, they are carrying out negotiations in a non-transparent manner. They believe that India has substantially moved away from its earlier position, particularly, in agriculture. May I know from the hon. Minister, what the message of the WTO talks is to the farming community of our country, especially the small peasantry engaged in largely rain-fed agriculture? So far as industrial tariff is concerned, due to the present economic recession, our employment intensive industries like textile, leather garments, leather goods, gems and jewellery, have already faced a devastating effect. What have we done to protect our

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indigenous industry when developed countries are trying to open new markets for their flagging industry?

Sir, we are all aware of the WTO talks. The two sides appear unwilling to offer concession over agricultural subsidies and industrial products. That has caused an eight-year stalemate. In his interview after the conclusion of the mini-Ministerial meeting, the Minister was quite optimistic and said, "It has narrowed". What is the situation after the mini-Ministerial talks so far? Sir, after the meeting, which was held recently, the United States called on developing countries to make "meaningful market opening". But Brazil said that it is "unreasonable". May I know our country's opinion? What is the Ministry's opinion? What is India's opinion? Ultimately what action was taken by WTO?

Sir, the other point that I would like to make in response to the reply given by the hon. Minister is about the basic structure of WTO. The WTO is now behaving like an arbitrator and promoter of free trade. It should be an advisory council to plan the foreign trade system in such a manner as to protect the interests of all, especially the developing countries. What is the Government doing to channelize WTO's efforts in that direction?

Lastly, Sir, farmers' control over seed is the basic necessity for food security and biodiversity. But this may be lost by the patent laws and new seed laws. Would the Government think about it and protect our country's interest? (Ends)

SHRI N.K. SINGH (BIHAR): Sir, I think the Minister for Commerce is somewhat lucky, because, fortunately, the moments of inconvenient truth will be confronted by his colleague in Copenhagen, and not in Geneva,

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not for what he has done or not done, but because, perhaps, the unemployment rates in the United States being very high, and with Obama's distractions with climate change and health issues, it would take the heat off him for a little while, and for a little while, perhaps, Copenhagen would be warmer and hotter than Geneva! Having said this, Sir, there is the Doha Round and the way in which we are going is a quagmire. And the Minister must pull India out of this quagmire in which we have landed ourselves. What is this quagmire, Sir? It arises out of four critical issues. The first critical issue is, why, in the negotiating priority, did we fail to accord services the highest priority as compared to industrial tariffs and agriculture?

(Contd. by hk/1w)

HK/1w/12.50

SHRI N.K. SINGH (CONTD.): We know that tariffs on industry are already quite low. So, the advantages which we will get would be nominal. We also know that given our limited export capability on agriculture, we would have limited advantage in terms of agriculture. Why, therefore, has the services sector -- where India has such an enormous comparative advantage in terms of movement of natural persons -- been accorded a much lower priority than issues of agriculture and issues of industry? Would the Minister consider reversing this priority to be able to accord to services the priority it deserves?

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My second important question, Sir, is: Why has India agreed to a formula for reduction of non-agricultural tariffs which has minimised our bargaining advantage that we had by virtue of unilateral and autonomous liberalisation which we have pursued since Doha Round 2001? You are aware of the fact, Sir, that the Doha Round is about improving access. India had unilaterally decided to cut its tariffs very, very significantly from the time even when the Doha Round began to today when peak tariffs have been brought down from 50 per cent to no more than 15 per cent. India failed to get reciprocal advantages by some form of concessions in the market of developed countries. Far from converting these tariffs really into base tariffs, we are on the reverse being asked to further lower these tariffs and to engage in negotiations with the United States, particularly on products which are of special interests to them under the garb of harmonisation or special interest category.

So, my second question to the Minister is: Would he redress the balance in terms of having accepted a coefficient formula, the so-called Swiss formula, which Minister does not give us the advantage of because the burden is against us? We have already agreed unilaterally to a whole slew of reduction and we have not got any reciprocal advantage from the countries in terms of access to their markets. So, would you wish to reverse the negotiating strategy to bring greater balance?

My third question, Sir, is that in the negotiations on agriculture itself, India has not pressed hard enough on the proposals for disciplining the so-called green-box subsidies as decoupled income support which is being widely used, if I may say so, widely abused, by

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countries in the European community. We know that although this is about improved market access, there is a category, Sir, which you all know, called the green-box which is kept exempt from the application of tariff reduction. Several things are being put in the Green box. What the developed countries are doing is, they are using the Green box by introducing elements as decoupled income realising that you cannot have decoupled income divorced from production processes, divorced from product processes and seek the advantage which, in the long run, would prove very distortionary and inject a degree of volatility on support for agriculture. Even though 80 per cent of the tax on agriculture has been agreed, would the hon. Minister redo and revisit the Green box, particularly bring in greater discipline and eliminate what I call this particular income support measure by backdoor in which they will be protecting ourselves and our agriculture would have been left vulnerable?

My fourth question, Sir, is related to the recent proposal which we made to the Secretariat in July 2009. It is ironic and I will seek your submission to read what the proposal was. The proposal which we made for restructuring the WTO was going to invest the Secretariat of the WTO with vast authorities over and above what is being proposed for member countries. This is what we said in our July 2009 proposal. We said that "India will favour an arrangement for monitoring of recent developments and members on trade disciplines would be covered by the Committee based on compilation by the Secretariat or developments between formal meetings and verified by the members concerned." If this proposal was to be accepted, then the initiative for policing the WTO rules will pass from the hands of members to the hands of the

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Secretariat, which is, certainly, not a very desirable outcome. Finally, Sir, I think the Minister needs to address himself to one critical issue.

(Contd. by 1x/KSK)

KSK/12.55/1X

SHRI N.K. SINGH (CONTD): We have been taught in Elementary Economics by Watson that trade is an engine of growth; trade fosters multiplier effects in income gains; trade fosters reduction of poverty. The instrument of WTO today is being abused against developing countries. Sometimes, they raise the issue of labour standards. Today, the most favourite thing is raising the issue of Carbon tax to misuse the instrument of trade as a new instrument of exploitation. Would the hon. Minister assure the House that integrity of what the WTO, which is meant for being principally a trade body, does not get diverted into the exploitation of emerging economies like ours under the pretext of new subterranean kinds of influences on labour, climate change, and other things which come under the fanciful and more fashionable purview of the more major economies of the world? Sir, we would like a final assurance that trade which we are pursuing, liberalisation which we are pursuing, will remain an engine of growth and engine of poverty reduction and not be converted into a new organ for the exploitation of new emerging markets like India.

(Ends)

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: There is an announcement to be made by the hon. Minister.

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**STATEMENT RE: DECODING OF HUMAN GENOME BY
INDIAN SCIENTISTS**

**THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE
MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ**

CHAVAN): Sir, I am happy to inform the august House that the Scientists of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), working at the Institute of Genomics and Integrative Biology (IGIB), for the first time, have successfully decoded the full human genome in India. Sir, the first human genome sequence in the world was a result of International Human Genome Project comprising of scientists of six countries. This large collaborative Project began in 1990, and the sequencing was completed in 2003. This spectacular feat, at that time, was hailed equivalent to the man landing on the moon. India could not be part of this initiative in early 1990s because of resource constraints. With the completion of first few human genomes sequence in India, we are now in the league of few selected countries like the United States, the United Kingdom, China, Canada and Korea. Scientists at CSIR could achieve this feat by adopting new technology and by effectively integrating complex computational and bioinformatics tools with high throughput analytical capability using super-computers. The sequencing of first human genome in India, therefore, sets the stage for India's entry into the elite club which will open up new possibilities in diagnostics, treatment and low-cost affordable healthcare in future for the masses.

(Ends)

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CALLING ATTENTION ON THE PRESENT STATUS OF
WTO NEGOTIATIONS (CONTD.)

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): Sir, the Doha round almost stands stalemated. In my view, Sir, there are few basic reasons that this appears to be happening. Sir, there are three changes which have taken place over the last one decade in the global trade negotiations. Initially, the trade negotiations were essentially driven by the developed world. Today, there is a change of imbalance of power. Today, the developing countries, particularly after the formation of several groups like G-20, have also acquired a say in the functioning of the WTO and in the negotiations. So, the balance of power itself has slightly altered. The second is a change in the global economy which has taken place that across the world, consumers prefer to buy services and goods which are cheaper and are of the best quality. Therefore, instead of the developed world, the balance with regard to services and with regard to goods is now tilting in favour of low-cost economies. As a result of this, we get some obvious advantages. The third, Sir, is a change in the agenda also. Initially, the agenda in relation to agriculture was market access. And, today, it is being counter-balanced by the whole suggestion that there cannot be market access; trade distortions in form of trade distorting subsidies are reduced, rationalised and some of them even finally eliminated. Sir, Mr. N.K. Singh put a very relevant question with regard to the state of negotiations in the services sector. Now, this is one sector in which India is capable of providing the world with a very large number of low-cost services, both in the matter of movement of natural persons and also in the matters relating to various

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other forms of services, including outsourcing etc. Now, the service negotiations, instead of being multilateral, are either bilateral or plurilateral, for which offers and responses are going on. Obviously, it appears that the developed world is not very keen, as far as the pace of these negotiations is concerned. In the services sector, they are keen essentially on areas like financial services, retail being opened up, and there is a conscious go-slow as far as these areas of keen interest to India are concerned.

(continued by 1y - gsp)

GSP-MCM-1Y-1.00

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY (CONTD.): So, my first query to the Minister is: what is the position of negotiations as far as the services sector, particularly, in these areas is concerned.

Secondly, Sir, agriculture is of key interest to us for the reason that more than sixty per cent of India is employed, or, even, under employed, as far as agriculture is concerned. Now, the agricultural negotiations have virtually been stalemated, and, today, the key to the entire pace of movement in the WTO is such that the manufacturing sector, the NAMA negotiations, the services negotiations are not moving because agricultural negotiations are stalemated. And, the reason why agricultural negotiations is stalemated is that unless the subsidies are rationalised, some of them completely eliminated, and, some of them substantially reduced, there can't be a level-playing field. We cannot expect our subsistence farmer to compete with the highly subsidised farmer who gets almost a billion dollars a day from the developed economies in the world towards his subsidisation; his products are going

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to be much cheaper than ours, and, will, obviously, push us out of the market.

Now, as far as the subsidies are concerned, various proposals are there. The Minister in his statement has said, "the negotiating groups brought out a revised modality on 6th December, 2008". I have two fears as far as the blanks in these drafts are concerned. And, my two questions in this area relate to these blanks. Firstly, Sir, as far as the subsidies are concerned, even though there is a broad consensus building up that the export subsidies should be finally eliminated, with regard to the other form of subsidies, it is not the green box subsidies, which are going unregulated in the name of environment protection and livestock protection, even the amber box and the blue box subsidies, there is a lot of box-shifting which is taking place in the various proposals. And, the net consequence is going to be that the amount of money which goes into the pocket of the farmer in the developed countries substantially will not come down over the next decade or more, and, if in the hope of this being somewhat altered because of the drafts, and, the actual money not coming down, we open our markets to agriculture, the consequence will be an inflow of agricultural products from all over the world, which our farmers will not compete with. Even if we keep our tariffs high, Sir, any surplus, if we have, will not be able to get into the global market, will be dumped into our own markets, and, therefore, will depress our markets. So, in either case, the subsidised agriculture, whether it enters our markets or not, is destructive of the interests of the Indian farmer. Therefore, what is the specific proposal which you have, and, what is the kind of figure, in relation to each of

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these areas of subsidy, which the Government of India thinking of putting across as far as the negotiations are concerned.

Sir, the second question on agriculture is equally important, and, the question is, what is the proposal on the table to reduce the customs tariffs on various agricultural products as far as the developed and the developing countries are concerned? Sir, India has an approximately 692-odd tariff lines, unless the figure has now somewhat altered. Now, these changes are going to be brought about in the duty-structures on the bound rates. If we go by the figures -- which we are now reading, particularly, in the international media -- of reduction of approximately 30-odd per cent as far as countries like India is concerned, on how many of our tariff lines, will our bound rates come down in comparison to our present applied rates. If many of them in the Doha Round get protected, the real danger will then arise in the post-Doha Round, that is, the next round, where the figure, instead of 70 - 80 products, will probably reach 200 or 300 products. I mean, India is an economy, where even if in relation to five products, the farmer gets distressed by the inflow of foreign goods, then, his own goods, the pricing gets distressed, then, it is lakhs of farmers or millions of farmers in each tariff line, who are going to be adversely affected.

Lastly, Sir, what is the state of negotiations as far as the NAMA negotiations are concerned, or, is it completely stalemated without any progress at all?

Finally, Sir, before I conclude, I just want to give one suggestion to the hon. Minister. There have been in different areas of governance, several illustrations -- Mr. Singh referred to the climate change

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negotiations, I am not repeating our position on that -- where we seem to be getting pressured by the developed world.

(Contd. by sk-1z)

GS-SK/1Z/1.05

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY (CONTD.): As far as trade is concerned, foreign policy and trade policy never makes together. You may be the best of friends with certain countries but your trading interests, Sir, always at variance with them. Europe and United States are litigating against each other as far as the WTO is concerned. So, my suggestion to the Minister would be that please keep the current close proximity and the foreign policy emanating out of that and the pressure emanating out of that away as far as India's trading policy is concerned. Thank you.

(Ends)

SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY (ANDHRA PRADESH): Thank you, Sir. As everybody knows, in these negotiations, the United States is the important player. But they are negotiating without any Fast Track Authority from their Congress or Parliament. They are going on negotiating for their advantage. As our learned colleague, N.K. Singh, said, the major portion of the subsidies are in the Green Box. These subsidies are non-negotiable. If it is so, how the Indian farmer gets a level-playing field in the international market?

The second thing I understand is that the USA is pressurising for increasing the safeguard in agriculture up to 20 per cent. I think, it is almost accepted or going to be accepted at around 5 per cent. I would like the hon. Minister to explain India's position on this.

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In the industrial sector and also in the chemicals and pharmaceuticals sector, I understand, they are requesting for reducing the customs duty to zero per cent. Once it is done, their products will flood our market and our chemicals and pharmaceutical sector will be largely hit. So, what is the Government planning to protect these sectors?

Then, Sir, the Geneva Meeting is also over. But, still there is a lot of confusion about the negotiations, what is happening in the negotiations. I request the Minister to publish a White Paper on what is happening in the negotiations.

Then, Sir, the Government has to educate the Indian farmer about the pros and cons of these negotiations and about the WTO outcome. I would like to know from the Minister the steps taken by the Government to empower the agriculturists. Thank you.

(Ends)

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Amar Singh, you just wanted to intervene because somebody else is speaking from your Party.

श्री अमर सिंह (उत्तर प्रदेश) : धन्यवाद उपसभापति महोदय। मैं तो इतना ही कहूंगा कि यह मेरा सौभाग्य है कि इधर वाणिज्य मंत्री जी बैठे हैं, मेरे पीछे श्री एन०के० सिंह पूर्व वाणिज्य सचिव बैठे हैं और नेता प्रतिपक्ष हमारे मित्र श्री अरुण जेटली पूर्व वाणिज्य मंत्री बैठे हैं, इसलिए सदन को गुमराह नहीं किया जा सकता है। सभी वाणिज्य विशेषज्ञ यहां पर बैठे हुए हैं। मैं सिर्फ इतना ही कहना चाहता हूं कि हमने सचमुच में "वसुदेव कुटुम्बकम्" को बहुत गंभीरता से ले लिया है। हम भारत के नागरिक कम और विश्व के नागरिक ज्यादा हो गए हैं, चाहे वह एशियन का मामला हो, उसमें भी हमने केरल के रबड़ और कॉफी के किसानों की चिंता नहीं की, छूट पर छूट दे दी, चाहे WTO का मामला हो। मैं बहुत बुद्धिमान व्यक्ति नहीं हूं, इसलिए मुझे पता नहीं है कि यह ग्रीन बॉक्स है या रेड बॉक्स है, क्या है, उसमें

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कितनी सबसिडी है ? लेकिन मैं इतना जरूर माननीय मंत्री जी से जानना चाहूंगा कि जो पाश्चात्य देशों के, जो उन्नत देशों के किसान हैं, जिनको बड़ी सबसिडी मिलती है, अगर उनका मुकाबला भारत के किसानों से हो, तो वे किस तरह से उनका मुकाबला कर सकेंगे ?

उपसभाध्यक्ष (प्रो० पी०जे० कुरियन) पीठासीन हुए।

आप विश्व नागरिक बनिए, आप carbon emission भी कर दीजिए, डेवलेप नेशन्स के आगे, अमेरिका के आगे घुटने टेक दीजिए, यहां भी घुटने टेक दीजिए, हमें कोई आपत्ति नहीं है। हमें आपके प्रो-अमेरिकन स्टैंड से, प्रो-डेवलेप्ड कंट्रीज के स्टैंड से, चाहे वह ग्लोबल वार्मिंग हो, चाहे WTO का मामला हो, सब में आप समर्पण करिए, लेकिन विदेशी किसानों के मुकाबले में हमारे भारत के किसानों का संरक्षण इकॉनामी में कैसे हो, यह आप हमें बता दीजिए, हमें संतुष्ट कर दीजिए और आप अमेरिका की जय हो, जय हो करते रहिए।

(समाप्त)

(2ए पर आगे)

ASC-YSR/1.10/2A

श्री बृजभूषण तिवारी (उत्तर प्रदेश): महोदय, अभी माननीय मंत्री जी ने जो अपना वक्तव्य दिया है, उसमें उन्होंने कहा है कि "दोहा दौर में भारत के परिप्रेक्ष्य में वार्ता के मुख्य मुद्दे एवं महत्वपूर्ण विषय विकासात्मक आयाम संबंधी कार्य पूरा करना, गरीब किसानों एवं उद्योग जगत के हितों का संरक्षण करना और अपने किसानों एवं उद्योग हेतु अधिकाधिक बाजार अवसर प्राप्त करना है।"

मैं समझता हूँ कि इन मुद्दों पर अभी तक कोई सहमति नहीं बनी है। जैसा कि अभी माननीय सदस्यों ने कृषि के क्षेत्र में और सेवा के क्षेत्र में यह प्रश्न उठाया है, परन्तु भारत की सरकार और विशेषकर जो हमारे विदेश मंत्री हैं, वे इतने अति उत्साहित हैं कि वे बराबर इसकी मीटिंग के लिए बड़े प्रयासरत हैं। आप जानते हैं कि विश्व व्यापार संगठन की स्थापना, स्वतंत्र एवं निष्पक्ष व्यापार के जरिए, दुनिया के देशों के करोड़ों गरीबों की गरीबी को गरीबी के चंगुल से मुक्त कराने के लिए की गई थी, लेकिन यह संगठन अपने उद्देश्यों में असफल रहा। जैसा कि माननीय सदस्यों ने कहा है कि संगठन में जो सम्पन्न तथा विकसित देश हैं, उनका बोलबाला है और उन्होंने जो तकनीकी तरीके से नियम बनाए हैं, वे हमारे

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विरुद्ध हैं। क्योंकि वैश्वीकरण और WTO की नीतियों के लागू किए जाने के बाद से ही दक्षिण एशिया में अमीरी और गरीबी की खाई और चौड़ी हो गई है। UNDP के अनुसार OECD के देश एक दिन में एक अरब डालर की सब्सिडी देते हैं। कृषि सहायता पर OECD द्वारा किए गए व्यय का 50 फीसदी यूरोपीय देशों में और लगभग 40 फीसदी जापान में व्यय किया जाता है। अमेरिका में कृषि सहायता 2 अरब से बढ़कर 28 अरब डालर हो गई है। यह वस्तुस्थिति है, इसलिए जो समाचारपत्रों में खबर छपी है, मैं उसके बारे में माननीय मंत्री जी से जानना चाहता हूँ और मैं उसे कोट भी करना चाहता हूँ,

"Actually, WTO Chief Pascal Lamy is right when he said at the inaugural of the ongoing WTO mini-Ministerial meet in New Delhi yesterday that 80 per cent of the issues of the Doha round have been resolved. He was telling the truth. What remains is merely the tightening of the nuts and bolts of the agreement." मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से यह पूछना चाहता हूँ कि जो Lamy साहब का बयान है, इसमें कितनी सच्चाई है और उस वस्तुस्थिति से सदन को भी अवगत कराएं? क्योंकि देश में यह भावना बहुत प्रबल होती जा रही है और जैसा कि माननीय श्री अमर सिंह ने अपनी शंका व्यक्त की है कि भारत सरकार की ज्यादा दरियादिली के कारण, जो भारत के किसान हैं, उनका नुकसान हो रहा है तथा भारत के वाणिज्य एवं व्यापार का भी नुकसान हो रहा है। आप जानते हैं कि यूरोप के विकसित देश किस प्रकार की protectionism कर रहे हैं, वे अपना माल तो हमारे बाजार में भेजना चाहते हैं, वे हमारे बाजार को खुला रखना चाहते हैं। अगर उनको पैसा यहां आ सकता है, उनकी पूंजी आ सकती है, तो हमारे लोग वहां पर जाकर क्यों नहीं काम कर सकते हैं? हम अपनी सेवा उनको क्यों उपलब्ध नहीं करा सकते हैं? इसके लिए वे तैयार नहीं हैं, इसलिए जिस प्रकार की ये सेवा शर्तें अथवा नियम WTO द्वारा लागू किए जा रहे हैं, मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से पूछना चाहता हूँ कि ...(समय की घंटी).. इस संबंध में वे अपनी क्या राय रखते हैं, ताकि वह भारत के किसानों, व्यापारियों एवं यहां सेवा में लगे लोगों के हित में हो।

(समाप्त)

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श्री आर.सी. सिंह (पश्चिमी बंगाल) : सर, यह जो नेगोसिएशन चल रही है, इससे ऐसा लगता है कि शायद ही हम किसी favourable consideration की तरफ बढ़ रहे हैं। इस राउंड का भविष्य अनेक complications से भरा हुआ है, चाहे वह टेक्नीकल हो या कोई अन्य हो। भारत के हितों की दृष्टि से बहुत ही महत्वपूर्ण है कि service and Non-agriculture Market Access में थोड़े बहुत फायदे मिलने पर वह किसानों के हितों को न छोड़ दे। सर, इसमें विकसित देशों द्वारा जो सब्सिडाइज्ड एक्सपोर्ट है, वह सबसे बड़ी चिंता का विषय है।

(क्रमशः 2B/LPपर)

LP-VKK/1.15/2B

श्री आर.सी.सिंह (क्रमागत): जो विकासशील देशों के लिए food and livelihood security के ऊपर खतरा पैदा करती है, इसलिए विकसित देशों को अपने agricultural subsidies में कमी लाने के लिए बाध्य करना हमारे जैसे विकासशील देशों के लिए सबसे बड़ा लक्ष्य होना चाहिए।

सर, मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से यह जानना चाहूंगा कि क्या यह सत्य है कि भारत ने trade information system revitalizing of WTO Committees, special legal provision of market access to Least Developing Countries and setting of standards and monitoring of Regional Trade Agreements की स्थापना का प्रस्ताव दिया है? अगर हां, तो क्या यह सत्य है कि ये सभी बातें अभी हाल में चल रही negotiations के main agenda का part नहीं बन सकी हैं? अगर हां, तो मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से इसका कारण जानना चाहूंगा?

सर, मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से यह भी जानना चाहूंगा कि क्या यह सत्य नहीं है कि non-Agriculture Market Access की मौजूदा स्थिति विकासशील देशों के लिए बहुत कठिन स्थिति का निर्माण करेगी, क्योंकि विकसित देश, खासकर USA और EU, अभी भी पुरानी साम्राज्यवादी नीति "divide and rule" अपना रहे हैं और विकासशील देशों में से कुछ देशों को तो कुछ concessions दे रहे हैं, लेकिन सभी को नहीं दे रहे हैं? अगर हां, तो भारत, जो G-20 और G-30 का सदस्य देश है, किस प्रकार इन सभी को एक साथ रखने में भूमिका निभा पाएगा?

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सर, यद्यपि अभी तक विकसित देशों द्वारा दी जाने वाली subsidies पर deadlock बना हुआ है, मैं समझता हूँ कि data base से संबंधित technical issues जैसे मुद्दे आगे बढ़ रहे हैं। मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से अपेक्षा करूंगा कि वे agriculture services and marketing से संबंधित इन technical issues के बारे में विस्तार से बताएं और इस पर भारत का क्या रख है, वह भी स्पष्ट करें।

सर, हम सभी जानते हैं कि service sector में तुलनात्मक दृष्टि से हम competitive advantage में हैं, लेकिन कुछ ऐसी रिपोर्ट्स हैं कि सरकार service sectors में legal services, accountancy, financial services और media जैसी services को liberlize करने की योजना बना रही है। मैं यह जानना चाहूंगा कि इसके पीछे क्या कारण है? क्या यह सत्य नहीं है कि सर्विसेज से जुड़े लोग इस कदम का विरोध कर रहे हैं? अगर हां, तो इस सेक्टर को liberlize करने के पीछे क्या कारण है?

मैं यह भी जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या भारत agriculture and non-agriculture market access के समान services को भी वैसे track पर लाने के लिए प्रयत्न कर रहा है? अगर हां, तो भारत को इससे किस हद तक लाभ होगा? क्या यह सत्य है कि कुछ देश इसका विरोध कर रहे हैं? अगर हां, तो इसका कारण क्या है? क्या इसका कारण भारत सितम्बर, 2009 में जो informal ministerial meeting हुई थी, उसमें services को शामिल नहीं किया जा सकना है? मैं इस संबंध में थोड़ी जानकारी चाहूंगा।

सर, एक बात कहना चाहूंगा कि सरकार को देखना होगा कि किसानों को सब्सिडी वाले आयात में बढ़ोत्तरी के मुकाबले पर्याप्त बिजली, नए और परिष्कृत बीज, बैंक क्रेडिट एवं बाजार तक पहुंचने के लिए सरकार के द्वारा पूर्ण सहयोग मिले, इसकी एक व्यवस्था करने के लिए सरकार को इसकी तरफ अग्रसर होना चाहिए।

सर, दोहा और विकास का दौर नहीं है, यह तो बाजार खोज रही है। विकास का सूत्रधार व्यापार नहीं स्वदेशी आंतरिक साधन होंगे और विकास की पहचान विकास की दर से नहीं, बल्कि रोजगार सृजन और गैर बराबरी निवारण से होगी, इसलिए नई विश्व व्यवस्था आर्थिक मानवीय और स्थायी होनी चाहिए।

(समाप्त)

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DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN (TAMIL NADU): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, first of all, I would congratulate the hon. Minister on his assuming the charge as the Minister of Commerce and Industry in UPA-II. He has created great hope for the people of India that Doha talks will be finished within a particular period of 2010. Now, we feel very happy on hearing that Ministerial talks have led to that level even though negotiations have not been initiated. I would like to quote the statement of the Chilean Finance Minister Mr. Andres Velasco who chaired that particular meeting. He said, "There was strong convergence on importance of trade and the Doha Round to economic recovery and poverty alleviation in the developing countries. The development dimensions should remain central to the Round and particular attention should be paid to issues of importance to developing countries."

(Contd. by MKS/2c)

MKS-AKG/1.20/2C

DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN (CONTD.): It is, more or less, reflecting our views, India's, but more emphasis has to be given to poverty alleviation. In which way were the preliminary discussions held? About that, the World Trade Organisation Director General, Pascal Lamy, said, and I quote, Sir:

"The Ministerial Conference has provided the political energy to organise work for the coming months."

In which way are the other countries cooperating with us to have this political energy? I would like to seek some clarifications from the hon. Minister. Some moratoriums were also imposed, by consent, during the period between one sitting and another sitting of the Ministerial

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Conference. One is on electronic cobbles. Another one is on non-violation under the WTO Intellectual Property Agreement. In which way, is it going to help?

Finally, an additional session they want to have on Climatic Changes with a specific focus on "Aid for the Trade". What are the issues on that? Has the Government created a roadmap to have transparency, before going for talks or negotiations, for the common men, i.e. agriculturists and stake holders? Many of the people have said that parliamentarians are to be taken into confidence; the stake holders, agriculturists and the entire section of the people who are going to be affected by the negotiations have to be taken into confidence before going for talks, and also during the course of the talks. We feel that somewhere it is missing. When regional talks were held by the ASEAN countries, people from Kerala started saying that they were not consulted and things like that. Over and above that, some chamber consultation was done by the hon. Minister also. That type of allegation should not come up again. There should be a full-fledged discussion even at the level of villages to see that WTO is really meant for the welfare of the people, and also for the welfare of agriculturists. In which way NAMA is going to help them; in which way they are going to be affected and how they can overcome it; these are things to be discussed before we go for negotiations. We first enter into negotiations and, then, tell them that this is the thing happened. Therefore, we oblige for that. Rather, we have to prepare ourselves first. It is a democratic nation and we are part of the democratic process of WTO.

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Therefore, we have to practise it so that the people can understand it better. Thank you very much, Sir.

(Ends)

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Thank you, Mr. Natchiappan. Now, Shri Rahul Bajaj. Actually, it is my name written there; I am not reading it. I am giving my chance to you!

SHRI RAHUL BAJAJ (MAHARASHTRA): Sir, I fully associate myself with the comments made by two learned speakers, especially Mr. N.K. Singh and Mr. Arun Jaitley. I think, they have made very valid points.

From the last but one para of the Minister's Statement, we are happy to learn that while negotiating this Round, which has started from 2001, the essence of this Round, as we all know, is the development aspect of the Round, which means a slight climate change of common but differentiated responsibilities, less than full reciprocity. That has to be kept in mind. And, Sir, we note that protecting the interest of poor farmers and of Indian industry and seeking greater market opportunities for our farmers and industry are the key elements. That is absolutely correct. Though, for agriculture -- I think, Mr. Jaitley also said so -- by and large, for the coming years, our interests are going to be more defensive, rather than offensive, the subsidy is given especially, Sir, by the US, France and Japan. Sir, as we talk of the US, both domestic support and export subsidy, of course, they have carried for agricultural products, is so serious as our former Commerce Minister said: "However inefficient the Indian farmer may be, he can successfully compete with the US farmers." That is why the US farmer needs subsidy but the Indian Treasury cannot compete with the US Treasury. So, we have to

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keep in mind the situation that is prevailing today. In Hindi, we say, Sir, "उलटा चोर कोतवाल को डाँटे।"

(2डी/टीएमवी पर जारी)

-MKS-TMV-SCH/2D/1.25

SHRI RAHUL BAJAJ (CONTD.): Climate change is very similar, except for the last night announcement by the US which has to be studied. Similar is the case with the WTO. For years and, in fact, for decades, we in the developing world were preached the benefits of free trade. Now those very countries, and I talk especially of the US but it applies to all developed countries, do not want to even practise fair trade, leave alone free trade. We will protect our farmers; we will give legitimate protection to our industry, etc. But while negotiating, we recognise that it is a question of give and take. Till now even under the Swiss formula, which was referred to -- you wouldn't go into those co-efficients that there are three alternatives depending on what kind of freedom that you want -- I believe we have already given more than we should. Whether you can plough back some of them depends on the Minister. That is one of my questions. Will you be able to plough back? It is difficult. I want to emphasise that we from the Indian industry have already given an MoU. It applies to the bound rates. But, as Mr. Arun Jaitely has stated, first, we would like to know whether the reduction, whether the percentage reduction, that India and developing countries will make is much more than what the US will make. We were higher, but we are no longer that higher. How many of our reduced bound rates will go below the applied rates?

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Secondly, I believe that 30 per cent of our items, tariff lines, were not bound. Now almost all the tariff lines will become bound. I would like to know, through you, Sir, from the hon. Minister whether it is true.

In any case, it is give and take. But they have been only taking. Before 1991, in the early nineties, Mr. Vice-Chairman, we had a closed economy. We had very high rates of import tariff. We, the Indian industry, were shouting against that. But the condition has changed. In any case, I would like to request the hon. Minister that he should not give in. He should not give in at all on the sectoral zero duty situation. That is one. He should not give in -- I don't have time to go into the detail -- on the remanufactured products. They are keen on that. He should not give in at all on the anti-concentration clause. Giving in on any of these factors will tremendously hurt India, the Indian economy and our development process. We are already under pressure at Copenhagen. But in these things he should not give in at all.

Finally, they are very strong negotiators. I think, Mr. Natchiappan, mentioned it in a different context. Their businessmen met our businessmen to negotiate with them in Geneva. When they talk, we don't know who the businessman is and who the Government representative is. They are one. Here you don't take our business representatives. Even if you take them, since the time of Mr. Arun Jaitley, Mr. Kamal Nath and now Mr. Sharma, you keep them outside. You don't let them come in. So, this must be done for the Indian industry, Indian farmers and the Indian economy to have interaction within India. They do discuss. But it is not enough. More interaction is required to see that we don't give in to the bullying tactics, especially, of

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the US. I agree that we have very good relations with the US. I have good friends in America. I studied in America. It is a great country. But a country which only wants to protect its interests, which does not care at all for other country's interests, we have to put a full stop. Thank you.

(Ends)

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P. J. KURIEN): Now, Mr. Minister. (Interruptions)... Please. The Minister is replying. Please. The Minister is replying.

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ANAND SHARMA): Thank you, Mr. Vice-Chairman. I would like to thank the hon. Members, through you, Sir, for their interventions in this Calling Attention Motion which has been brought forward by Shri Moinul Hassan and Shri N. K. Singh. I also benefited from the inputs from the learned Leader of the Opposition, who has himself held this responsibility in the previous Government, and, surely, he is fully aware of the terrain, the pitfalls, the skills of India's negotiators and the various positions that India has taken in this Round of trade negotiations.

Sir, at the outset, I would like to say and make it very clear that this Round has one core agenda, that is, development.

(Contd. by 2E/VK)

VK/2E/1.30

SHRI ANAND SHARMA (CONTD): It is meant to ensure that for the developing countries, the poor countries and the LDCs, who have been historically disadvantaged when it comes to global trade, market access, that includes both the nascent industries as well as the farmers or the

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agriculture produce there is, as was said, a level playing field and the interests of the vulnerable economies, the developing countries are fully protected. It is meant, therefore, to correct the distortion and imbalance. Therefore, the Doha Round has special significance. The developing and the poor countries have much to gain from the successful conclusion of the Doha Round. I am afraid to say that they will have the most to lose if this round does not lead to a rule-based multilateral trade regime which addresses the legitimate concerns and aspirations of the developing countries.

Sir, last year, as I mentioned in my statement, there was a Mini-Ministerial in July, 2008 which did not lead to convergence of views on some of the critical issues which were of import to the developing countries including India. These negotiations did not proceed and, if I may use the word, hit a roadblock. In the global parlance many words have been used. Since I assumed this responsibility, the talks were paused and the talks had stalled. The fact is, there was a roadblock. At the same time, there was an increasing demand and urging by the leadership of the developing countries and the poor countries that this Round should be safe, efforts should be made to revive and to take it to a successful conclusion. Sir, it was in June itself. Those were early days for me. I was trying to go up a steep learning curve, not familiar with the details at that time but more familiar with the broad rules and principles. There was a meeting of the Cairns Group in Bali in Indonesia where there was talk of new processes which virtually meant to start all over again. That was being, this theory was being marketed or propounded by the developed countries, those who did not have the

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will to take the process forward. Much has been invested in these talks in the last eight years, as Shri N.K. Singh knows. He knows it from both sides, being part of the Government, Senior Secretary, Principle Secretary to the then Prime Minister. He knows about commerce. Since 2001, much was invested in this Round. India had taken a clear position to ensure that this Round serves the interests of the developing countries. I had then said, Sir, that the need was to reenergise and not to reinvent; reenergise the process by using the draft documents, through draft reports on agriculture and NAMA which were submitted in December, 2008, but never discussed, never got looked into. There were a number of calls from various world leaders at Summits, whether it was the G-20 in London, or the L'Aquila Summit Declaration urging the Ministers to help to take the initiative to revive the process. India talked to its coalition partners in the developing countries, the G-20, the G-33 and the NAMA-11. The Coordinator of the G-20 is Brazil. The G-33, which has made a very useful contribution in upholding our position and concerns on agriculture, is chaired by Indonesia. The NAMA, Non-Agriculture Market Access Group is chaired by South Africa.

(Contd. by RG/2F)

RG/1.35/2F

SHRI ANAND SHARMA (contd.): Sir, through our discussions with our coalition partners, we suggested to put together a mini-Ministerial in Delhi, representing the coalition or carcasses of all stakeholders in the developing, poor countries in the LDCs and also the key interlocutors from the developed countries. But, before we did that, before sending the invitations, we had a meeting of the developing countries, a coalition

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on the margins of the OECD Ministerial in Paris. That was again in June. And, the IPSA Ministers met at India's initiative. IPSA is an important initiative of three continents, of three emerging economies and vibrant democracies, namely, India, Brazil and South Africa. We made it abundantly clear in that statement that the developing countries had made enough concessions, and there is no road for any unilateral concessions by the developing or poor countries. I had taken the liberty to share the IPSA's statement with the prominent Leaders of the Opposition, both in the Lok Sabha and in the Rajya Sabha. I shared it with my dear friend, Shri Sitaram Yechury, Shri Raja, and in the other House with Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi and Shri Sharad Joshi. It was just to reassure that there is no question of India, while trying to re-energise the process, taking a position which casts any shadow or any doubt when it comes to our engagement and solidarity with the poor and developing countries of the world.

Sir, in September, we had the Delhi Ministerial. It was a representative meeting attended by, literally, the microcosm of the WTO reflecting the entire membership from the developing countries, the African Group, the LDCs, small and vulnerable economies and the Cotton-4. We also had the key interlocutors from the developed countries, namely, the U.S., the E.U., Japan, Canada and Australia. There was a consensus reached that negotiations should resume. We did not discuss the substance, but about the process as to how to resume the stalled negotiations.

There was a reference made here by hon. Members, and I fully agree with their concerns that there has been an adverse impact of the

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global economic crisis on all economies. Trade has been hit. In case of India too, our exports started declining in October, 2008. While quickly add, to reassure Shri Moinul Hassan, the various interventions and the measures which the Government took and the new Foreign Trade Policy, focussing primarily on labour-intensive sectors, have helped in arresting the steep fall and reversing the trend. While we were falling in the negative, close to 40 per cent in May, the last month's figures were only six per cent. We have been able to drag it down to a single digit. But it is true that the global trade has shrunk. The WTO projections, the hon. Member was right, are that the global trade will fall by 9 per cent, and the IMF feels, maybe, by 12 per cent. Therefore, it is important that the trade negotiations are taken forward, as enhanced engagement, economic engagement, will help all countries, whether developing or developed.

Sir, various issues have come up -- these have even been raised by the hon. Members -- on agriculture, on NAMA and on the services sector.

(Continued by 2G)

TDB/2G/1.40

SHRI ANAND SHARMA (CONTD.): Sir, in agriculture, our position is very clear. First of all, it is special and differential treatment. We are talking of developing countries getting a special dispensation and for which, in addition to the concessions or dis-concessions which we have, there are three important things which I want to mention. One is, the special products. The special products in agriculture which the developing countries will designate, this will be self-designated, where no

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tariff cuts will be taken. There is also the issue of what was raised by Shri Arun Jaitley about the farmers from the big countries, the rich farmers and if there is a surge, how to protect our farmers? Sir, it is very clear, again, besides the special products, the second is the operational and effective special safeguard mechanism. They have to be less burdensome; they have to be easily operational because it is not only the volume surge, even if there is a price distortion or price dip, the discussions are going on about the trigger, but, this is to protect our farmers and our agriculture sector. And also, the question raised, and rightly so, by the rich countries whether it is the United States of America or Canada or the European Union where huge subsidies are given to the farmers, price support is there. Subsidies are also given, as the hon. Leader of the Opposition knows, to keep the production low. So, there are all kinds of subsidies which are trade distorting, which are not acceptable. India, along with its coalition partners has made it very clear that these subsidies shall have to be drastically cut. The developed countries, America and the E.U. will have to make deep cuts in the subsidies, minimum 70 per cent, and this is still being negotiated. So, there is no question of accepting a situation where these trade distortions and these huge subsidies shall be allowed and an agreement is reached. There cannot be any agreement with these subsidies in place. I can assure you.

There is also the issue of tariff simplification and tariff capping of the developed countries; the issue of developed countries tariffs in agriculture. And there, India is engaged, once again, very pro-actively with G-20 and G-33. Since this matter was raised just now by an hon.

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Member as to where we stand when it comes to G-20 and G-33, I would like to inform the House that on the Margins of the WTO Ministerial in Geneva, which was not meant for substantive negotiations but to review the WTO functioning and also the global economic crisis and its adverse impact on the world trade, we had the meeting of the G-20 and the G-33. The G-20 and G-33 communiqués are in public domain. We have taken a firm stand and categorical position when it comes to both our position on agriculture and also on NAMA. Because on NAMA, Sir, we are talking of Non-Agricultural Market Access. Now, how do we safeguard our vulnerable industries in the developing countries? Therefore, the developing countries, again, as the principle of special and differential treatment, are going to have flexibilities. Flexibilities in those sectors, those lines where we don't want to take any tariff cuts. Those flexibilities shall be the sole discretion, on our judgement, as to which flexibilities we want to take, which are the sectors where we will not take cuts, zero cut.

(Contd. by 2h-kgg)

kgg/2H/1.45

SHRI ANAND SHARMA (CONTD.): Again, the NAMA flexibilities principle is integral to the negotiations. Shri Rahul Bajaj had asked, and rightly so, about our position on sectorals. There was a Hong Kong Ministerial meeting in 2005 which has taken some decisions, and it is clear that sectorals will be non-mandatory for the developing countries and poor countries. There cannot be any mandatory engagement by India, its coalition partners, in sectorals which will figure in the agreement. We will

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not accept the mandatory principle; we have made it abundantly clear at the WTO in the negotiations.

Also, on the re-manufactured goods, let me assure my dear friend, Shri Rahul Bajaj, there is no question of India yielding. We will not accept it. Now, when it comes to certain other issues which the hon. Members have raised, one is on meaningful market access, as to what the USA has said. Sir, for the benefit of hon. Members and for the sake of record, let me mention that these are multi-lateral negotiations. We know about the Uruguay Round; it went on for a long time. These negotiations have been going on since the last 8 years. One hundred and fifty three countries are engaged in these negotiations. These countries come from different levels of development; the nature of challenges, developmental challenges and their concerns are different. Many are common when it comes to the developing countries and the poor countries. Multi-lateral negotiations primarily mean that countries have their position; but they negotiate to find a middle-ground where each country--poor, vulnerable economies, developing countries, emerging economies or the rich countries--is comfortable to stand. As I have said, we have made it clear even now in this meeting in Geneva in our statement. I shall, for the benefit of hon. Members, read the four salient points which I have highlighted in Geneva, as our position: (A) There can be no dilution of development objective of the Round and there is a need for sympathetic understanding of the concerns of the developing world. (B) In the process of bridging the gaps in negotiations, there cannot be any reversion of the broad understandings reached in the past eight years. (C) Demands for additional market access in

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developing countries need to be tapered by the development agenda and not driven by commercial considerations. (D) The centrality of the multi-lateral process in negotiations must be maintained.

This is, broadly speaking, India's position which we articulated in the recent WTO Ministerial meeting. There is a question raised about NAMA co-efficients and on the tariffs. Hon. Leader of the Opposition knows, so does Shri N.K. Singh, that there has been a gradual reduction of tariffs over a period of time. What tariffs? There are bound tariffs and there are applied tariffs. Our bound tariffs are very high. Reduction of tariff, when a view is taken, does not take away your sovereign inherent right to raise it, even up to the bound level if any time the situation demands. What is being negotiated are the bound tariffs. So, our learned Member, Shri N.K. Singh, knows that better than me.

Sir, on co-efficients and flexibilities, I would be very clear, these issues are not frozen, not settled.

(Contd. by sss/2j)

SSS/2J/1.50

SHRI ANAND SHARMA (CONTD.): They are not settled. Negotiations are on, but, as we have said, I have made our position on tariffs very clear. We are also determined to protect when it comes to our industry, particularly, the vulnerable sections. Shri Jaitley had made this reference to the green box being negotiated. It did. But, we are very clear when it comes to ensuring that India is a developing country, its interests are not hurt. The present bound tariffs when we are concerned with agriculture are 114 per cent and India has, I can say with a sense of responsibility, clarity about its objective, commitment to uphold its

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supreme national interest and also, if I may say so, enough role for our negotiators to initiate an agreement which eventually serves the interests of the developing countries, of our vulnerable industries of our farmers. Sir, on meaningful market access, I had deviated a bit from there, I will go back. On meaningful market access, I was mentioning what the United States wants. The countries make their positions. They come with their positions but they negotiate. They try to harmonise positions. It should be very clear. Harmonising our positions without compromising our interest is something which we are for. But not harmonising our position where our interests gets affected, there is no question of dilution. There is no question of negotiation when it comes to that. But, Sir, even in United States of America, developed countries and US and EU, it is true that they also have their expectations. Like we have our aspirations and concerns, they have their own expectations. But, it does not mean that they will get what they demand in a statement. It is a general statement which is made. Our negotiators know what the mandate is and what they are negotiating for. Sir, one issue which was rightly raised is about the services. It is true that India has its strength in the services sector and it is not a question that we have not given priority to the services negotiations. The negotiations are very much on. The same Hong Kong Ministerial which had taken the decision, which I referred to on the sectorals, also took a view on sequencing and in the sequencing agreed to in the 2005 Hong Kong Ministerial it was agriculture, NAMA and services. When we had the meeting in Delhi we made it abundantly clear to the key interlocutors from the developed countries and also to the DG of the WTO that services negotiations have

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to be taken upfront because we have our interests and there is no question of our agreeing only to those sectors where the developed countries are interested. We are clear that it has to be concluded as a single undertaking. The present round of negotiations and services will be an integral part. So, on the services, if I may just inform that at the WTO Negotiations and traded services are unlike those in agriculture and NAMA and industrial goods as there are no tariffs which are quantifiable when it comes to services. Therefore, India's position is clear that our interests out of the four modes in two are very strong. That is mode one on cross border supply and mode four is a movement of professionals. We hope when the negotiations move forward we will be in a position to assess carefully after the text-based negotiations resume now, as has been agreed, and those revised drafts on agriculture and NAMA and on the services negotiations, which will be horizontally taken up after a few months, I can say, we would better assess where we are at that stage.

(Contd. by NBR/2K)

-SSS/NBR-MP/2K/1.55.

SHRI ANAND SHARMA (CONTD.): Sir, before I conclude, I would like to say two more things.

The first one is whether the W.T.O. is dictating. Shri N.K. Singh knows that the W.T.O. is a membership-driven organisation. The Secretariat can compile. The Secretariat is meant for that and it is paid for that. But, it is the political leaders and the Member countries of the W.T.O. who will decide what to do. The Secretariat does not decide in any multilateral organisation -- whether it be the UN or the WIPO or

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the WTO. So, there is no question of harbouring any fears or concerns on that. Sir, I may also say, hon. Member, Shri Amar Singhji, has expressed concern about the farmers. I am very happy.

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): I hope the hon. Minister will have the same volume when he argues for us in the W.T.O.

SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Do not worry. I have no doubt, Arun.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): I believe, he will.

SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Sir, the hon. Leader of the Opposition should not have any doubt. In fact, I am always here to say what the status is. We shall continue to do so, because we are a democracy. We would like, as a Government and I as a Minister, to keep the hon. Leader of the Opposition, hon. Members in the Opposition and my own colleagues in the Treasury Benches, to fully apprise of the developments at every stage.

But, just to assure Shri Amar Singh about his concern whether we will come under the pressure. Hon. Leader of the Opposition has also said the same. Sir, there is no question of coming under pressure when it comes to trade policy. India will come under only one pressure, the pressure of its interest, the pressure of its people and the pressure of its farmers. There is no question of we being pro-America. Sir, Shri Amar Singh knows America much better than me. He knows Mr. Bill Clinton, Ms. Hillary Clinton. He supports them in the foundation. I don't do that. So, please do not have any concern...

SHRI AMAR SINGH: That is the reason for his apprehension.

SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Sir, I will make it clear where we are and we are pro-whom.

SHRI AMAR SINGH: Since he has mentioned my name, I will respond to it after his reply.

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SHRI ANAND SHARMA: It is said in a positive sense. Surely, I have no objection to his engagement.

Sir, what I am saying is 'where we are.' I am just concluding. We are pro-whom? We are pro-India, if our commitment is to uphold the supreme national interest of this country. Sir, when we take the negotiations forward, we are clear that historical distortions must be corrected. There should be a rule-based global trade regime which protects the livelihood concerns of the subsistence farmers in the developing countries, the poor in the developing countries, also ensures food security and protection for the vulnerable industrial sectors.

I would like to thank the hon. Members who gave me this opportunity to share my views. Thank you.

(Ends)

SHRI AMAR SINGH (UTTAR PRADESH): Sir, the hon. Minister has taken my name. उन्होंने मेरा नाम लिया है, तो मैं इतना ही कहना चाहूंगा कि प्रधान मंत्री मनमोहन सिंह जी की जानकारी में मेरी दोस्ती क्लिंटन दंपति से है। बिल क्लिंटन से ज्यादा है और हिलेरी क्लिंटन से उनकी पत्नी के नाते है। मैंने फाउंडेशन की मदद किसी ऐसे तरीके से नहीं की है कि मैंने देश के किसी कानून का उल्लंघन किया है। अगर ऐसा किया है, तो वे जांच करवा लें। ... (व्यवधान).. वे जांच करवा लें और दूसरी बात यह है कि मैंने यह न्यूक्लियर डील को करवाने के लिए किया है। इनकी न्यूक्लियर (व्यवधान).... रिपब्लिकन्स सपोर्ट कर रहे थे और डेमोक्रेट्स विरोध कर रहे थे, तो उन्होंने मेरा इस्तेमाल किया है।

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): The House is adjourned for lunch for one hour.

The House then adjourned for lunch at fifty-nine minutes past one of the clock.

The House re-assembled after lunch at three of the clock,
MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN in the Chair.

SUPPLEMENTARY DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (GENERAL), 2009-10

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table, a statement (in English and Hindi) showing the Supplementary Demands for Grants (General) for the year 2009-10. (Ends)

SUPPLEMENTARY DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (JHARKHAND), 2009-10

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table, a statement (in English and Hindi) of the estimated receipts and expenditure of the State of Jharkhand for the year 2009-10. (Ends)

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, we shall take up the Short Duration Discussion on Price Rise. Mr. Kalraj Mishra.

SHORT DURATION DISCUSSION ON THE SITUATION ARISING OUT OF CONTINUED RISE IN PRICES OF ESSENTIAL COMMODITIES IN THE COUNTRY

श्री कलराज मिश्र (उत्तर प्रदेश) : उपसभापति महोदय, मूल्य वृद्धि जिस स्तर से हो रही है उसको देखने के बाद यह लगता है कि सामान्य गरीब व्यक्ति ही नहीं, मध्यम वर्गीय से लेकर सभी लोग इससे जबर्दस्त प्रभावित हो रहे हैं। हालात ऐसे होते जा रहे हैं कि सरकार जितनी बार घोषणा करती है कि हम नियंत्रण करेंगे, जल्दी ही करेंगे, धैर्य रखना चाहिए, उतनी तेजी के साथ महंगाई बढ़ती जा रही है। अगर हम अपने इस विशाल देश की स्थिति को देखें तो हमें दिखाई पड़ेगा कि अधिकांश लोग गरीबी की रेखा के नीचे की जिंदगी

व्यतीत कर रहे हैं। ऐसे हालात हैं कि सामान्य समय में भी आजीविका की, भरण-पोषण की जो उनकी व्यवस्था होनी चाहिए, वह भी कर सकने में सक्षम नहीं हो पाते हैं। ऐसी स्थिति है। इसलिए देश का हर चौथा व्यक्ति एक ओर भूखा रहता है। चार वर्षों में देश में भूख से मरने वालों की तादाद चार हजार आठ सौ हो गई है। संयुक्त राष्ट्र खाद्य एवं कृषि संगठन UNFAO की जो रिपोर्ट है, उन्होंने कहा है कि दुनिया के सबसे ज्यादा गरीब तथा भूख और कुपोषण से पीड़ित तेइस करोड़ तीस लाख लोग भारत में हैं। देश में गरीब आदमी की आमदनी खाद्य मूल्य वृद्धि के अनुपात में नहीं बढ़ी। एक तरफ अमेरिका के राष्ट्रपति ने कहा था कि भारत के लोग ज्यादा खाते हैं। लेकिन जो आंकड़े हैं, आंकड़े तो यह बताते हैं कि जब आम आदमी को खाद्य पदार्थ ही उपलब्ध नहीं हो पा रहा है तो वह खाना कहां से खाएगा। 1999 में खाद्य खपत प्रति व्यक्ति प्रति वर्ष 186 किलोग्राम था, आज खाद्य खपत प्रति व्यक्ति प्रति वर्ष 152 किलोग्राम है, यानी खाद्यान्न खपत प्रति व्यक्ति प्रति वर्ष 45 किलोग्राम कम हो गई है। सरकार के आंकड़ों के अनुसार ही आबादी का 28.5 फीसदी इतने लोग गरीबी रेखा के नीचे की जिंदगी व्यतीत कर रहे हैं, अर्थात् सात करोड़ परिवार, अर्थात् 35 करोड़ से ज्यादा लोग गरीबी रेखा के नीचे की जिंदगी व्यतीत कर रहे हैं। भारत सरकार ने अर्जुन सेन गुप्ता कमेटी गठित की थी। कमेटी की रिपोर्ट के आधार पर देश के 77 फीसदी नागरिकों की आय प्रतिदिन बीस रुपया है। इस प्रकार 77 परसेंट नागरिकों की आय बीस रुपया है। बीस रुपए में आम आदमी आटा, दाल, तेल, चावल क्या खरीद पाएगा, उसकी क्या हालत होगी। मान्यवर, देश में जो गरीबी की स्थिति है, उसमें बहुत ज्यादा सुधार तो नहीं दिखाई पड़ता, यद्यपि हम जरूर यह कहते हैं कि हमारी विकास दर बढ़ती जा रही है, परचेसिंग पॉवर बढ़ती जा रही है, लेकिन गरीबी भी उसी तरह से बढ़ती जा रही है। सर, मैं जो आंकड़े दे रहा हूं, ये आंकड़े 11वीं पंचवर्षीय योजना की वार्षिक योजना की रिपोर्ट तथा आर्थिक सर्वेक्षण की रिपोर्ट से लिए गए हैं, ये अन्यथा आंकड़े नहीं हैं। 35 राज्यों और संघ राज्य क्षेत्रों में तीन राज्यों -बिहार, मध्य प्रदेश और उत्तर प्रदेश में आबादी का 40 फीसदी लोग गरीबी की जिंदगी व्यतीत कर रहे हैं। गरीबों की कुल संख्या का दो तिहाई छः राज्यों में उड़ीसा, पश्चिम बंगाल, बिहार, मध्य प्रदेश, महाराष्ट्र और उत्तर प्रदेश में है।

(2N/GS पर क्रमशः)

GS-HK/2N/3.05

श्री कलराज मिश्र (क्रमागत) : ग्रामीण भारत के कुछ भागों में गरीबी अफ्रीका के अत्यधिक वंचित देशों से भी ज्यादा है और इतना ही नहीं, प्रति व्यक्ति जीडीपी में भारत से अच्छी स्थिति श्रीलंका, ब्राजील, मिस्र, वियतनाम, थाइलैंड और इंडोनेशिया की है।

मान्यवर, बहुत से ऐसे प्रदेश हैं जिनमें बड़ी तादाद ऐसी है जिनको खाना नहीं मिल पाता है। इस बारे में, मैं बताना चाहूंगा कि परिवार स्वास्थ्य सर्वेक्षण के अनुसार 2005-06 के अनुसार तीन वर्ष से छोटे बच्चों में कुपोषण 45.9 फीसदी है और अपर्याप्त भोजन पाने वाले प्रदेशों की जो सूची है, वह इस प्रकार है - असम में पांच फीसदी है, पश्चिमी बंगाल में नौ फीसदी है, उड़ीसा में 5.3 फीसदी है, केरल में 2.3 फीसदी है, बिहार में 2.7 फीसदी है, छत्तीसगढ़ में 2.2 फीसदी है। एनएसएस ने आंकड़ों के हिसाब से गरीबी के बारे में बतलाया है, उन्होंने कहा है कि 20 रुपया प्रति व्यक्ति खपत प्रतिदिन की होती है। वर्ष 2004-05 में शहरी में 32.3 फीसदी की और ग्रामीण क्षेत्र में 71.9 फीसदी ही केवल 20 रुपया प्रति दिवस और इससे भी कम व्यक्ति के पास पैसे हैं। मान्यवर, यह आंकड़े मैंने वही दिए हैं, जो आर्थिक सर्वेक्षण के हिसाब से हैं।

इस समय देश में महंगाई की स्थिति कैसी है ? इस समय देश का चित्र तो यह है कि महंगाई बढ़ रही है। जहां इस चित्र को बदलने की कोशिश करनी चाहिए, जिससे देश के लोगों के जीवन में उन्नयन हो सके, उसके लिए प्रयत्न करने चाहिए, लेकिन रूप कैसा बनता जा रहा है ? अब हालत ऐसी बनती जा रही है कि जो थोक मूल्यों पर आधारित आंकड़ों के अनुसार महंगाई दर 17.5 प्रतिशत को पार कर गई है, जबकि सरकार जीडीपी की दर 7.9 फीसदी पर अपनी पीठ थप-थपा रही है और कह रही है कि जीडीपी बहुत बढ़ गई है। आलू का दाम एक वर्ष के अंदर 111 प्रतिशत बढ़ा है, प्याज 27 फीसदी बढ़ी है, दाल 35 फीसदी बढ़ी है, चीनी 54 फीसदी बढ़ी है और नवम्बर के प्रथम सप्ताह से जो दाम बढ़ने शुरू हुए हैं - गेहूं में 12 फीसदी की बढ़ोत्तरी हुई है, चावल में 12 फीसदी की बढ़ोत्तरी हुई है, दूध में 11 फीसदी की बढ़ोत्तरी हुई है, फल में 11 फीसदी की बढ़ोत्तरी हुई है, तेल 50 प्रतिशत बढ़ा है, नमक 50 प्रतिशत बढ़ा है। बहुत सारी चीजों का नाम लिया जा सकता है, लेकिन जो प्रमुख चीजें सामने आई हैं, उनके बारे में बता रहा हूं। हर खाद्यान्न

का दाम बढ़ा है। जो भी आवश्यक उपभोक्ता की चीजें हैं, जिनका प्रयोग आम आदमी करता है, उन सब चीजों के दाम बढ़े हैं। महंगाई आसमान छूने लगी है। आश्चर्य इस बात का है कि वैश्विक मंदी की बात कही जाती है, लेकिन हमारे यहां महंगाई आसमान छू रही है। महंगाई इस ढंग से आसमान छू रही है कि लगने लगा है कि अगर ऐसी हालत बनी रही, तो कैसी स्थिति आगे चलकर होगी। इसीलिए उच्चतम न्यायालय को कहना पड़ता है कि सरकार महंगाई रोके। लेकिन महंगाई नहीं रुक पा रही है, तो सरकार क्या कर रही है ? सरकार के मंत्रीगण अलग-अलग वक्तव्य दे रहे हैं। मंत्रीगण कहते हैं कि महंगाई और बढ़ेगी। भारत के प्रधान मंत्री जी कहते हैं कि महंगाई और बढ़ेगी, माननीय कृषि मंत्री जी बैठे हुए हैं, आप भी कहते हैं कि महंगाई और बढ़ेगी। वित्त मंत्री जी भी कहते हैं कि महंगाई और बढ़ेगी। हम इसको रोक नहीं पा रहे हैं, आखिर सरकार महंगाई को रोक क्यों नहीं पा रही है? सरकार कहती है कि सटोरियों के कारण महंगाई बढ़ रही है, कालाबाजारियों के कारण महंगाई बढ़ रही है। कालाबाजारियों और सटोरियों पर सरकार नियंत्रण नहीं कर पा रही है, इसलिए महंगाई बढ़ रही है। सरकार क्या इतनी असहाय हो गई है कि वह कालाबाजारियों और सटोरियों को नियंत्रित करने में अक्षम है, अपने को असहाय महसूस कर रही है। जब सरकार अपने को असहाय महसूस कर रही है, तो आम आदमी की सुरक्षा कैसे हो सकती है।

मान्यवर, मंत्रिमंडल में भी आपस में भी इस बारे में दो विचार हैं। एक तो यह है कि इसको बाजार पर छोड़ दो, बाजार जैसे बढ़े-चढ़े, वैसे चलने दो, लेकिन अपनी जीडीपी बढ़नी चाहिए। जीडीपी बढ़े, लेकिन बाजार जैसे भी चलता रहे, उसको चलने दो, महंगाई आसमान छूती रहे, लोग त्राहि-त्राहि करते रहें, उसे उनके भाग्य पर छोड़ दो।

(2ओ पर जारी)

ASC-KSK/20/3.10

श्री कलराज मिश्र (क्रमागत) : केन्द्र सरकार महंगाई के प्रश्न पर इन सारी चीजों को देखते हुए, जितनी गंभीर होनी चाहिए, शायद उतनी गंभीर नहीं है। NDA के जमाने में भी महंगाई थोड़ी सी बढ़नी शुरू हुई थी, लेकिन उस समय सामूहिक प्रयत्नों के आधार पर महंगाई पर नियंत्रण रखा गया था और लोगों की लाइनें नहीं लगने दी थीं। लोगों को

Uncorrected/ Not for publication- 08.12.2009

समुचित तौर पर सभी सामान वितरित करने में लोग सक्षम थे। उस समय किसी प्रकार की भी कठिनाई नहीं थी। इस समय तो यह हालत हो गई है कि BPL के लिए दो रुपए किलो गेहूं और चावल को वितरित करने के लिए भी एजेंसीज नहीं मिल पा रही हैं। यह लोगों को ढंग से वितरित हो जाए, इसके लिए भी एजेंसीज नहीं मिल पा रही हैं, इसलिए हालत बहुत खराब है।

मान्यवर, मैं यह कहना चाहूंगा कि मानसून सत्र के समय मैंने इस ओर ध्यान दिलाया था कि लाखों टन दाल और लाखों टन चीनी बंदरगाहों पर सड़ गई और उसका ठीक से उपयोग नहीं हुआ। वह इसलिए नहीं हुआ कि उनको अनापत्ति पत्र प्राप्त नहीं हुआ था। उसका समुचित तौर पर जो वितरण होना चाहिए था, वह नहीं हो पाया। रबी की फसल और खरीफ की फसल का उत्पादन ढंग से बढ़े, इसके लिए भी सरकार को जिस प्रकार से ध्यान देना चाहिए, उसमें कमी दिखाई पड़ती है। पानी ठीक से नहीं मिल पाता है और खाद भी ठीक से नहीं मिल पाती है, तो फिर उत्पादन कहां से होगा? हालत ऐसी हो गई है कि कृषि की हालत बड़ी खराब होती जा रही है। कृषि पर 70 प्रतिशत लोग आधारित हैं। सरकार ने वार्षिक योजना 2007-08 में कृषि की विकास दर 4 प्रतिशत तय की थी, किन्तु वह दर आज भी एक से दो प्रतिशत के आसपास है। वर्ष 1999-2000 में कृषि निवेश 11.9 प्रतिशत था। आज वह 6.6 प्रतिशत से भी कम हो गया है। लगभग 24 कृषि जिन्सों को वायदा कारोबारों से मुक्त करने की आवश्यकता है और इस पर तत्काल रोक लगनी चाहिए। वहीं घटती पैदावार प्रति हेक्टेयर उपज को बढ़ाने के प्रभावी कदम उठाने होंगे। ऐसे बीजों को विस्तृत करना पड़ेगा, जो पानी की खपत करें तथा पैदावार ज्यादा दें। आज भी 73 फीसदी किसानों को सस्ते कृषि ऋण उपलब्ध नहीं हैं। उनको अन्य साधनों से ऊंची दरों पर ऋण लेना पड़ता है, जिससे वे लगातार कर्ज के बोझ से दबते जा रहे हैं तथा वे बेबस और लाचार हैं। मान्यवर, मैं यह कहना चाहूंगा कि कृषि के खाद्यान्नों का उत्पादन लगातार घटता जा रहा है। सरकार के आर्थिक सर्वेक्षण की जो रिपोर्ट है, उसमें लिखा है कि चावल का उत्पादन 1 फीसदी, गेहूं दो फीसदी, गन्ना 14.9 फीसदी और दाल का 9 फीसदी उत्पादन गिरा है। अनाज का उत्पादन लगातार गिर रहा है और प्रति व्यक्ति हेक्टेयर उपज भी कम हो रही है। जो 2008-09 की आर्थिक समीक्षा की रिपोर्ट है, इसके अनुसार 2007-08 की

Uncorrected/ Not for publication- 08.12.2009

तुलना में अनाज .8 मिलियन टन पैदा हुआ, गेहूं 1.1 मिलियन टन, मोटा अनाज 7.9 मिलियन टन, दाल 8.5 मिलियन टन और कुल खाद्यान्न 1.4 मिलियन टन की पैदावार कम हुई। अभी बफर स्टॉक की बात भी है। सार्वजनिक वितरण प्रणाली और अन्य कल्याणकारी योजनाओं के लिए बफर स्टॉक रखते हैं। उसके मानक के हिसाब से कम से कम गेहूं, चावल क्रमशः 122 लाख टन, 40 लाख टन होना चाहिए। इसके सापेक्ष में कुल स्टॉक 350.33 लाख टन, गेहूं का 216.04 लाख टन और चावल का 134.29 लाख टन बफर स्टॉक है। मैं चीनी के बारे में भी बताना चाहूंगा कि "इंडियन शुगर मिल्स एसोसिएशन" की रिपोर्ट के अनुसार 2009-10 में भी चीनी के दाम कम नहीं होंगे। किसान मिलों में गन्ना कम ला रहा है और चीनी की मांग 230 लाख टन है।

(क्रमशः:2P/LP पर)

LP/3.15/2p

श्री कलराज मिश्र (क्रमागत) : मांग और उत्पादन में सत्तर लाख का अंतर इसकी कीमत को बढ़ाने का मौका दे रहा है। सरकार ने चीनी का आयात करने से पहले ही हाथ खड़े कर दिए हैं। मान्यवर, जो आयात है, सरकार ने जो आयात किया है, वह वर्ष 2006-07 में गेहूं का आयात 5.5 मिलियन टन था, वर्ष 2007-08 1.8 मिलियन टन आयात किया था। कृषि मंत्री के अनुसार, नेफेड के लिए सफेद चीनी का दस लाख टन आयात करने के लिए कहा गया। चीनी मिलों ने लगभग कच्ची चीनी के आयात का समझौता किया है, जिसमें चालीस लाख टन आयात होना है। इसके बाद भी इसके दाम बढ़ना तय है, ऐसा कृषि मंत्री जी का वक्तव्य भी आया था। कृषि मंत्री जी के अनुसार प्रति वर्ष पच्चीस से तीस लाख टन दाल आयात होती है, जबकि अभी तक छब्बीस लाख टन दाल आयात हो चुकी है।

मान्यवर, वायदा बाजार की बात कही जाती है। वायदा कारोबारियों, सटोरियों और बड़ी कंपनियों के खेल में महंगाई उलझ गई है। वायदा कारोबारियों ने केवल दाल और चीनी के कारोबार से करोड़ों रुपए का मुनाफा कमाया है। एक बार, एक दिन सरकार ने 2008 में वायदा कारोबार में चना, सोया, तेल, आलू पर रोक लगाई थी, 4 दिसम्बर, 2008 में उसे पुनः चालू कर दिया गया। यह क्यों किया, यह समझ में नहीं आया। वैट में महंगाई कितनी बढ़ी है, इसकी भी समीक्षा होनी चाहिए। मान्यवर, वायदा बाजार को लेकर अखबारों

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की सुर्खियां रंगी रहती हैं, जैसे दालों में सट्टेबाजों ने कमाए पांच सौ करोड़ रुपए, इसी ढंग से सुर्खियों में और भी आता रहेगा। महंगाई इसी कारण बढ़ रही है। आयात किया बफर स्टॉक में है, लेकिन जिस तरीके से सार्वजनिक वितरण प्रणाली होनी चाहिए, कौन सी एजेंसी वितरण करे, इसकी व्यवस्था होनी चाहिए। इस व्यवस्था की लापरवाही का दुष्परिणाम है कि भयंकर तरीके से महंगाई बढ़ती जा रही है। यह उसके दुष्परिणाम के कारण है और उसी का नतीजा है कि वित्त मंत्री आरोप लगाते हैं कि राज्य सरकारें हमें सहयोग नहीं दे रही हैं। राज्य सरकार सटोरियों और काला बाजारियों को गिरफ्तार नहीं कर रही है। यह तो बड़ा ही अजीब प्रकार का आरोप है। मेरा तो यह कहना है कि जहां एक ही पार्टी की केंद्रीय सरकार है, एक ही पार्टी की राज्य सरकार है, अगर उसी पार्टी की सरकार है तो ऐसे लोगों को गिरफ्तार करके दिखाए कि महंगाई कैसे रोकते हैं। यह कहकर केंद्र सरकार अपनी जिम्मेदारी से हट नहीं सकती है कि चूंकि राज्य सरकार सहयोग नहीं दे रही है, इसलिए हम महंगाई नहीं रोक पा रहे हैं। अगर राज्य सरकार इस प्रकार की बात करेगी तो क्या केंद्र सरकार टुकुर-टुकुर ताकती रहेगी, जनता को मरने के लिए विवश करेगी? मान्यवर, मैं यह कहना चाहता हूं कि मैंने आंकड़े दिए हैं, आंकड़ों के आधार पर बफर स्टॉक में क्या है, आयात कितना किया गया है, समुचित तौर पर वितरण प्रणाली की व्यवस्था की कमी के कारण जिस तरीके से आम आदमी को लाभान्वित करना चाहिए, नहीं कर पा रहे हैं। यह केवल इसलिए हो रहा है कि सरकार को महंगाई को नियंत्रित करने की दिशा में जितना गंभीर होना चाहिए, उस गंभीरता का पूर्णतया अभाव है। जो बातें बार-बार कही जाती हैं कि यह सरकार आम आदमी के साथ है, यह आम आदमी के साथ जबर्दस्त धोखाधड़ी है। गरीबों की दुर्दशा हो रही है और इसलिए लोग भूखों मरने के लिए मजबूर होते जा रहे हैं। इसलिए मैं चाहूंगा कि माननीय मंत्री जी, वित्त मंत्री जी, कृषि मंत्री जी, प्रधानमंत्री जी यहां अर्थशास्त्रियों की कमी नहीं है, प्रधानमंत्री जी भी अर्थशास्त्री हैं, प्रणब जी भी अर्थशास्त्री है, इनको अच्छी जानकारी है, हमारे पूर्व वित्त मंत्री श्री पी. चिदम्बरम् जी अर्थशास्त्री हैं, इतने योग्य होने के पश्चात् भी जिस बाजार को नियंत्रित करना चाहिए, जिस मूल्य को नियंत्रित करना चाहिए और जिस प्रकार की वितरण की व्यवस्था करनी चाहिए, उसको ढंग से न कर सकने के कारण मैं यही कह सकता हूं कि जिस राजनैतिक इच्छाशक्ति की आवश्यकता है,

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आम आदमी के प्रति जितनी संवेदनशीलता होनी चाहिए, उसका पूर्णतया अभाव होने के कारण ये सारी चीजें नहीं हो रही हैं और परिणाम यह हो रहा है कि महंगाई आसमान छूती जा रही है और आम आदमी मरने के लिए मजबूर होता जा रहा है। मैं चाहूंगा कि इस दिशा में केवल भाषण मात्र न रहे, जितनी भी सारी चीजें हैं, आपके द्वारा ही प्रदत्त जो आंकड़े हैं, उन आंकड़ों के आधार पर समुचित वितरण व्यवस्था और साथ ही साथ कृषि के बारे में मैं विशेष तौर पर जोर देकर कहूंगा, माननीय कृषि मंत्री जी यहां उपस्थित हैं, कृषि के बारे में विशेष चिंता करते हुए कहूंगा क्योंकि आज कृषि का उत्पादन घटता जा रहा है..।

(akg/2q पर जारी)

AKG-SK/2Q/3.20

श्री कलराज मिश्र (क्रमागत) : यह उत्पादन घटना एक खतरनाक संकेत है। इस उत्पादन को कैसे बढ़ाया जा सके और किस प्रकार की सुविधा प्रदान की जा सके, इसकी विशेष चिन्ता करनी चाहिए, तब शायद हम महंगाई को बाँध सकने में कुछ सक्षम, कुछ सफल हो सकेंगे। इतनी बात कह कर मैं यह अपेक्षा करता हूँ कि मंत्री जी इस दिशा में कड़ा-से-कड़ा कदम उठाएंगे।

(समाप्त)

SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN (TAMIL NADU): Thank you, Sir. Sir, this is, undoubtedly, a very important issue for us to be discussing in the House. It is with a great deal of seriousness and concern that all of us are gathered here to discuss the issue of rise in prices. This Government, particularly, Sir, has come into Government and has formed the Government upon the promise and mandate that our concern lies with the most disadvantaged sections of the society and our entire focus and priority will be the most disadvantaged sections of the society, the poorest of the poor, the people who are at the edge and below the poverty line. Therefore, Sir, I believe, that the priority of the Government is and should be to moderate inflation, to moderate food prices, to increase inclusive growth, to give a substantial impetus to agriculture

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and, above all, to insulate the weakest and most disadvantaged sections of the society from all the issues of price rise that have been spoken about by the speaker before me and that the entire country is agitated about. However, Sir, at the same time, I would urge this House, through you, to take a look at the facts so that we may, in an atmosphere of calm, reasonableness decide and discuss together how best this problem should be addressed. First of all, Sir, the hon. Member who spoke before me was very passionate and emotional and gave a great deal of details and statistics. But I was surprised to find that he completely neglected to mention that, particularly, over the last year and also in recent times, 27 out of 36 meteorological districts in this country have been affected by moderate to severe drought. Also, Sir, the people of my State and the people of Karnataka have been devastated by floods. The loss of lives, the loss of livestock, the loss of crops, the loss of agriculture is incalculable. It appears to me that the hon. Member was speaking in a vacuum. Naturally in an atmosphere where you are concerned, your immediate instinct would be to address those issues to the Government and that is as it should be, that should be reasonable. But we should look at the broader picture. What is this Government battling with? This Government is not sitting upon a mountain of plenty and refusing to do its job. The fact of the matter is we have been hit hard; 27 out of 36 meteorological districts have moderate to severe drought in the country, while in such a large country as India, the other districts, particularly in Karnataka, to a lesser extent in Tamil Nadu and to a large extent in Andhra Pradesh also have been devastated by floods.

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Then, Sir, if you look at other issues, if you look at an international picture of global recession, the new driving forces of urbanisation, of consumption, of production market, of income growth, the issue of climate change, the changing factors in the climate all these have impacted severely upon agriculture, have impacted severely upon the most poverty-stricken of our people. Therefore, I would urge this House to look at the entire issue in that background and in that light, and to examine what the Government has done in that background and to see and suggest, we have every right in the House to suggest that Government has to perform better. We have to perform better and we will perform better. But I would urge that we should first see what is the background.

Now, Sir, in this context, I would also like to say that an overly alarming picture has also been painted by the media in an attempt to sensationalise the issue. That too, Sir, to spread some kind of panic among people would be an entirely misguided effort and would be a great disservice to the people of this country is what I believe. Every time to come up with alarming statistics of how much the prices have gone up when actually that is not the correct picture is also doing some kind of disservice to the nation. (continued by 2R-ysr)

-SK/YSR-PSV/3.25/2R

SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN (CONTD.): I believe that the media should also exercise some kind of restraint. It should report productively and report facts correctly, as they are, and present them to the people, so that there is no scary situation.

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Despite all the problems that he has mentioned, despite all the figures that have been given by the hon. Member who spoke before me, the fact remains that there is not even the remotest possibility of a food scarcity in our country. It is not as if we are going to have starvation in the country. We have buffers stocks of 153.49 lakh tonnes of rice as against the prescribed norms of 52 lakh tonnes. These are Government figures, given by the hon. Agriculture Minister. Our buffer stock for wheat stands at 284.57 lakh tonnes as against the norm of 110 lakh tonnes for wheat. Therefore, this question does not arise.

Sir, our procurement of rice and wheat has been the highest ever since Independence and that is another issue that we need to consider. Yes, we can distribute it better, but what are the constructive steps that we need to take? But let us not look at the entire picture as if everything is doom and gloom. Let us look at it in a spirit of constructive suggestion. Our procurement has been the highest ever with 33.1 million tonnes of rice as also 22.57 million tonnes of wheat. This is the highest ever since Independence.

Sir, consider also the fact that under the *Antyodaya* Scheme, 35 kg of foodgrains, rice at Rs.3 per kg and wheat at Rs.2 per kg, are being given to every family. (Interruptions) Whenever you get your chance, you surely bring to the notice of the House the issues and the *Antyodaya* Scheme. But the fact of the matter is that the Government has instituted the *Antyodaya* Scheme. The lapses, if any, are for us to address. The fact is that under the scheme, the issue price of rice, wheat, sugar, edible oil, and pulses has not gone up since this Government came to power in 2004. It has not gone up by one rupee.

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It has not gone up by even one paisa. The Government stands committed steadfastly to the fact that the most disadvantaged sections of society have to be insulated and given social security net in terms of poverty reduction.

Sir, the Government has taken tremendous pains. The hon. Member spoke about the agriculture sector. To me, one of the most important issues -- I am not an expert -- regarding agriculture is the question of Minimum Support Price in terms of what a Government can do. The Minimum Support Price for rice has been increased by this Government by 79 per cent from Rs.560 to Rs.1,000. The MSP for wheat has been increased by 72 per cent from Rs.640 to Rs.1,100. The intention of the Government to help the farmer, to help the agriculture sector, and to take all steps to protect the disadvantaged people of the country is very clear and very, very transparent for the entire world to see. You look at the fiscal measures; you look at the administrative measures.

The hon. Member raised the question of futures trading. The futures trading has been stopped. When the entire issue became a very big problem, futures trading in four vital items, namely, rice, urad dal, tuar dal and sugar has been suspended. Also, the export of non-Basmati rice, edible oil, and pulses have been banned.

Fiscal measures have been taken by the Government. A large amount of money has been injected into the economy. I believe that whatever measures a Central Government can possibly take, those steps and those measures have been taken by the Government to good effect.

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The hon. Member spoke about growth. Nobody wants jobless and inflated growth. Nobody wants growth where prices are beyond the reach of common man. That would be a complete anomaly in our democracy; that would make a travesty of our democracy. Nobody supports the issue of a GDP growth where prices are very high. And it is not that as if this Government is advocating a GDP growth where prices of essential commodities are very high, particularly of food items, and where food inflation is very high. We have to take all steps to bring that food inflation down.

(Contd. By VKK/2S)

-YSR/VKK-DS/2s/3.30

SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN (CONTD.): However, Sir, growth is not a dirty word. We need growth. We need GDP growth. The fact of the matter is that we should be proud that despite a severing global economic crisis over the last several years, our economy has given very encouraging signals of recovery of growth from 6.7 per cent and is now projected to grow by 7.9 per cent. The infrastructure sector has gone up. Cement, steel, coal, etc. have all gone up. Electricity generation, according to official figures, has gone up by six per cent and infrastructure doubled to 4.3 per cent this year. It is because of the policies of this stable Government, the policies initiated by the Government that the GDP has grown to this extent. This is something that we should be quietly proud of while never losing sight of the fact that food inflation stares us in the face and food inflation needs to be brought under control. Now, Sir, I have already enumerated and I would

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like to enumerate once again the measures that have been taken on the fiscal and administrative side.

Sir, as far as the fiscal measures that have been taken are concerned, import duty has been reduced to zero for rice, sugar, wheat, pulses, edible oil and maize. For refined and hydrogenated vegetable oils, duty is 0.78 per cent. One million tonnes of sugar have been allowed to be imported by this Government. Sir, regarding the administrative measures, the Government has banned the export of non-basmati rice, edible oil, pulses, the Government also imposed short limit orders on paddy, rice, pulses, sugar and edible oils up to 31.11.2010, enhanced minimum support price to maximise production and banned future trading which I have already mentioned.

Now, Sir, this is a country where we believe in cooperative federalism and nobody in this hon. House can deny that out of the two pillars of any food security issue or the main pillar of any food security issue, one has to be the strengthening of the public distribution system and the other has to be taking very strict action against black-marketeers and hoarders. Sir, as far as taking strict action against black-marketeers and hoarders is concerned, there is the Prevention of Black Marketing Act, the Essential Commodities Act and there are orders that have come under the Act. Sir, it is unfortunate that in the NDA rule, the hon. Member, who spoke before me, was referring to so proudly, the Essential Commodities Act was diluted. It was during their time. (Interruptions)

श्री प्रकाश जावडेकर : *

SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN: Mr. Javadekar, I am not yielding.

(Interruptions)

श्री उपसभापति : अगर आप yield नहीं कर रही हैं तो nothing will go on record.

(Interruptions)

श्री प्रकाश जावडेकर : *

SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN: I am not yielding. (Interruptions) I would like to continue. (Interruptions) It is obviously a problem which you cannot address. (Interruptions) They cannot address. It is also a fact that the public distribution system was virtually dismantled by making it a targeted public distribution system by dividing it into different colour cards for people. All this was done under the NDA Government. But, the fact of the matter is that I would like to say that whatever steps can possibly be taken by the Central Government have been taken by the Central Government in pursuance of our commitment of our mandate to the common man. Sir, what will the States do? The Central Government has no territory. It is the Union of India. In cooperative federalism, the States are expected to take action against black-marketeers and hoarders and to strengthen the public distribution system. Are the States doing that? I think, Sir, it is our responsibility in the Council of States to demand that the States also should actually take action in this very sensitive and most important matter. If a State Government does not take steps against black-marketeers and hoarders, and does not strengthen the public distribution system, I would say that the State

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Government has completely failed in its duty to the people. Sir, if you look at the records which have been provided by the hon. Minister in another context, in the last year, with regard to the black-marketeers and hoarders, by the Delhi Government, 70 raids have taken place, 45 arrests have taken place and 49 prosecutions have taken place. Sir, in Bihar -- 4 raids, 2 arrests, zero prosecution; in Gujarat -- 18459 raids, 18 arrests, 71 prosecutions; in Himachal Pradesh -- 14946 raids, three arrests, two prosecutions; in Kerala, 33638 raids, 18 arrests, 2 prosecutions.

(Contd. by MKS/2t)

MKS-AKA/3.35/2T

SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN (CONTD.): In Maharashtra, Sir, there were 716 raids, 1,171 arrests and 756 prosecutions; in my State of Tamil Nadu, there were 11,535 raids, 3,532 arrests and 1,079 prosecutions, and in West Bengal, there were 56 raids, 58 arrests and one prosecution! Therefore, we can gauge from these details that Tamil Nadu has performed exceptionally well. I am very proud that in my State, very serious measures are being taken, very serious steps are being taken to address...(Interruptions)... Very, very serious steps are being taken to address this entire issue of black-marketeers, of hoarders and of strengthening the Public Distribution System, which is, undeniably, the pillar of a social security net as far as the most disadvantaged sections are concerned.

Sir, there is one final issue that I would like to bring to the notice of the House, and that, again, is wrong.....(Interruptions)... These are not some figures that I am pulling out of a hat. This is from a reputed

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daily newspaper. It projects very clearly how the retail prices are rising, the inflation is used by sellers as an excuse to hike rates, and the difference between the price in the wholesale market and the price in the retail market is going up. If you look at the comparative prices of vegetables, the price of ladyfingers is Rs.60/- in the retail market, and Rs.28/-, in the wholesale market; the price of bottle gourd is Rs.40/- in the retail market, and Rs.12/-, in the wholesale market, and the price of cauliflower is Rs.30/- in the retail market, and Rs.5/-, in the wholesale market. This is from *The Times of India*, which is not a paper particularly slanted in any political direction. I only use these figures and the newspaper to say that this is an issue which also has very serious political dimensions. Therefore, Sir, it is not merely a question of politics when I say that it is the State Governments which also have to step in. As I said, the Government of India has no territory of its own. It is the State Governments that have to take a very strong action and crack the whip against black-marketeers and hoarders. These people are doing a tremendous disservice to our national economy and to the people of our country. At the same time, we should address this entire issue of rising prices which also, Sir,. ...(Interruptions)... I have checked the figures. ...(Interruptions)... The point I would like to reiterate, Sir, is.....(Interruptions)... These are my final concluding remarks. The fact is that when I say this, I do not say this in a spirit of political blame game. I do not take the name of any State; I do not take the name of any political party. My issue is very simple. It is not a question of why should the States do it and why should the Centre do it. I believe that the Centre has to do its duty, and if it does not do its duty, they will be

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called to task by the people of this country. I have enumerated the steps which this Government has taken -- the political party of which I am a Member, is part of this Government -- and the steps that this Government has taken, I very firmly believe, are good steps; those are steps being taken to ameliorate the suffering of the common man. I would ask any Member, from the other side, to give suggestions, constructive suggestions, on how this Government may improve their performance. However, Sir, the State Governments cannot run away from their responsibility of strengthening the Public Distribution and of taking a strong action against hoarders and black-marketeers, to see that the prices come down. I would like to request all concerned to stop spreading unnecessary sensationalism and panic when none is called for. Thank you, Sir.

(Ends)

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Shri Shyamal Chakraborty. Your Party has ten minutes and there are two speakers. Please keep this in mind.

SHRI SHYAMAL CHAKRABORTY (WEST BENGAL): Sir, on such an important issue extra time will have to be given.

Thanks for allowing me to participate in the discussion. Sir, we are very proud of our best space scientists who are sending rockets to the space, and are also proud of most of those scientists who were able to send their rockets and strike in the lunar surface and extract water from the moon surface.

(Contd. by 2U)

-MKS-TMV-NB/2U/3.40

SHRI SHYAMAL CHAKRABORTY (CONTD.): But, unfortunately, our Government has tied the prices of essential commodities with the rocket and as the rocket goes high the price also goes high. When the rocket hits the moon, the price rocket is hitting the human being and extracting tears from the eyes of the *aam admi*. So, this is the situation in our country. Now I am sure that there is one problem which we are facing in India. It is drought. No doubt about it. Flood is a regular phenomenon. It happens every year. So, when the planners and the Government make the plans for the benefit of the people, they have to take into consideration these things. Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, drought is this year's phenomenon. But price rise is a regular phenomenon and it is rising almost every year.

My previous speaker attributed the responsibility to the State Governments, without naming or blaming any State or any political party. Okay. That is her privilege. But what I would like to say is that the anti-hoarding clause has been diluted in such a way that it prevented the State Government from taking steps against the hoarders and black-marketeers and they can't be arrested and punished. Raids can be organised. It is the West Bengal people who opened their eyes against the black-marketeers and tried to see that the land is fragmented in such a way that it is not possible for some people, the black-marketeers, to hoard their stock. But that is a different case. The problem is that it is the State Government which is increasing the price of inputs of agriculture. Take the price of fertilizer. Who is determining the price of fertilizer? It is the Central Government. Who is raising or

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determining the price of electricity? That is done as per the Electricity Bill which was introduced in 2003 and passed by the previous Government. The electricity rate is growing every year. Electricity is such an ingredient that both agriculture and industry are dependent on that.

The next point is the support price. The support price is fixed in such way that it is too inadequate to compensate the production cost of today. That is most important. What are the hoarders doing? They are paying bigger amount than the support price for the agricultural product. The peasants or farmers are compelled to sell their products to them. The reason is that the Government ordered support price is too inadequate for them.

Then comes the question of oil. It is an essential commodity for transporting agricultural and industrial products. The price of oil is regularly rising in our country. When we ask the Government, they used to say that it depends on international price. But it is a travesty of truth. What is the international price of oil today? It is 72 dollars per barrel. If you convert it into the Indian currency, then, it comes to Rs.22 per litre. But what is the selling price in the market? It is Rs.33 per litre for diesel and Rs.45 per litre for petrol.

As regards electricity, I have already referred to the price of electricity.

My previous speaker has mentioned that growth is not a dirty word. Yes, I appreciate that growth is not a dirty word. But certainly the growth in the price of essential commodities is a dirty word. No doubt about it. That is what we want to say. (Contd. by 2W/VK)

VK-VNK/2w/3.45

SHRI SHYAMAL CHAKRABORTY (CONTD): Now I come to BPL, which has been referred to repeatedly by several speakers. What is BPL, according to the Government reports? When 77 per cent of our population earns below Rs. 20 per day, that means, actually, 77 per cent of our people are poor. So the Public Distribution System should be introduced for those 77 per cent people at subsidised rates. If you can provide tax concession of Rs. 4,20,000 crores to the corporators, why a portion of that can't be transferred for subsidising agricultural and industrial products which are essentially meant for common people? What prevented the Government from doing that? Actually, the people have been cheated and exploited by the policies framed by the successive Governments. If the Government brings all the essential commodities under the PDS at subsidised rates, then the prices in the open market will be compelled to go down.

Sir, today a cartoon was published in The Hindu. The cartoon says, "We can promise a 100 per cent cut in emission because with the ever rising prices, there will be no cooking". Thank you.

(Ends)

श्री बृजभूषण तिवारी (उत्तर प्रदेश) : उपसभापति महोदय, यह महंगाई कितनी गंभीर है, इसका इसी से अंदाजा लगाया जा सकता है कि आज अखबार में एक खबर छपी कि हिमाचल प्रदेश में जो गरीब लोग हैं, वे रसायन युक्त गेहूं का बीज खरीद कर और उसी को पिसवा कर, उसी आटे की रोटी खाते हैं। इससे उनके जीवन को खतरा पैदा हो गया है। यह इसलिए खाते हैं, क्योंकि बीज वाला गेहूं नौ रुपए प्रति किलो मिल रहा है और गेहूं का दाम बीस रुपए प्रति किलो है। मैं यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि जो महंगाई है, वह हमारी नियति बन गई है। हम हर साल महंगाई पर चर्चा करते हैं ..(व्यवधान)..

श्री राजनीति प्रसाद : क्या खाते हैं?

श्री बृजभूषण तिवारी : गेहूं के बीज को पिसवा कर खाते हैं। रसायन युक्त गेहूं के बीज की कीमत नौ रुपए प्रति किलो है और अगर बाजार में गेहूं खरीदने जाएं, तो उसकी कीमत बीस रुपए प्रति किलो है। नौ रुपए प्रति किलो सस्ता है, इसलिए वह नौ रुपए वाली गेहूं के बीज खरीद कर, उसी को पिसवा कर, उसी आटे की रोटी खाते हैं। आज यह खबर अखबार में छपी है। मैं यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि यह जो महंगाई है, यह महंगाई घटेगी नहीं, बल्कि यह महंगाई तो बढ़ेगी। केवल फर्क यह है कि उसका दर ऊंचा-नीचा होता रहता है, लेकिन दाम घटता नहीं है। इस महंगाई का हमारे जीवन पर कितना असर है, इस संबंध में एक पूंजीवादी बाजार के प्रबल समर्थक अमेरिकी राष्ट्रपति Ronald Reagan ने एक बार कहा था कि "कीमत स्फीति बढ़ाने की तेज रफ्तार राहगीरों की धुनाई करने वाले बदमाशों की तरह हिंसक हथियारों से लैश डाकुओं की तरह खुंखार या हत्यारे निशाने वालों की तरह मौत की सौदागर होती है" यह है महंगाई। यह Ronald Reagan का कहना है। अब सवाल यह है कि सरकार द्वारा महंगाई को मापने का जो तरीका है, वह अभी तक थोक सूचकांक पर आधारित है। वह आंकड़ेबाजी के चक्कर में लोगों को भरमाते रहे और लोगों को भूलाते रहे, परंतु मैं इसके लिए समाचार पत्रों का बहुत योगदान मानता हूँ...

(2X/MP पर जारी)

MP/2X/3.50

श्री बृजभूषण तिवारी (क्रमागत) : और यह अखबारों में बहुत प्रचारित होने लगा। अर्थशास्त्रियों ने भी समझाया कि जो थोक सूचकांक है, उसमें जिन जिनसों का, जिन वस्तुओं का आम आदमी के जीवन से संबंध है, वे तो केवल 22 फीसदी हैं और उद्योग व कारखानों से उत्पादित जो अन्य सामान है, वह 63 प्रतिशत है। तो आप अगर उसका एक आधार बनाते हैं, तो आदमी के जीवन में और भी जो चीजें हैं - शिक्षा है, परिवहन है और जो सेवा क्षेत्र है, वह सेवा क्षेत्र हमारे सकल घरेलू उत्पाद का 50 प्रतिशत है, परंतु सेवा क्षेत्र के मामले का जो थोक सूचकांक तैयार किया जाता है, उसमें इसका कोई समावेश नहीं होता। महोदय, आप जानते हैं कि जीवन की जो आवश्यक वस्तुएं हैं, यहां पर केवल उन्हीं की महंगाई की चर्चा होती है, परंतु जो आदमी निम्न-मध्यम वर्ग का है या निम्न वर्ग का है,

उसको भी रेल से जाना होगा, बस से जाना होगा, उसको बच्चे की पढ़ाई का भी इंतज़ाम करना होगा, दवा खरीदनी होगी, तो आप समझिए कि उसके परिवार की जो मासिक आय है, उसका 50 प्रतिशत वह इन चीज़ों में खर्च कर देता है। आप यह देखिए कि यहां पर किसी प्रकार का कोई नियंत्रण नहीं है। मैं एक छोटा सा उदाहरण आपको देना चाहता हूं। आप अगर नई दिल्ली रेलवे स्टेशन से आएंगे और अगर आप टैक्सी या श्री व्हीलर hire करें, तो किसी भी टैक्सी या श्री व्हीलर में मीटर काम नहीं करता है। वे मनमाने तरीके से आपसे दाम मांगते हैं, जबकि दिल्ली की मुख्य मंत्री का रोज़ बयान आता है कि मीटर के बिना कोई नहीं चलेगा। अब आप यह समझिए कि उस महंगाई का असर हमारे ऊपर पड़ा या नहीं पड़ा। जो उत्पादक है या जो उसका उपभोक्ता है, वह कोई नोट तो छापता नहीं है, क्योंकि आमदनी नहीं बढ़ रही है। आमदनी किसकी बढ़ रही है? हमारे समाज में एक बहुत बड़ा तबका है जो easy money चाहता है, जो भ्रष्टाचार करता है, जिसकी कमाई के अन्य स्रोत हैं। तो जिसकी कमाई के अन्य स्रोत हैं, उसी की आर्थिक गतिविधियों में तड़क-भड़क देखने को मिलती है, इसलिए हमें महंगाई का जो असर है, वह असर दिखाई नहीं देता, परंतु जो गरीब लोग हैं, जिनकी बंधी हुई आमदनी है, जो मज़दूरी करते हैं, तनखाह पाते हैं, जिनकी आय का कोई अन्य साधन नहीं है, महंगाई का असर उन पर दिखाई देता है। महोदय, मैं अभी स्विट्ज़रलैंड गया था। वहां पर लोगों ने बताया कि वे नौ-नौ घंटे, दस-दस घंटे काम करते हैं। हमने पूछा कि कारण क्या है? उन्होंने कहा कि यहां आम आदमी को easy money की गुंजाइश नहीं है। अगर ईज़ी मनी किसी को मिल जाएगा, तो वह काम क्यों करेगा? उसको महंगाई की क्या चिंता है, चाहे जितने भी दाम बढ़ जाएं? आज सोने की खरीद सबसे ज्यादा है और इन चीज़ों की.... आप यह जानिए कि दुनिया की जो सबसे कीमती और महंगी कारें हैं, जो बहुत से यूरोपीय देशों में भी नहीं मिलेंगी, वह सात-आठ के करीब केवल दिल्ली में हैं। तो हमारे समाज का और हमारी स्थिति का यह जो ढांचा है, उसको देखते हुए हमें नहीं लगता कि महंगाई पर किसी प्रकार का कोई अंकुश लगेगा।

दूसरी बात यह है कि जो खुदरा सूचकांक है, वह खुदरा सूचकांक ही असली पैमाना है कि हमारी जो क्रय-शक्ति है, हमारी जो खरीदने की ताकत है, हमारा जो रुपया है, वह

खरीदने की ताकत के हिसाब से ही हमारी पहुंच से कितना बाहर होता जा रहा है? उसी के साथ-साथ यह महंगाई का त्रिशंकु सूचकांक न तो उत्पादन के काम आने वाले साज़-सामान की कीमतों के स्तर और परिवर्तन की गति बता पाता है और न ही वस्तु सेवाओं की कीमतों का सूचकांक बन पाता है - यह मैंने कहा, क्योंकि यह जो सेवा क्षेत्र है, वह इस सूचकांक में शामिल नहीं होता है। अब आप यह देखिए कि जो कीमतें बढ़ रही हैं, उसका कारण क्या है? उसका कारण अभी माननीय सदस्यों ने बताया कि जो वायदा कारोबार है, वह वायदा कारोबार पिछले चार वर्षों के पूर्व 65 हजार करोड़ रुपए का था।

(2Y/SC पर क्रमशः)

[-mp/sc-tdb/3.55/2y](#)

श्री बृजभूषण तिवारी (क्रमागत) : आज वह 37 लाख करोड़ तक पहुंच गया है। इसका मतलब यह है कि देश के सकल घरेलू उत्पाद का 92 प्रतिशत जो टर्न ओवर है, वह वायदा कारोबार में है। महोदय, बड़ी और बहुराष्ट्रीय कम्पनियां भी जमाखोरी करती हैं। आप छोटे-मोटे व्यापारी को तो पकड़ लेंगे - अभी माननीय सदस्य आंकड़े दे रही थीं - लेकिन ये जो बड़ी-बड़ी कम्पनियां हैं, बहुराष्ट्रीय कम्पनियां हैं, ये जिस प्रकार से जमाखोरी करती हैं, इनको कोई नहीं देखता है क्योंकि सटोरिए, जमाखोर, बड़े अफसर और राजनेता - इनकी जो सांठ-गांठ है, यह सांठ-गांठ भी दामों की बढ़ोत्तरी का बहुत बड़ा कारण माना जाती है। इसलिए मैं कहना चाहता हूं कि हमारी कोई दाम नीति नहीं है। उसी दाम नीति के न होने का यह कारण है। आज खाद्य सुरक्षा की बात बहुत कही जाती है, आज हमारा उत्पादन निरंतर घट रहा है। खेती घाटे का धंधा हो रही है। हम पहले संतुलित खेती करते थे, लेकिन हरित क्रांति के बाद हमने केवल गेहूं और चावल पर सबसे ज्यादा जोर दिया तथा जो हमारा दलहन है या दूसरी फसलें हैं, उन पर जोर कम हो गया। मगर आज हम देखते हैं कि गेहूं और चावल के उत्पादन में भी कमी हुई है। इसलिए आज आवश्यकता इस बात की है कि खेती में निवेश बढ़े और निजी निवेश बढ़े। खेती में निजी निवेश जहां 1999-2000 में 11.9 प्रतिशत था, वह आज घटकर 6.6 प्रतिशत रह गया है। किसानों को सस्ती दरों पर कर्ज मिलना चाहिए लेकिन आज 73 प्रतिशत किसान सस्ती दरों पर कर्ज मिलने की सेवाओं से मुक्त हैं, दूर हैं, उनका कोई मतलब नहीं है। जब तक आप उनको पैसा उपलब्ध नहीं

Uncorrected/ Not for publication- 08.12.2009

कराएंगे, जब तक आप उनको बैंकों के trap में, बैंकों के घेरे में नहीं लाएंगे, तब तक उनकी स्थिति में किसी प्रकार का सुधार नहीं हो सकता। गोदाम उद्योगों को भी बुनियादी उद्योग का दर्जा देना पड़ेगा। अंत में, मैं यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि जो कीमतें हैं - हम लोग हमेशा इस प्रकार की बात करते रहे कि दाम बांधों - उन कीमतों को नियंत्रित करने की कोई वास्तविक, कोई बुनियादी नीति होनी चाहिए। हमारी समाजवादी पार्टी बराबर कीमतों को रोकने के लिए जिन नीतियों पर विश्वास करती है, मैं उनका उद्धरण करना चाहता हूँ। किसी भी आवश्यक विनिर्मित वस्तु की कीमत असली लागत के डेढ़ गुणा से अधिक नहीं हो। यह कानून बनना चाहिए कि जो भी चीज़ बने, उसकी जो असली लागत है, उस पर जो असली खर्च आया है, अगर वह बाजार में आए तो वह डेढ़ गुणा के अंदर fluctuate करे। आज उसका कोई हिसाब नहीं है। आज जो maximum rate है, उसकी cost accountancy की कोई transparency नहीं है, कोई जानकारी नहीं है कि उसकी असली लागत क्या है। आज कीमतें दो-ढाई गुणा से लेकर 5 या 6 गुणा तक हैं।

श्री उपसभापति : कृपया समाप्त कीजिए।

श्री बृजभूषण तिवारी : खाद्यान्नों की कीमतों का उतार-चढ़ाव दो फसलों के बीच, एक आना प्रति सेर या 15 प्रतिशत से ज्यादा न हो। आज आप देखते हैं कि किसान जब फसल तैयार करता है तब उसका रेट क्या होता है और उसके बाद जब फसल खत्म हो जाती है, जब बनियों के हाथ में या सरकार के गोदामों में वह चली जाती है, तब उसका दाम कितना होता है। इसलिए हम लोग यह मानते रहे हैं कि दो फसलों के बीच में कम से कम 16 प्रतिशत के अंदर उतार-चढ़ाव होना चाहिए। आज वह 6 और 7 गुणा ज्यादा हो गया है। तीसरा, किसान को अपनी फसल की इतनी कीमत मिलनी चाहिए जिससे उसकी लागत भी पूरी हो तथा उसे साधारण तौर पर सम्मानजनक जीवन-स्तर मिले। ..(समय की घंटी).. कृषि वस्तुओं की कीमतों तथा औद्योगिक वस्तुओं की कीमतों में औचित्यपूर्ण समानता बनी रहे। स्वामिनाथन कमेटी ने भी अपनी रिपोर्ट में संस्तुति दी है कि किसानों को उनकी लागत से कम से कम 50 प्रतिशत लाभ मिलना चाहिए। इस पर भी कोई ध्यान नहीं दिया गया है। अंतिम बात यह कही गयी है कि कृषि वस्तुओं और निर्यातित खाद्य पदार्थों एवं आयातित विनिर्मित माल की

Uncorrected/ Not for publication- 08.12.2009

कीमतों में औचित्यपूर्ण बराबरी हो। यानी हम जो एक्सपोर्ट करें और जो बाहर से इम्पोर्ट हो, अगर उनमें कोई बराबरी नहीं है तो हम तो लुट जाएंगे।

श्री उपसभापति : तिवारी जी, खत्म करिए।

श्री बृजभूषण तिवारी : मैं यह कहना चाहता हूं कि कीमतों के बारे में जब तक इन बुनियादी आधारों पर बुनियादी नीतियां तय नहीं की जातीं, दाम बांधा नहीं जाता, तब तक केवल आरोप-प्रत्यारोप से काम नहीं चलेगा कि यह राज्य सरकारों की जिम्मेदारी है। हमारे वामपंथी साथी ने ठीक ही कहा कि जो बुनियादी चीज़ है, मूल चीज़ है, उसका दाम तो आप ही तय करते हैं। आप चीनी का दाम तय करें, लोहे का दाम तय करें, सीमेंट का दाम तय करें, अनाज का सपोर्ट प्राइस तय करें और सारी जिम्मेदारी राज्य सरकार को दें, यह उचित नहीं है।

श्री उपसभापति : समाप्त कीजिए। आपने ज्यादा समय ले लिया है।

(2जैड-एमसीएम पर क्रमशः)

Kgg-mcm/2z/4.00

श्री बृजभूषण तिवारी : इसलिए मेरा फिर कहना है कि जब तक आप आर्थिक नीतियों में, कृषि नीतियों में बुनियादी परिवर्तन नहीं करेंगे, दाम बांधने का उपाय नहीं करेंगे, तब तक महंगाई रुकेगी नहीं, केवल बहस का मुद्दा बनी रहेगी। महोदय, मैं इन्ही शब्दों के साथ अपनी बात खत्म करता हूं। बहुत-बहुत धन्यवाद।

(समाप्त)

SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN (UTTAR PRADESH): Sir, can I speak for a moment? Sir, I just would like to bring to the notice of the Minister a fact. I was driving from Nasik to Mumbai. It was in the evening, about 8 p.m. Two truckloads of onion were being thrown off the flip. This is so much for the Member who was speaking on behalf of the Public Distribution System. Thank you.

(Ends)

श्री अवतार सिंह करीमपुरी (उत्तर प्रदेश) : सर, बहुत ही गंभीर मुद्दे पर विचार-विमर्श हो रहा है। महंगाई का जो इश्यू है, इसके बारे में पूरा देश चिंतित है। हमसे पहले भी जो हमारे आदरणीय मेंबर्स साहबान बोले हैं, उन्होंने भी अपनी संवेदना और चिंता जाहिर की है। कबीर साहब ने अपनी वाणी में कहा है कि -"भूखे भजन न कीजे, यह माला अपनी लीजे।" आज हम देख रहे हैं कि हमारे जो आंकड़े हैं, पिछले साल नवम्बर के और इस साल के नवम्बर के, उसमें पिछले साल नवम्बर में जो चीनी 22-23 रुपए प्रति किलो थी वह इस साल 38 रुपए प्रति किलो है। इसमें 65 परसेंट की बढ़ोत्तरी है। जो गुड़ पहले 20 रुपए किलो था और जिसको गांव वाले ही ज्यादा यूज करते थे, जिनके लिए सरकार कहती है कि हम आम आदमी के लिए नीति बनाते हैं, जिस गुड़ को आम आदमी ही इस्तेमाल करता था, क्योंकि चीनी उनकी पहुंच से बाहर है, इसलिए वे गुड़ से ही काम चला लेते थे, लेकिन आज वही गुड़ चीनी से आगे निकल गया। आम आदमी की सरकार की कृपा हुई आम आदमी के ऊपर और आज वह गुड़ 40 रुपए किलो है। चाय की पत्ती 149 से 215 रुपए किलो पर पहुंच गई है। गुड़ में सौ परसेंट की बढ़ोत्तरी है। आलू 18-20 रुपए पर गया है।

जो रूलिंग पार्टी है, उसके अंदर भी मतभेद हैं। जब कोई क्रेडिट लेना होता है, फिर तो बोलते हैं कि कांग्रेस पार्टी की सरकार है और जब डिसक्रेडिट देना होता है तो कहते हैं कि महंगाई तो सिर्फ शरद पवार जी की वजह से है। जिम्मेदारी तो उनकी भी होगी, हम नहीं कहते कि उनकी जिम्मेदारी नहीं है। लेकिन महंगाई के लिए जिम्मेदार अकेले पवार साहब और स्टेट गवर्नमेंट है और जो रूलिंग पार्टी है वह यूनाइटेड रेस्पांसिबिलिटीके लिए तैयार नहीं है, डिसक्रेडिट औरों को देना चाहते हैं और क्रेडिट जो हमारे एक युवा नेता हैं, जो झुगियों में आजकल चाय पी रहे हैं और उनको उस झुग्गी की चाय स्वादिष्ट लगती है जहां कांग्रेस पार्टी की सरकार न हो। जहां कांग्रेस की सरकार न हो, उस झुग्गी की चाय स्वादिष्ट लगती है, झुगियां तो दिल्ली में बहुत हैं, लेकिन यहां की झुग्गी की चाय अच्छी नहीं लग रही।

(3A/Gs पर क्रमशः)

GS-SSS/3A/4.05

श्री अवतार सिंह करीमपुरी (क्रमागत) : ये गरीब की गरीबी का मज़ाक उड़ा रहे हैं। आपने 62 साल राज़ किया और जिन 12 करोड़ लोगों को झुगियों में रहने के लिए मजबूर किया, आज उनकी गरीबी की सेंटिमेंट से भी पॉलिटिक्स कर रहे हैं। उसका समाधान नहीं कर रहे हैं। आज मैं आपको यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि देश के 270 से ज्यादा जिलों में नक्सलाइट मूवमेंट आगे बढ़ी है, आप उसके लिए वैपन्स खरीद रहे हैं, आप उसके लिए कानून बना रहे हैं, बड़ी-बड़ी मशीनरी बना रहे हैं, नहीं जीत पाएंगे हम मशीनरी से, यह हम दावा करते हैं। आप जिम्मेदार हैं। कबीर साहिब ने कहा था "भूखे भक्ति न कीजिए, जै माला अपनी लीजिए।" अगर हम लोगों के पेट में से रोटी निकाल लेंगे, तो उनके अंदर देश-भक्ति का जज्बा पैदा नहीं कर सकेंगे। इसलिए हम यह कहना चाहेंगे कि एक साल में क्या हो गया है ? पिछले साल के नवम्बर से इस साल के नवम्बर में पवार साहब की नीतियों में क्या अंतर आ गया है ? सरकार को क्या हो गया है ? ..(व्यवधान).. हम यह बताना चाहते हैं कि हमारे देश में डेमोक्रेटिक सिस्टम है, जिसको हम दुनिया की सबसे बड़ी डेमोक्रेसी कहते हैं, हमारे देश की डेमोक्रेसी ने हमारे देश के इलेक्ट्रोरल प्रोसेस को 62 साल में इतना भ्रष्ट बना दिया है कि पूंजीपतियों से चंदा लेकर इलेक्शन लड़ा जाता है और मई, 2009 में जो जनरल इलेक्शन हुआ, जिनसे चंदा लेकर इलेक्शन लड़ा गया, गरीबों का पेट काटकर उनका पेट भरा जा रहा है। इसलिए हम सरकार से कहना चाहेंगे, महंगाई के बारे में आंकड़े तो आप और हम रोज़ पढ़ते हैं। ..(व्यवधान).. हमें मालूम है कि जो राज करने वाली पार्टी है, यह डा0 अम्बेडकर को भी संसद में नहीं देखना चाहती थी, इसलिए आपने उनका बुत भी नहीं बनाना चाहा। ..(व्यवधान).. जिस डा0 अम्बेडकर को आपने संसद में बोला था ..(व्यवधान).. कि हमने डा0 अम्बेडकर के लिए एक-एक मन के ताले लगा दिए हैं, अब वह संसद में नहीं आएंगे, अब वह पाकिस्तान की असेम्बली में जाएंगे। डा0 अम्बेडकर ने बोला था ..(समय की घंटी).. सुनो, मैं मन-मन पक्के के ताले अपने जूते से तोड़कर संसद में आया हूँ, कोई मुझे रोक नहीं पाया। अब आपको उनका statue भी बुरा लग रहा है।..(व्यवधान)..

श्री उपसभापति : करीमपुरी जी, आप प्राइस राइज पर बोलिए।

Uncorrected/ Not for publication- 08.12.2009

श्री अवतार सिंह करीमपुरी : आप गांधी जी को पूरे देश में नोट में भी ले आए। ..(व्यवधान).. सर, मैं प्राइस राइज पर ही बोल रहा हूं। ..(व्यवधान)..

श्री उपसभापति : नहीं, नहीं। प्राइस राइज तो हम भी सुन रहे हैं। ..(व्यवधान)..

श्री अवतार सिंह करीमपुरी : डा० अम्बेडकर साहब ने देश की इकानामी के लिए एक बड़ी दूर-दृष्टि की नीति देखी।

श्री उपसभापति : अब आप समाप्त कीजिए।

श्री अवतार सिंह करीमपुरी : डा० अम्बेडकर साहब ने आर्थिक क्षेत्र में जो दिशा रखी थी, अगर सरकार उस दिशा को मान लेती, उसको अपना आदर्श और मार्गदर्शन मानकर चलती, तो आज जो हमारे देश का हथ्र है, यह नहीं होता। ..(व्यवधान).. आज 70 परसेंट लोग ..(व्यवधान).. उत्तर प्रदेश में अभी तो चार साल भी नहीं हुए हैं। आप देखिए कि आपने 62 साल में क्या किया है ? ..(व्यवधान).. उससे थोड़ा-बहुत मुंह छुपाओ, तभी इलाज होगा। उपसभापति महोदय, मैं यह कहना चाहता हूं कि इसका कुछ परमानेंट इलाज किया जाए।

(3बी पर जारी)

-SSS/NBR-ASC/3B/4.10.

श्री अवतार सिंह करीमपुरी (क्रमागत) : जब हम सब कुछ तय कर रहे हैं, तो फिर हम कीमतें तय करने से क्यों डर रहे हैं? हमने प्रोड्यूसर की मर्जी पर छोड़ रखा है कि तुम जो चाहे तय कर लो।... (व्यवधान).. सर, एक-दो मिनट। ..(व्यवधान)..

श्री उपसभापति : करीमपुरी साहब, आपका समय समाप्त हो गया है। ... (व्यवधान)... समाप्त कीजिए।

श्री अवतार सिंह करीमपुरी : सर, एक-दो मिनट और दे दीजिए। हम तो कभी बोलते ही नहीं हैं। ... (व्यवधान)... आज बोल रहे हैं, तो बोलने दीजिए। ... (व्यवधान)...

श्री उपसभापति : कभी बोलते नहीं हैं, मगर समय भी कम है। ..(व्यवधान).. समय क्रेडिट, डेबिट नहीं होता। ... (व्यवधान)..

श्री अवतार सिंह करीमपुरी : जो प्रोड्यूसर है, उसको फ्री हैंड दिया है कि आप जितना चाहे कंज्यूमर को एक्सप्लॉएट कर सकते हो।..(व्यवधान)... हमारा यह सजेशन है कि इकानॉमिक एक्सप्लॉएटेशन बंद किया जाए ... (व्यवधान). और इसके ऊपर एफेक्टिव नीति तैयार की

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जाए।...(व्यवधान)..हम यह कहना चाहेंगे कि जो हमारे पास एग्रीक्लचरल लैंड है, वह हर दिन कम होती जा रही है। यह हमारे लिए एक बड़ी चिंता का विषय है। ...(व्यवधान)..

श्री उपसभापति : अब आपको समाप्त करना पड़ेगा। You have taken more time than the time allotted to your party. आप समाप्त कीजिए। Shri Malaisamy.

श्री अवतार सिंह करीमपुरी : जो साधन सम्पन्न लोग हैं, बड़े-बड़े मॉल्स, बड़े-बड़े ... (व्यवधान).. इसलिए हम यह चाहेंगे कि एग्रीक्लचरल लैंड को बचाया जाए और कीमतें निर्धारित करने की नीति तय की जाए। सरकार महंगाई के लिए हाउस के अंदर एक कलैक्टिव रिस्पॉसिबिलिटी ले कि हम महंगाई के फ्रंट पर फेल हुए हैं और इस देश के गरीब आदमी का उत्पीड़न हुआ है, इस देश के कंज्यूमर का आर्थिक शोषण हुआ है। हमारे देश के दस-बारह करोड़ लोग झुग्गियों में रहते हैं, क्या हम सर्दियों में उनको अपनी आंखों से मरते हुए देखना चाहते हैं? हमें उनका भी कोई न कोई बंदोबस्त करना होगा।

(समाप्त)

MR. DEPUTY CHARIMAN: Dr. Malaisamy. Your party has got five minutes.

DR. K. MALAISAMY (TAMIL NADU): Thank you Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, for calling me on behalf of the AIADMK to join my colleagues here to speak on this very important subject -- price rise. Due to paucity of time...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You are entitled only to that. What can I do? Had it been in my hands, I would like to give you more.

DR. K. MALAISAMY: I am fully conscious of it. Sir, I may not be able to complete my task, except touch and go to the issues.

Sir, coming straight to the subject, the macro-level challenges or threats like global meltdown, global warming, global recession, etc., have got a direct impact on inflation also, but, not to the extent, as others have highlighted. I agree that it has a marginal affect. This is how I

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look at it. I am saying this by taking hint from the hon. Prime Minister's observation, followed by the Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission, who had said that all these threats and challenges have got an affect on India. But, it has got only a marginal affect. That is how they look at it. In such a situation, one cannot take excuse that it is due to things beyond their control. As far as I can see, the macro-level issues have a limited impact. I come straight to inflation which is very much talked about by all. Look at inflation at the international level and inflation at the Indian level. Inflation at the Indian level, sometime back, had reached to a double digit. Of course, now, it has come down to 8 per cent and odd and will continue like that. A lot has been talked about inflation. Sir, it is not occurring for the first time. Inflation is in existing for quite a long time in India.

Coming to price rise, as my colleagues have highlighted, the prices of essential commodities have gone up by leaps and bounds. How have they gone up from one week to another? The prices in the domestic market have gone up like anything. For example, the price of onion has gone up several times, potato has gone up by 44 per cent, primary articles have gone up by 9 per cent, pulses have increased by 23 per cent, milk by 10 per cent, rice by 12 per cent, etc. In other words, the prices of essential commodities used by human being have gone up and up.

(CONTD. BY PB "3C")

PB/3c/4.15

DR. K. MALAISAMY (CONTD.): Sir, according to me, in this particular case, or, for that matter, with regard to any issue, there are controllable

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factors and uncontrollable factors. As far as controllable factors are concerned, they are within the reach of human beings. On the other hand, in the wake of science and technology, we are able to do something even with regard to uncontrollable factors. If that be the case, I could cite one or two reasons. One is the mishandling of the issues which are faced by us.

It is on record that the Government has gone to the extent of exporting rice, wheat and pulses recently when the prices are going up like anything. When the prices in India are shooting up, why have they gone for export? This is my first point.

Secondly, Sir, there is corruption. In the rice export, a scam has also occurred. The sugar prices could not be controlled even during festival season. Sir, the Minister the other day told us that he has to make a balance between the interest of the agriculturists and the consumers. While I agree that the interests of both should be protected, but, at the same time, this balancing has to be done without affecting the interests of either side.

Sir, due to paucity of time, instead of dilating on the various causes and reasons for the price rise, etc., I would like to come straightway to the measures to be taken so that the prices can be contained because I am more concerned about it.

Coming to point no. 1, they should go to the root cause instead of looking upon the periphery. I used to cite even a couplet from *Thirukkural*. But I don't repeat it here. I think, first the root cause of any issue has to be found out and then its solution can be found out. Now, Sir, coming to point no. 1 ...

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MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: How many times you would say, 'number one'?

DR. K. MALAISAMY: Sir, when I am talking about the measures, I have got three or four measures which, I think, are very relevant for the Minister. Sir, you had given me five minutes. But so far I have taken only two-three minutes.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Unfortunately, the clock is right here in front of me. You have already taken five minutes.

DR. K. MALAISAMY: Sir, kindly bear with me. I will try to finish in two-three minutes. Sir, I am very conscious about my time.

Sir, coming to inflation, the Government and the Reserve Bank of India can do wonders to control inflation. They should ensure money flow and they should also reduce the interest rate and lower the tax to boost the demand and induce savings and investment. The Government should spend on infrastructure and social programmes. This is the way the Government and the Reserve Bank can do it. This is number one.

Then, secondly, Sir, they should deal with -- some of the hon. Members have also mentioned it -- unscrupulous elements strictly. They should not have any sympathy for them. On the other hand, they should deal strictly with the unscrupulous elements and anti-social elements like middlemen, hoarders, black marketeers and unscrupulous traders who are mainly responsible for artificial creation of demand and supply resulting in price rise.

Thirdly, Sir, there is a need to streamline the corruption-ridden Public Distribution System. Madam, Jayanthi Natarajan was saying that it looks as if everything is okay in Tamil Nadu. Where is Mr. Siva?

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...(Interruptions)... Sir, he should not interrupt me. ...(Interruptions)... They say that everything is okay. According to me, the PDS is meant for the poor people, the card holders. But whatever is given under the PDS is being siphoned off and taken away by some people and *en block* it is being blackmarketed. ...(Interruptions)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please sit down. ...(Interruptions)... It is not necessary that everybody should get up. Please.

DR. K. MALAISAMY: Sir, they should ensure that it should go to the right persons at the right time. ...(Time-bell)...

Sir, coming to revamping the Food and Civil Supply Department, it is white elephant. They are not doing its job properly and they should be made to work. You should also think to reorganize and review its working so that they can do their work effectively.

(Contd. by 3d/SKC)

3d/4.20/skc

DR. K. MALAISAMY (Contd.): Sir, a mass consumer movement should be started so that whenever there is arbitrary increase in prices, they protest and see to it that the Government is made to understand what the public wants. The untimely increase in oil prices has led to the rise in prices of so many articles. What I am trying to say is, they have increased the oil prices retrospectively; instead, they should have made timely corrections in such a way that they need not coordinate and combine it with this.

Sir, one or two points more and then I shall conclude. The rate of inflation to be negative and rise in prices, are two things that should not go together. Unfortunately, in India, they go together. Correct prediction

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of monsoons is an important factor. In such a situation, they must build on their stocks and properly store them, so that in case of deficient monsoons, the needs are taken care of. In case of a delayed monsoon and deficient rains, there is speculation. So, hoarding is taking place. We must think about how to avert such things.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

DR. K. MALAISAMY: Wastage of food and pilferage should be avoided by improving storage and processing facilities.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I think I have given you sufficient time. Please conclude.

DR. K. MALAISAMY: Too much dependence on rains and irrigation for agriculture should be avoided and more and more agricultural products like pulses and maize must be grown, so that food production can be increased. Water scarcity is another problem. Last but not the least, Sir, there should be rationalisation and reduction in import and increase in exports.

Let me conclude with the fervent hope and request the hon. Minister and the Government that the system must be reviewed and tightened in such a way that the measures take care of price rise whenever it occurs. They have been saying that they have been doing this and doing that. But the ground reality is, it is not true.

(Ends)

SHRI N.K. SINGH (BIHAR): Mr. Deputy Chairman Sir, I think that the hon. Minister for Agriculture, who is such a consummate, keen watcher of sportsmen, must be finding himself a bit bewildered that in such a short session of the Rajya Sabha, to be bowled twice over completely,

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once on the sugarcane stuff, and then on this stuff about prices, both of which seem to have somewhat taken him by surprise. For an astute player of his kind, fortunately, Sir, unlike Don Bradman, this is not his last innings and he can hope to really salvage his reputation.

Sir, couple of things are very clear. First and foremost, the current rise in prices is a combination of several factors; combination, first and foremost, of endemic, long-term disequilibrium between demand and supply, changing consumer preferences, plateauing of our productivity and disruption of global markets and distribution. Some of these lend themselves to short-term solutions. There are others, Sir, where the causes are more endemic. But there is no getting away, Mr. Minister, with the fact that unless supply side responses are significantly improved, it will be difficult to make a short-term dent in the situation. One unhappy thing is that, unfortunately, this does not seem to be a spike in the prices from 2007-08; this seems to be an endemic long-term trend driven by three important factors. First and foremost, Sir, driven by the fact that meat consumption is going up at a rate which is unprecedented. Second, Sir, population, which is six billion today, even with the best of efforts, will hit 9.2 billion by 2050. And, thirdly, Sir, the inability for global productivity patterns, cropping systems to sustain higher levels of productivity in the light of the changing dynamics of climate changes seem to be insurmountable.

My suggestion to the Minister is, concentrate on two types of measures. First of all, concentrate on some short-term measures. What can you do in the short run? In the short run, I think that the most important thing he can do, Sir, and the London Economist, about which

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I had the privilege of mentioning to you, which carried a special supplement only two weeks ago, said, as far as India is concerned, how do we minimise 35 per cent waste in fruits and vegetables and 44 per cent waste in a whole range of other crops.

(Contd. by hk/3e)

HK/3e/4.25

SHRI N.K. SINGH (CONTD.): This can be done by, of course, concentrating on something which he is doing, but accelerating it in terms of marketing linkages, prolonging the shelf life and enabling the advantages of cold chain to small and medium farmers. This will give some short-term returns which will be very gainful and beneficial. I come, Sir, to some long-term factors since the time available to me is very short. Fortunately, investments in agriculture, which in a 25-years cycle went down significantly to just 1.2 per cent, has cropped up in the last 18 months. It has again gone up from about 1.2 per cent to 8 per cent. Will it make up the past? Historically speaking, perhaps not. But I think along with the challenge of making up the investment deficiency, one sad part is, Sir, that the per capita availability of foodgrains in the last five years, and particularly, in the last two years, to the poorest population of the world, has gone down. That is why, Mr. Minister, I am sure you are aware that the FAO Conference on Hunger, that we just concluded one week ago, ended its last Resolution to say, "Tonight in the world more than one billion people will sleep hungry." As far as India is concerned, in the last 18 months, 250 million people, according to the UN statistics, have gone under deeper poverty. That is one of the factors that we need to attack ourselves. We need to attack

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ourselves on adaptation of cropping patterns. Mr. Swaminathan spoke day before yesterday in Parliament and he mentioned about the findings of his inter-Governmental Report how crop productivity and protein yields in crops are falling dramatically. Is our research and development keeping pace with how to adapt with this inevitable phenomena? How to change cropping patterns which are more drought resistance, which require less water and which are less dependent on chemical fertilizers to be able to sustain the plateau of productivity? Let me give you one example which is alarming. Do you know Minister that the world is gripped by bees' virus? Bees are dying all over the world and that this decline in the bee population is leading to this huge problem of pollination. In case of China, we are resorting to hand pollination. What are we doing in terms of research and development to ensure that this bee virus, which has afflicted the world, does not afflict India, which, even the most severest knock, we can receive in terms of trying to seek crop productivity? So, there are challenges of a short-term nature. There are those which you can do in the immediate future to improve supply side responses. But there are more important challenges which you have. They are challenges of demography, challenges of change in consumer preferences as meat consumption puts greater pressure on the food chain, changing pastoral habits and adaptation to the problems of global warming and climate change. Thank you.

(Ends)

SHRI Y.P. TRIVEDI (MAHARASHTRA): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, the topic which we are discussing today is of paramount importance, namely, price rise. In economic terms, it would mean spiralling inflation.

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Inflation can be of many types. It may be cost-push inflation or it may be any type of inflation where too much money is chasing too few goods and that is what we call the price rise. The price rise is visible in all spheres. I might point out that in my city, Mumbai, one square foot of area in a flat in some parts of the city costs as much as Rs.1 lakh. The prices are rising in real estate; prices are rising of industrial goods. Today's morning paper says that the car prices are also going to see a very steep rise. But we are concerned here today with the price rise in essential commodities which concerns the common people.

(Contd. by 3f/KSK)

KSK/4.30/3F

SHRI Y.P. TRIVEDI (CONTD): The common people are affected because of the price rise of essential goods. What is the position? If you look at the statistics -- I have got plenty of them, but I do not intend to rattle them because much has been spoken about the statistics -- there is a wide gulf between the Wholesale Price Index, the Consumer Price Index and the actual price paid by the householder for buying his commodities. Even the Consumer Price Index is also not one index, but there are so many. There is consumer price for industrial workers, for agricultural labour, for non-manual labour and for urban people.

(THE VICE-CHAIRMAN, Prof. P.J. Kurien, in the Chair)

These types of indices also sometimes create some confusion. So, we should have some narrowing down between the Wholesale Price Index, the Consumer Price Index and the price actually paid by the householders while buying the commodities. Now, I think, this House,

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rather than trying to put blame, should try to find out what are the causes, what is the effect, and what are the remedies available. I would submit that if you look at the causes, one should not forget that there was a failure of monsoon in West Bengal, U.P. and there was cyclone and floods in the southern parts of India. Today, you are talking about rising price of potatoes which has gone almost hundred per cent higher. But, we may not be aware that 40 per cent of the potatoes come from West Bengal, 30 per cent from U.P. and 30 per cent from the rest of the country. Because of failure of monsoon in West Bengal and U.P., the potato crop has been affected. The tomato crop has been affected because of the cyclone and floods in southern India. Under those circumstances, there are remedies which we can think about. The same Agriculture Minister was proud to say last year that there was queue before him in his Office of people from other countries who wanted to import rice from India. So, we had buffer stock in all respects. How is it that suddenly, the situation has worsened? What are the causes and what are the remedies which can be worked out? I think, what is necessary is that we must have some provision for perishable goods for a buffer stock. We have got the Agriculture Produce Market Act. But, under this Act, the *mandis* are at a far distance. And, that is why, *aartees* come in the way and they pocket a large amount of money. There should be *mandis* or the collection centres near the farm house where the farmers can immediately bring the products and they can be kept in cold-storage for a longer period. If the buffer stock is created, this type of scarcity, which has arisen because of the failure of

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monsoon, would not arise because then the things can be taken out from the buffer stock.

Much has been said about imports and the Agriculture Minister is quite open for the imports to be made at a subsidised rate or without any duty at all. I think, this is a policy which has to be supported.

Then, much has been stated about sugar. But, when we are discussing sugar, we must realise that it is also a political issue. (Time-bell). I will only take two more minutes, and I will only give positive suggestions. So far as sugar is concerned, one has to be mindful of the fact that there is a grower of sugarcane, there is a consumer who is consuming the sugar and there are also sugar mills. Interests of all of them should be taken into consideration. There must be remunerative price for the sugarcane grower. There must be affordable price of sugar for the consumer. At the same time, you must see to it that sugar mills do not die out automatically.

We must also think in terms of another Green Revolution. For that, it is very necessary that we must think in terms of water maintenance, or, water harvesting. Water is going to be a perennial headache for all of us. I think, we all must think in terms of preservation of water. In the city of Mumbai, the Municipal Corporation has started tapping the wells and they have found that large amount of water will be available by tapping of those wells.

We must think of fertilizers. There are barren lands. The barren lands can be converted into cultivable lands. India can have the largest amount of cultivable lands. There is Desert of Kutch in Rajasthan. If the Government does not have the resources, they should be given to

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industrial houses which can covert them into fertile lands like on the sides of...(Interruptions).

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Now, please conclude.

SHRI Y.P. TRIVEDI: Much has been stated about the hoarders and profiteers.

(continued by 3g - gsp)

GSP-AKA-3G-4.35

SHRI Y.P. TRIVEDI (CONTD.): Some figures have been given as to how many places were raided, and, how many people were prosecuted. Sir, prosecution is not important. The important thing is to see how many of them have been convicted. The number is very less. The real reason is that the Essential Commodities Act is very faulty. What we need to do is fast-track courts to deal with the hoarders. I have no doubt that our Agriculture Minister, who himself is a farmer, is conscious of all these facts and he will be able to find a remedy to the situation. Thank you.

(Ends)

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN: Mr. M.P. Achuthan. You have to conclude in five minutes. (Interruptions) His party has three minutes time. I am giving five minutes.

SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN (KERALA): Thank you, Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir. I will try to conclude within the allotted time. Sir, there is no need to quote figures to highlight the price rise. Everybody is concerned about the price rise, and, people are on the move. All over the country, people are agitating. Yesterday, in Tamil Nadu, thousands of persons were court-arrested. This is not an issue of one party. Rising above the political affiliations, people are agitating against the price rise. Hon.

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Minister of Agriculture assured this House that there is no shortage of foodgrains and that we have ample stocks of rice, wheat and other essential items. According to the figures released by NAFED, during the first six months of this year, India exported ten lakh tonne onion. That shows that we have got ample foodgrains and other essential items. Still, we are facing shortage or scarcity of essential items and having price rise. What is the reason? The reason is: the economic policy of this Government, and, the unbridled liberalisation policy of the Government. The philosophy which guides this Government is that the market forces will decide everything; market forces will decide the price. The measures taken by the Government are in tune with this philosophy. That is why, still, the Central Government is allowing future trading in many essential items. So, the big traders and the corporate houses in retail trade are able to corner the food items, create artificial scarcity and increase the prices. Another factor is the commodity exchange. Here also, big players are able to manipulate the market. The Government is not taking any measure to prevent hoarding and black-marketing. The Government says that it is the concern of the State Governments. Sir, in 2002-03, there were two amendments in the Essential Commodities Act. That notification was repealed only partially. Still, the Government is not ready to repeal it totally, and, coordinate with the efforts taken by the State Governments to prevent hoarding and black-marketing. Sir, everybody concedes that to contain price rise, and, to give relief to the common man, the only viable solution is extending and strengthening the public distribution system. I am very thankful to the hon. Minister for commending the Kerala Government's performance in the public

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distribution system. But this House must know what the Central Government is doing to the Kerala Government. Kerala is a State, a consumer State, which is depending on other States for every item, rice, vegetables and everything. In such a situation, we are able to contain the price rise, and, the price rise in Kerala is comparatively low.

(Contd. by sk-3h)

SK/3H/4.40

SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN (CONTD.): Take the Consumer Price Index for rural goods, in Kerala it was 485 points in September whereas in Punjab, it was 568 points and in Andhra, it was 533 points. In the Consumer Price Index list, the position of Kerala is 17th. It is because of the market intervention and the effective steps taken by the Kerala Government that we are able to contain the price rise to a very large extent. I am not saying that there is no price rise in Kerala. It is there. But when compared to other States, Kerala is better due to existence of the public distribution system in the State. But what is the attitude of the Central Government? The Government of India cut 85 per cent of the ration quota for the APL sector in Kerala. When the new Government, the second UPA Government came to office .. (Time bell)

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Okay. Your five minutes are over.

SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN: I need only three more minutes, Sir.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN: No, no. No more time please. You have taken five minutes. (Interruptions) Okay, you take one more minute. Your five minutes are over. (Interruptions) No partiality for the Chair. (Interruptions)

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When in the Chair, no partiality. If I am there, I would support him.
(Interruptions)

SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN: The stock position improves. (Interruptions) Now, the Government says that there is enough stock in the Central pool. Still 85 per cent of the APL quota is reduced and the price of the APL rice has also risen. In this grim situation, here in Kerala, the Government is distributing 25 kilo of rice at 2 rupees per kilo to 26 lakh poor people. But according to the Planning Commission, there are only 10 lakh BPL households in Kerala. They are artificially creating a situation that there are very few BPL families in India and reducing the allocation to the State. So, if the Central Government is sincere .. (Time-bell)

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Yes, you have taken seven minutes. (Interruptions)

SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN: It says to contain the prices (Interruptions) They have to allot enough food-grains to Kerala. What pains me a lot is the .. (Time-bell)

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN: Okay. You made your point. (Interruptions) Instead of three minutes, you have taken seven minutes. (Interruptions)

SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN: Trying to politicise the food situation (Interruptions) and they are making agitation against the State Government. (Interruptions)

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN: Yes, Mr. Achuthan, you have taken seven minutes. No more time please. (Interruptions) Please, Mr. Achuthan. (Interruptions) Please. (Interruptions) Okay, you have made your points. That is enough.

SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN: Okay. Thank you.

(Ends)

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THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Okay, thank you. Shri M. V. Mysura Reddy. Reddyji, you have only five minutes.

SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY (ANDHRA PRADESH): Thank you, Sir. Sir, this year, if my remembrance goes correct, this is the third time when we are discussing the price rise of essential commodities. Sir, every time the stereotype reply from the Government is that they are taking measures like export ban, zero import duty, imposition of ban on future trading, stock limit on hoarding, imports at substantial rates, bringing commodities under PDS, etc. But in spite of all these measures, the prices of essential commodities are skyrocketing. It has never come down. That means these *ad hoc* measures have neither protected farmers, nor have they helped the consumers.

(continued by 3s/ysr)

-SK/YSR-VNK/4.45/3J

SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY (CONTD.): Sir, recently, while replying to a question, the hon. Finance Minister said that it was because of mismatch between supply and demand, and also due to less production. If so, I want to ask this question. Why is it that only consumer price is skyrocketing whereas the price at which a farmer sells his product is not increasing, if not skyrocketing?

I want to bring this issue to the notice of this august House. For rice, the farmer's sale price is Rs.18 per kg. But its retail price is Rs.40 per kg. For wheat, the farmer's sale price is Rs.15 per kg. But its retail price is Rs.39 per kg. For moong dal (green gram), the farmer's sale price is Rs.40 per kg. But its retail price is Rs.100 per kg. For arhar (yellow gram), the farmer's sale price is Rs.47 per kg. But its retail

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price is Rs.105 per kg. Shrimati Jaya Bachchan spoke about onion. I want to speak about chilly. For chilly, the farmer's sale price is Rs.10 per kg. But its retail price is Rs. 60 per kg. The farmer is not getting any benefit of increase in prices but the consumer is paying more.

Sir, I came to know that the Union Agriculture Minister is discussing this problem with the States. Of course, ours is a federal structure. There will be problems. I want to know if tangible measures have been discussed with the States; whether the States are willing to take any tangible action; and whether there is any tangible result to control the prices. I want to know this thing.

The Prime Minister has said this on record that the price rise is because of market forces. I want to know whether this price rise is due to market forces or due to middlemen. I have shown that there are variations in the price at which a farmer is selling his produce and its retail price.

When time is right, wrong decisions have been taken by this Government. When there is less production, it will allow export. When there is good production, they ban the export. For instance, the Ministry has prohibited in April 2008 export of non-Basmati rice and in four months, it changed this policy and allowed export of PUSA-1121 variety of non-Basmati rice to help a few companies.

When there was encouraging production of sugar in 2006, the Government of India banned the exports. Due to this, sugar mills failed to issue cutting orders. As a result of this, farmers burnt their sugarcane in the field. Now farmers have shifted from sugarcane to

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other crops. Because of this, there is this scarcity, which has pushed its price up.

The measures for development of infrastructure in agriculture on long-term basis are also not giving any results. This is happening because of the paradoxical approach of this Government. I am giving one example of it. When sugarcane growers do not get the remunerative price for their produce, they do not go in for sugarcane cultivation. Instead, they go in for other alternative crop. It is not a cyclical disorder. It is due to paradoxical approach of the Government of India. That is why it is just like..(Interruptions)..

उपसभाध्यक्ष (प्रो. पी. जे. कुरियन) : आपका पांच मिनट हो गया है।

SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY: Sir, it is just like giving a pill for headache when the patient is suffering from stomach-ache. We have to overhaul the system, so that farmers get remunerative price for their produce and consumers get it at minimum price. Thank you, Sir.

(Ends)

(Followed by MP/3K)

MP-VKK/3K/4.50

उपसभाध्यक्ष : नजमा हेपतुल्ला जी, बोलिए।

डा. (श्रीमती) नजमा ए. हेपतुल्ला : सर, मेरी पार्टी का कितना टाइम है?

उपसभाध्यक्ष : आपकी पार्टी के दस मिनट बाकी हैं।

डा. (श्रीमती) नजमा ए. हेपतुल्ला (राजस्थान) : सर, हमारी पार्टी के प्रकाश जावडेकर जी का नाम भी है बोलने वालों में, इसलिए I will leave most of the time to him.

सर, आज हम price rise की बात कर रहे हैं और मैं अपने बनिये की रसीद साथ में लेकर आई हूं। मुझे लगता है कि एग्रीकल्चर मिनिस्टर साहब की wife के पास भी ऐसी रसीद होगी, जिससे पता चले कि prices में कितनी बढ़ोतरी हुई है। अगर मैं यह बोलूं कि

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95 रुपए में अरहर की दाल है, और भी चीजें हैं, तो मैं उसमें समय नहीं लगाऊंगी, क्योंकि मुझे लगता है कि सभी सदस्यों ने अरहर, मसूर, दाल, चावल - सबका भाव बताया है, मगर जो सबसे अहम बात है, वह यह है कि आज तक कभी नमक के भाव इतने नहीं बढ़े थे - 45 परसेंट नमक का भाव बढ़ा है। अंग्रेजों के ज़माने में नमक पर चार-पांच पैसे टैक्स लगाया गया था, तो गांधी जी ने पूरी अंग्रेज़ी सरकार को हिला दिया था और नमक के लिए सत्याग्रह हुआ था। मेरी समझ में नहीं आ रहा है कि आज वह आम आदमी, जिसने आपको जिता कर यहां भेजा है, क्या कर रहा है? वह क्यों नहीं कुछ कर रहा है? शायद वह यह सोचता है कि बोलने से कुछ फायदा नहीं होगा। सर, इस हाऊस में यह तीसरी बार डिसकस हो रहा है। हम लोग डिसकशन करेंगे, चेयरमैन साहब से इजाज़त लेंगे, एग्रीकल्चर मिनिस्टर साहब यहां आएंगे और वही जवाब देंगे, जिसकी हमें उम्मीद है, जो उन्होंने पिछली बार दिया था। वे कोई नई बात नहीं कहेंगे। वे यह कहेंगे कि ग्लोबल वार्मिंग हो रही है, सूखा पड़ रहा है, पानी ज्यादा बरस गया, सैलाब आ गया, सेंटर और स्टेट्स में differences हैं, स्टेट गवर्नमेंट के हाथ में पब्लिक डिस्ट्रिब्यूशन है, सेंटर उसमें कोई हस्तक्षेप नहीं कर सकता, यह हमारा लड़ाई-झगड़े का मामला हो जाएगा - इस तरह की बातें कहकर यह सेशन खत्म हो जाएगा और हम लोग अपने घर चले जाएंगे। फिर जब बजट सेशन होगा, तो दोबारा यही होगा, prices बढ़ते रहेंगे, आम आदमी सेंटर-स्टेट के झगड़े में पिसता रहेगा, इसलिए इसमें ज्यादा बोलने को क्या है? सर, आप बताइए, हम इसमें क्या बोलें? आप चेयर पर आसीन हैं, अगर आप वहां होते, तो आप मुझे बताते कि क्या बोलूं। मुझे यहां एग्रीकल्चर मिनिस्टर साहब से यह बात पूछनी है कि आप तो statistics जमा नहीं करते हैं, वह Programme Implementation Ministry के अंतर्गत आता है। जो economy को ठीक से चलाने की जिम्मेदारी है, management economy, वह फाइनेंस मिनिस्टर के हाथ में है, तो हर बार यह आपके पल्ले क्यों पड़ जाता है? एग्रीकल्चर मिनिस्टर से क्यों कहा जाता है कि आप price rise का जवाब दें?

सर, इसी पार्लियामेंट में हमने एक साल पहले एक बिल पास किया था -Collection of Statistics Bill. वह बिल एक साल पहले पास हुआ और मैं इस Government की non-seriousness के बारे में आपको बता रही हूं। एक साल हुआ वह बिल पास हुए,

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लेकिन आज तक उस बिल के संबंध में कोई rules and regulations सदन के पटल पर नहीं रखे गए हैं। यह तो seriousness है आपकी ! सवाल यहां यह नहीं है कि आप वही जवाब दें, लेकिन इसका कोई permanent solution आपको ढूंढना है, जैसे श्री एन.के. सिंह ने कहा कि you have to find a permanent solution. It is not that we shout from this side or they shout from that side and you reply the same thing. The question is: How are you going to find a permanent solution?

सर, प्रणब मुखर्जी साहब यहां हाऊस में आकर बोलते हैं कि inflation तो marginally बढ़ा है, क्योंकि वे Wholesale Price Index बताते हैं। मैं आपसे यह पूछना चाहती हूँ कि वे जो Wholesale Price Index बताते हैं, उसकी basket में क्या-क्या commodities हैं? अगर आपने गेहूं और चावल के साथ कंप्यूटर, कपड़े धोने का साबुन, तेल, फ्रिज, साइकिल, मोटर साइकिल - सबको उस basket में रख दिया, तो naturally वह price index तो अलग ही दिखाएगा, मगर जो consumer को affect करता है, जो Consumer Price Index है, उसके बारे में मैं मंत्री जी से कहती हूँ कि अगर फाइनेंस मिनिस्टर यहां होते, तो मैं उनसे सवाल करती। आपसे सवाल करने से कोई फायदा नहीं, क्योंकि आप कहेंगे कि यह मेरे मंत्रालय का सवाल नहीं है। सर, सवाल यह है कि यहां हम क्या बोलें? किससे बोलें? Agriculture Minister cannot answer these questions because he will say the same thing which he has been saying for the last three times or what he said in the Lok Sabha. That is why, I have decided that I am only going to put three points. I request the hon. Minister to answer these questions. What is in the Wholesale Price Index basket? What are the commodities put there? Why should we not think about the Consumer Price Index which affects the consumer? Why only the Agriculture Minister is answering and why not the Finance Minister? Why the Minister for Programme Implementation who is responsible for implementing the Government's programme not over here?

(Contd. by MKS/3L)

[-mp/sc-mks/4.55/3l](#)

DR. (SHRIMATI) NAJMA A. HEPTULLA (CONTD.): These are my three questions. For the rest of the time, my colleagues will speak. Thank you, Sir.

(Ends)

श्री शान्ताराम लक्ष्मण नायक (गोवा) : धन्यवाद महोदय, पहली बात तो मुझे यह कहनी है कि कांग्रेस पार्टी एक ही देश की ऐसी पार्टी है जिसका जन्म ..(व्यवधान)..

डा0 (श्रीमती) नजमा ए.हेपतुल्ला : जिसने price को बढ़ा दिया। ..(व्यवधान)..

श्री शान्ताराम लक्ष्मण नायक : जिसका जन्म अपनी राजनैतिक रोटियां सेंकने के लिए नहीं हुआ। 100 साल पहले, जब देश में बीमारी थी, प्लेग था, famine था, यह जो economic reasons उस वक्त थे, उनसे लड़ने के लिए कांग्रेस पार्टी पैदा हुई थी। ..(व्यवधान)..

डा0 (श्रीमती) नजमा ए.हेपतुल्ला : Price rise की बात करो। ..(व्यवधान)..उस बात को छोड़ो। ..(व्यवधान)..

श्री शान्ताराम लक्ष्मण नायक : छोड़ने की बात नहीं है। गरीबों के बारे में, price rise के बारे में कांग्रेस को जितनी चिंता होती है, आप लोगों को उतनी हो ही नहीं सकती। इसलिए नहीं हो सकती ..(व्यवधान)..

डा0 (श्रीमती) नजमा ए.हेपतुल्ला : तभी price इतना बढ़ रहा है। ..(व्यवधान)..

श्री शान्ताराम लक्ष्मण नायक : आप सुनिए। ..(व्यवधान).. इसलिए नहीं हो सकती क्योंकि आपके बहुत सारे व्यापारी समर्थक - हमारे समर्थक तो छोटे-छोटे व्यापारी हैं - आपके जो समर्थक बड़े-बड़े हैं, उनको फायदा हो जाए और उनके coffer से आपको मुनाफा हो, इसमें आपका ..(व्यवधान)..

डा0 (श्रीमती) नजमा ए.हेपतुल्ला : आप उन्हें पकड़कर जेल में भेजिए, हम लोग तैयार हैं। पकड़ो होर्डर्स को, पकड़ो black market करने वालों को।

श्री शान्ताराम लक्ष्मण नायक : ठीक है। ..(व्यवधान)..

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THE VICE CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): You address the Chair.

श्री शान्ताराम लक्ष्मण नायक : हमारे गोवा में सब्जी और दूध बेलगांव से आता है। वह बहुत महंगा हो गया है, सौ प्रतिशत बढ़ गया है। इसके लिए हम कभी येदुरप्पा को ब्लेम नहीं करते हैं, कर्नाटक की बीजेपी सरकार को ब्लेम नहीं करते। उनको तो इस price rise पर कभी रोना नहीं आएगा। लोग दुखी हैं लेकिन उनको रोना नहीं आता है। उनके मंत्रिमंडल से एक को हटाया गया, उसके ऊपर उन्हें बहुत रोना आ गया। यह कर्नाटक की बीजेपी की सरकार है। महोदय, सरकारों को ब्लेम करने की एक लिमिट होती है। हम सब जानते हैं कि price rise के सिलसिले में सरकार को ब्लेम करने की कोई मर्यादा होती है। ऐसा नहीं है कि हम लोगों की भावना को नहीं समझते हैं। मैं एक गीत के lyrics के जरिए, जो आम आदमी की भावना है, मैं कोई संकोच न करते हुए, उस गीत की कुछ पंक्तियां यहां पर पढ़ना चाहता हूं। उसमें सारी आम आदमी की भावनाएं हैं और वही मेरी भी भावनाएं हैं।

पहले मुट्टी में पैसे लेकर थैला भर शक्कर लाते थे,

अब थैले में पैसे लाते हैं, मुट्टी में शक्कर आती है।

हाय महंगाई, हाय महंगाई,

तू कहां से आयी, तुझे मौत क्यों नहीं आयी?

शक्कर में आटे की मिलायी मार गयी,

पाउडर वाले दूध की मलाई मार गयी,

राशन वाली लाइन की लम्बाई मार गयी,

जनता जो चीखी, चिल्लाई मार गयी,

बाकी कुछ बचा तो महंगाई मार गयी।

गरीब को बच्चों की पढ़ाई मार गयी,

बेटी की शादी और सगाई मार गयी,

किसी को दो रोटी की कमाई मार गयी,

कपड़े की किसी को सिलाई मार गयी,

किसी को मकान की बनवाई मार गयी,

जो सच-सच बोला तो सच्चाई मार गयी,

बाकी कुछ बचा तो महंगाई मार गयी।

ये हमारी भावनाएं हैं, हम व्यक्त करते हैं। हम संकोच नहीं करते हैं।..(व्यवधान).. हमें कोई संकोच नहीं है। यह सच्चाई है। लेकिन इसका किस तरह मुकाबला करना है..(व्यवधान).. आप तो सिर्फ सरकार को उंगलियां दिखाएंगे, आप कुछ सुझाएंगे नहीं। आप कुछ alternative नहीं बताएंगे।

डा0 (श्रीमती) नजमा ए.हेपतुल्ला : आप देखिए। आप सरकार में हैं।

श्री शान्ताराम लक्ष्मण नायक : हम सरकार में हैं लेकिन आपका भी कुछ दायित्व बनता है। आप सरकार को बताइए कि क्या करना चाहिए। क्या आपने कभी बताया?

DR. (SHRIMATI) NAJMA A. HEPTULLA: What is he talking about?

श्री शान्ताराम लक्ष्मण नायक : दूसरी बात है, Sir, there is a percentage, of course, of price rise, where hoarding is involved. देश में सूखा पड़ा, सौ करोड़ लोगों को अनाज देना है, यह कोई आसान बात नहीं है। आधा देश सूखाग्रस्त है, इसकी जानकारी सबको है, लेकिन इसका उल्लेख कोई नहीं करता है। सूखा होने के कारण महंगाई बढ़ी लेकिन उसका कोई जिक्र नहीं करता है।

(3एम-एमसीएम पर क्रमागत)

-MKS-TMV-MCM//3M/5.00

श्री शान्ताराम लक्ष्मण नायक (क्रमागत) : इसलिए मैं आपसे आग्रह करता हूं कि ऐसेशियल कर्मांडिटीज ऐक्ट का उपयोग राज्य सरकारों को करना चाहिए। आजकल सभी राज्य सरकारें विदाउट पार्टी थिंकिंग, इस कानून का उपयोग करने में कतराती हैं। इसलिए आपका यह दायित्व होता है कि सभी राज्य सरकारों को बताएं कि इसका उपयोग होना चाहिए, ताकि जो माल आर्टिफिसअली होर्डिंग किया हुआ है, वह तो कम से कम बाहर आ जाए, उतनी सीमा तक थोड़ी सी प्राइस कम हो जाएगी। सर, दूसरी बात है कि हम टेक्नॉलोजी में बहुत आगे बढ़े हैं, हम चन्द्रमा पर जाने की सोच रहे हैं, हम बड़ी-बड़ी गाड़ियां बनाते हैं, ऐरोप्लेंस बनाते हैं, कम्प्यूटर सॉफ्टवेयर में हम दुनिया में नम्बर वन और नम्बर टू हैं। लेकिन सीड्स बनाने में, उत्पादन बढ़ाने में हमारी टेक्नॉलोजी कहां जाती है? प्रोडक्शन सालों से स्टैटिक रहा है। तो बाकी चीजों पर ध्यान न देते हुए अगर हम अच्छा

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बीज प्रोड्यूस करने में अपनी टेक्नॉलोजी बढ़ाएं, जो स्टैटिक प्रोडक्शन है वह आगे बढ़ाएं और जो पल्सेज हैं, जिनके इंपोर्ट करने में बहुत तकलीफ होती है, इसके लिए पैसा देना पड़ता है, तो इन चीजों पर ध्यान करके अगर हमने अपना प्रोडक्शन बढ़ाया तो जब कभी ड्राउट आते हैं तो हमें ऐसी मुश्किल का सामना नहीं करना पड़ेगा।

दूसरी चीज, हम सभी जानते हैं कि किसान और कंज्यूमर, इन दोनों का इंटररेस्ट कांट्रैरी होता है। किसान को मदद करने जाएं तो मार्केट में एसेंशियल कर्मांडिटीज के भाव बढ़ते हैं। अगर सपोर्ट प्राइस दिया तो सपोर्ट प्राइस का consequence भी होता है। बीच में फॉरवर्ड ट्रेडिंग का जो एक्सपेरिमेंट हुआ, ताकि मिडिलमैन हट जाए और किसानों को सीधा लाभ हो जाए, चीजें सस्ती हो जाएं, मार्केट में भी चीजें सस्ती आ जाएं, यह जो प्रयोग है, यह सफल नहीं हुआ। इस प्रयोग को सफल करने में क्या करना चाहिए, इस पर ध्यान आपको देना है। सर, हम कहते हैं कि जब फाइनेंस मिनिस्टर को छींक आती है, तो स्टॉक मार्केट के भाव छलांग लेते हैं। यह तो हम सब जानते हैं। परन्तु ऐसा लगता है कि हमारे एग्रीकल्चर मिनिस्टर को जो खांसी आती है, तब भी भाव बढ़ते हैं। हमारे एग्रीकल्चर मिनिस्टर फ्रेंक हैं, फ्रेंकली बोलते हैं कि रबी फसल का सीजन आने तक चीजों के भाव वैसे ही हो जाएंगे। जब वे ऐसा बोलते हैं तो 25 परसेंट और बढ़ता है। क्योंकि वे तो फ्रेंकली बोलते हैं तथा जो परिस्थिति है वह बतलाते हैं। वह कम से कम हफ्ते में एक बार तो बतलाते ही हैं। हफ्ते में एक बार बताने से रिपीट हो जाता है। सर, जितनी बार रिपीट होता है उतनी ही बार भाव बढ़ते हैं। सर, जो आपके बतलाने का फ्रेंकनैस है, उसको थोड़ा कम कर दीजिए, कभी-कभी ही बतलाइए, बार-बार मत बतलाइए। सर, इन्ही शब्दों के साथ मैं कहता हूं कि आपको हम सबका समर्थन है, देश का समर्थन है। आप भाव अगले कुछ महीनों में स्थिर करेंगे, ऐसी आशा हम करते हैं। धन्यवाद। (समाप्त)

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P. J. KURIEN): Thank you, Shri Shantaram Laxman Naik. Shri Prasanta Chatterjee. Now only three minutes are left for your party.

SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE (WEST BENGAL): Sir, I will take five or six minutes.

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THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P. J. KURIEN): Okay, you take five minutes.

SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE: It is a very important issue.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN: I agree. You take five minutes. I know you will keep your words. I know that.

SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE: Sir, the Government has talked about the global phenomena not only in this House but also in the Independence Day Address of the Prime Minister last year. The Prime Minister had stated, "The inflation that we have seen this year is basically due to external factors". Now, I would like to quote from the IMF indices:

"After peaking in mid 2008, the international fuel and food prices have fallen sharply throughout 2009; from June to July, 2008 the fuel prices have fallen by nearly 50 per cent, while the food prices have fallen by over 25 per cent."

(Contd. by 3n/RG)

RG/5.05/3N

SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE (contd.): The global inflation, which peaked at 6.27 per cent in July, 2008, had come down to around 1.3 per cent by August, 2009, with the inflation rate of emerging economies falling from 9 per cent to 4.3 per cent in this period. The IMF says, and I quote: "In emerging economies, inflation is forecast to hover around five per cent, in 2009-10, down from more than nine per cent in 2008." This is the picture, Sir. Now, I quote from some of the selected countries from different regions across the world. In October, 2009, it clearly shows that India has among the highest inflation rates. More

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importantly, while the inflation rates have come down everywhere since 2008, it is only in India that the consumer inflation rate has increased. I quote from the source, "Output, Price and Jobs, The Economist of 3rd December, 2009. I give examples, of only a few of the countries, showing the Consumer Price Inflation as on October, 2009, in comparison to October, 2008, (Year on Year Increase %). I quote: "Pakistan, in 2008, it was 25, while in 2009, it is 8.9. In Vietnam, it was 23.1; now, it is 7.1. In China, from 4 per cent, it has come down to -0.5. In Malaysia, from 7.6, it has come down to -1.6. And, in India, it was 10.4 in 2008, and in October, 2009, it was 11.5." So, the argument of global phenomenon is a bogus argument put forth by the Government and that side. Now, the principle factors are domestic, and, we, the Left, are continuously saying as to what the reasons behind inflation in India are. The neo-liberal policies are causing agrarian crisis and eroding self-sufficiency. The main reasons behind high inflation, especially, rising food prices are manifold. There is the weakening of the Public Distribution System and increase in fuel prices. We had seen it in the last Session that you did not care about Parliament, that just eleven hours before the Parliament Session was to start, you increased the fuel and diesel prices. There is also the failure to check hoarding and speculation, and weakening the role of the States. With the dominant role of the private speculators, public procurement continues to remain limited to a few major crops. Procurement operation was carried out only in limited parts of the country. Big corporates have been allowed to enter into the food market. There has been an increasing reliance on imports, often at exorbitant prices, erosion of self-reliance in food

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production and failure to control rise in prices. Sir, agricultural growth fell shortly in the absence of any substantive expansion of irrigation. Sixty per cent of our Indian agriculture continues to remain dependent on the monsoon. What is the estimate of the World Food Hungry Report? The Global Hunger Index of 2009 says that countries, which have scored between 20 and 30 points, are in an alarming condition." And the rate of India has been estimated at 23.9. Who will answer this? Who will take the responsibility for this? What we see is the faulty estimation of the BPL. We are also demanding a universal PDS at affordable prices. But the Government, as a policy, does not want that. And, they are passing the buck. Here, they are advocating their principles. Besides that, we see that Kerala has set a unique example. We also have the examples of West Bengal and Tamil Nadu where the PDS is a success. Kerala is a unique example. Since the time the Left and the Democratic Front Government assumed office in May, 2006, the Central allotment for rice for APL under PDS was 1,13,420 MT per month. It was reduced to 21,334 MT.

(Continued by 30)

TDB/30/5.10

SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE (CONTD.): It was further reduced to 17056 metric tonnes from April, 2006. They are the advocates of open market!

Sir, while concluding, together with the observations made by the other speaker of my party and other Left speakers, we, once again, demand that the Universal PDS should be strengthened, (Time-bell) The Government should act against hoarders, ban futures trading, reduce the

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price of diesel and petrol, end the discrimination in allotment and follow the self-reliant policy in agriculture. So, this is my demand. Thank you, Sir.

(Ends)

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Now, Shri Naresh Gujral. Please take only five minutes. ...(Interruptions)...

SHRI NARESH GUJRAL: You give me five minutes and I will live with it.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN: Because I will tell you the problem. In the "Others Category" there are nine speakers and only 29 minutes. That means, almost three minutes. But, I am allowing extra two minutes. ...(Interruptions)... Yes, generous.

SHRI NARESH GUJRAL (PUNJAB): Sir, the last few months have witnessed an unprecedented rise in the prices of essential commodities. While the Government may be sitting smug with the overall official low inflation figures, the fact of the matter is that the Aam Aadmi, who this Government claims to represent, is finding it difficult to keep his body and soul together. The Government by patting itself on the back with a 7 per cent growth rate is very, very happy. Congratulations. But, what about the man on the street who is literally starving due to the high prices of food?

Sir, more than 50 per cent of our population survive on just four or five food items, *atta* or rice, *dal*, onion, edible oil and a little bit of salt and sugar. The prices of all these commodities have gone up from 20 per cent to 120 per cent in the past one year. Congratulations to the Government for the management of the economy!

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Sir, according to the Planning Commission, an average person in the village requires a minimum intake of 2400 Calories of food per day, and those living in urban areas require 2100 Calories per day. I ask you, Sir, given the current prices of food stuff, how does he get it? It is a matter of national shame that more than half of the population remains malnourished. Sir, according to the Global Hunger Index that ranks countries on a scale of 100 with 0 being the best score, India has a GHI of 23.9 which is an alarming value. We stand next only to Bangladesh, Ethiopia and Pakistan. These are last year's figures. With the current prices, we are, perhaps, below them even.

Sir, in reply to a debate on the sugar prices, the hon. Finance Minister said that the prices are going up because there is a mismatch between demand and supply. We all know that. We also know that we have had a drought year, but does that mean that we let our poor starve?

Sir, to my mind, the only solution to meet this challenge is to increase our food production, and this would be possible only if we make farming a lucrative profession or business. According to the Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission, a recent National Survey has shown that 49 per cent of the farmers would not like to be in farming given a choice. Sir, our farmers are perennially in debt, and many unfortunately resort to suicide to end their misery. This is so because of the myopic policies of successive Governments that have only given lip-service to the interests of the farmer.

Sir, to improve our farmer's plight, we need to incentivise him. We need to give him better MSP, and this MSP should be realistically

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decided keeping in view the input costs. Sir, in 2007-08, when the hon. Minister raised the MSP of wheat from Rs.750 to Rs.1000, we saw a quantum jump in production of food grains from 69 million tonnes to 76 million tonnes.

(Contd. 3p-kgg)

kgg-lt/5.15/3p

SHRI NARESH GUJRAL (contd.): Sir, we need to give our farmers high-yielding seeds, better quality fertilizers and pesticides at reasonable prices. We need to provide them with a market at their doorsteps and we need to give them credit at low rates of interest so that he does not end up in the clutches of money-lending sharks.

Sir, I am pained to point out that when our State Government gives free electricity to the farmer in Punjab, we are told that we are populist. When the Shiromani Akali Dal Government gives subsidized *atta* and *dal* to 16 lakh poor families in Punjab, whose monthly income is less than Rs. 3,000, we are branded as irresponsible.

Sir, it is the responsibility of the Central Government to ensure that all BPL families ---and their present definition is seriously flawed---are given essential commodities at affordable prices, as only then will India have inclusive growth.

Sir, I would also like to draw your attention to the fact that while prices are shooting up, we are doing precious little to prevent damage to the stocks of our foodgrains and crops. I come from an agricultural State which provides almost two-thirds of wheat and one-third of rice to the nation. Yet, I am sad to point out that after sixty-three years of Independence, we have not built adequate modern storage facilities to

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warehouse our precious food stocks. Almost 20-30 per cent of our fruits and vegetables, 8-10 per cent of the pulses and more than 8-10 per cent of foodgrains are wasted post-harvest, and these are official figures. I am certain that the actual losses are much higher since I have seen how the FCI stores foodgrains in the open for months and months together, allowing them to be attacked and wasted by rats, rodents and pests.

Sir, in the end, I would like to say that since the Government claims that it has adequate food reserves or buffer stocks, there is no need to import foodgrains in the near future, it is imperative for the Central Government to put in more food in the Public Distribution System immediately. Thank you.

(Ends)

उपसभाध्यक्ष (प्रो. पी.जे.कुरियन) : श्री प्रकाश जावडेकर। प्रकाश जी आपके पांच मिनट हैं।

डा.(श्रीमती) नजमा ए. हेपतुल्ला : पांच मिनट कैसे?

उपसभाध्यक्ष : मैंने बोला है कि पांच मिनट बाकी हैं। Please finish in five minutes.

श्री प्रकाश जावडेकर (महाराष्ट्र) : उपसभाध्यक्ष जी, मैं मंत्री महोदय जी को याद दिलाना चाहता हूँ, कुछ आंकड़े बताना चाहता हूँ, कुछ सवाल पूछना चाहता हूँ और कुछ मांगें भी रखना चाहता हूँ। पहला है वायदे की याद। चुनाव में जाते समय जब लोग महंगाई पर पूछ रहे थे, तो यूपीए घटकों ने प्रोमिस किया था और यहां राष्ट्रपति महोदय ने भी अपने भाषण में कहा था कि सौ दिन में महंगाई कम करेंगे। सौ दिन पूरे हो गए, लेकिन महंगाई बीस फीसदी और बढ़ी है। हमारे एक कांग्रेसी मित्र ने कहा कि इतना सब होकर भी हम जीत रहे हैं। मुझे उन्हें यह बताना पड़ा कि यह जनादेश और चुनावी जीत महंगाई के लिए जनादेश मिला है, ऐसा न समझें, इसलिए मैं आपको वायदे की याद दिलाना चाहता हूँ।

दूसरी बात, सरकार क्या कर रही है। क्या यह आसमानी संकट है या सुल्तानी संकट है? मैं इसे सुल्तानी संकट का नाम देना चाहता हूँ। इस सुल्तान का नाम है यूपीए

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सरकार। भले ही यूपीए सरकार में कुछ दल शरद पवार जी को टारगेट करते हैं और उनके कारण ही महंगाई हो रही है, ऐसा मानते हैं, लेकिन मैं उनके साथ सारे यूपीए को कटघरे में खड़ा करना चाहता हूँ। सर, गन्ना और चीनी के साथ क्या खिलवाड़ हुआ? शरद पवार जी, हम जो अभी चालीस रुपए में शुगर परचेज कर रहे हैं, वह पिछले साल की है। पिछले साल किसान को क्या दाम मिला था? उसे सोलह रुपए मिले थे। आपने हमें बहुत बार गणित समझाया है कि जिसे सोलह रुपए किलो मिला, उस सोलह रुपए का पच्चीस रुपए भाव बाजार में होना चाहिए। अगर किसान को सोलह रुपए मिलते हैं तो वह ग्राहक को पच्चीस रुपए में मिलना चाहिए, तब आज यह चालीस रुपए में क्यों मिल रहा है? ये बीच के पंद्रह रुपए कौन खा रहा है? इसके लिए आप क्या कर रहे हैं? शुगर के बारे में मंत्री महोदय ने नौ महीने पहले कहा था, बहुत दूर नहीं है, इसी सेशन में पहले कहा था कि भंडार लबालब भरा है और इतनी शक्कर है कि हम निर्यात की परमिशन दे रहे हैं।

(akg/3q पर क्रमागत)

AKG-SSS/3Q/5.20

श्री प्रकाश जावडेकर (क्रमागत) : निर्यात किया गया 48 लाख टन। जनवरी 2009 में 48 लाख टन शुगर निर्यात हुआ 12 रुपए की दर से और अभी वही शुगर आ रहा है 27 रुपए की दर से। सर, यह कौन सा व्यापार है? यह कौन सी आयात-निर्यात नीति है? यह तो चीनी का महाघोटाला है। 48 लाख टन शुगर निर्यात किया जाएगा 12 रुपए की दर से और 9 महीने में तुरन्त 70 लाख टन आयात होगा 27 से 30 रुपए की दर से, इसे घोटाला नहीं तो और क्या कहेंगे? इसका हमें जवाब चाहिए।

खाद्य तेल के बारे में भी क्या खेल किया गया। मैं मंत्री महोदय को एक बात याद दिलाना चाहता हूँ कि दो साल पहले महाराष्ट्र में गन्ना किसानों का आन्दोलन हुआ था। वह इसलिए हुआ था कि वे लोग 1,200 रुपए भाव मांग रहे थे, लेकिन उनको 1,200 रुपए नहीं दिए गए, इसलिए वे लोग आन्दोलन कर रहे थे। आप वहाँ अपनी दो सीटें भी हार गए, क्योंकि वहाँ किसानों का जन-आन्दोलन हुआ। वह आन्दोलन इसलिए हुआ कि उन्हें 1,200 रुपए भाव दिया जाए, लेकिन 1,200 रुपए भाव नहीं दिए गए। अब इस साल 2,000 रुपए देने पड़ रहे हैं। यह क्या नीति है? क्या इस देश में सरकार नाम की कोई चीज़ है, जो

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एक किसान को दीर्घकालीन कीमत नहीं देती है, जो long-term price guarantee नहीं देती है? यह कैसी सरकार है, क्या नीति है? न आयात की नीति है, न निर्यात की नीति है, न price stability की नीति है, न महंगाई को रोकने की कोई कला है, न शास्त्र है। खाद्य तेल में क्या हुआ? वह आज 80 रुपए तक गया। ऐसा क्यों हुआ? मैं सवाल पूछ रहा हूँ कि क्या 2003 में इस देश में एक टन खाद्य तेल का भी आयात हो रहा था? सात साल में ऐसा क्या हो गया, सिर्फ इसके सिवाए कि यूपीए सरकार छः साल सत्ता में रही है, क्या हो गया कि अब अपनी 60 फीसदी जरूरत आयात से पूरी होती है? देश के तिलहन की खेती क्यों समाप्त हो गई? देश का तेल का उद्योग क्यों समाप्त हो गया? श्रीलंका के साथ हमारा free trade agreement है और यहाँ के मिल मालिकों ने वहाँ जाकर मिलें लगाईं और श्रीलंका और मलेशिया का कारोबार है, तो मलेशिया से यहाँ without tax आ रहा है। क्या यह किसी को दिखता नहीं है कि किस तरह से इस देश के तेल के उद्योग को समाप्त किया गया, किस तरह से तिलहन की खेती को समाप्त किया गया? जो आज से छः साल पहले self-sufficient था, छः साल बाद आज वह 60 per cent import dependent हो गया। दालों की हालत आज क्या हो गई! 100 रुपए किलो दाल कभी सोचा था! Pulse के मिशन के बारे में आप बार-बार कहते हैं, वह क्यों fail हो गया? क्यों productivity नहीं बढ़ी, क्यों नए seeds नहीं आए, क्यों assured water supply नहीं मिली? इससे भी ज्यादा दाल के किसान को आपने क्या गारंटी दी कि आप दाल लगाओ, तो आपको हर साल बेहतर कीमत मिलेगी? क्या यह सरकार ने कभी बताया? कोई नीति नहीं है। नीति के अभाव में सरकार के कारण देश में supply-demand की problem तैयार हुई और इसके कारण आज महंगाई बढ़ी है।

सर, मैं आज एक और बात पूछना चाहता हूँ कि हमने paddy के किसान के लिए 1,000 रुपए मांगे थे, प्रधान मंत्री जी ने कहा कि 1,000 रुपए नहीं दे सकते। क्या प्रधान मंत्री जी ने ऐसा नहीं कहा था? उन्होंने कहा था कि हम 1,000 रुपए नहीं देंगे, क्योंकि महंगाई बढ़ेगी। मैं पूछना चाहता हूँ कि आज क्या हुआ? आज बाजार में 40 रुपए किलो चावल मिल रहा है। जो एकदम साधारण चावल है, वह भी 20-25-30 रुपए के नीचे नहीं है। आप किसान को 1,000 रुपए देने के लिए मना कर रहे थे और ऐसा हुआ। (समय की

घंटी) यह जो हुआ है, उसका मूलभूत कारण है कि यह आसमानी नहीं, सुल्तानी संकट है और सुल्तान का नाम यूपीए सरकार है।

उपसभाध्यक्ष (प्रो. पी.जे. कुरियन) : जावडेकर जी, आप समाप्त कीजिए।

श्री प्रकाश जावडेकर : सर, अन्त में, मेरी दो-तीन मांगें हैं। क्या यह सरकार किसान को long-term price guarantee देगी, क्योंकि यही एक रास्ता है? मैंने देखा है कि पिछले साल उत्तर प्रदेश में आलू के किसानों ने कोल्ड स्टोरेज में आलू छोड़ दिया। वे उसका किराया भी नहीं दे सकते थे, इतनी भी price नहीं मिली। इस साल ग्राहक को आलू 30 रुपए किलो लेना पड़ रहा है। Price में ये जो distortions आते हैं, वे इसलिए आते हैं, क्योंकि सरकार के पास कोई नीति नहीं है। Assured water supply is the key to the productivity of agriculture. क्या assured water supply सुनिश्चित करने के लिए सरकार public investment करेगी? अगर हाँ, तो कितना करेगी?

(3आर/पीएसवी पर जारी)

-SSS/NBR-PSV/3R/5.25.

श्री प्रकाश जावडेकर(क्रमागत): महोदय, अंत में एक मांग है कि आज जनता को राहत देने के लिए सरकार क्या करेगी? मैं मांग करता हूँ कि हर परिवार को 5 किलो चीनी, 5 किलो तेल, 5 किलो दाल, 10 किलो चावल और 10 किलो गेहूँ मिलना चाहिए। यह हर परिवार को, APL परिवार को भी, सुनिश्चित दामों पर PDS के माध्यम से निश्चित रूप से मिलना चाहिए, तभी राहत मिलेगी, नहीं तो सरकार ने क्या किया? ...(समय की घंटी)... इसने केवल बयान दिया और महँगाई पर लगाम नहीं लगाया, यही लोग कहेंगे। ...(व्यवधान)...

उपसभाध्यक्ष: हो गया।

श्री प्रकाश जावडेकर: इसलिए मैं अंत में केवल एक वाक्य कहूँगा। ...(व्यवधान)... मैं केवल एक वाक्य कहूँगा कि यह जो महँगाई का राक्षस है, यह अचानक नहीं आया है। यह कोई संकट नहीं है ...(व्यवधान)... यह सरकार द्वारा निर्मित है ...(व्यवधान)... और इसलिए यह सरकार को करना चाहिए।

(समाप्त)

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SHRI SHARAD ANANTRAO JOSHI (MAHARASHTRA): Thank you Vice-Chairman, Sir. If I remember correctly, it is the third time during the period of the UPA-II that we are discussing the price situation, particularly about the essential commodities. It is remarkable that not even on one occasion that we have talked about the rural consumer. When we talk of consumer prices, we, essentially, talk of urban consumer. It must be remembered that there is a basic difference in the interest of the rural consumer on the one hand and the urban consumer on the other. The urban consumer wants low prices; the rural consumer wants higher incomes. The basic defect in the policies of the Government is their failure to balance between the interests of rural consumer and urban consumer. On all the three occasions I had pointed out that the increase in inflation and the hike in prices have a direct consequence of the policy of so called inclusive growth or the *Aam Aadmi* economics. Sir, this has distorted the supply-demand situation in the country as a whole. The flagship schemes of the UPA have resulted in a lot of money being pumped into the consumer who is going in for additional consumables which is a happy thing. But, that has to be matched with additional incentives to the producer community which is not coming as has been pointed by so many previous speakers. Unless we provide sufficient incentive to the producer, it is very difficult. If we do not do that and go on pumping money into the hands of the consumer, the consequence would be what we are seeing today. The fact that *Aam Aadmi* economics has got them vote possibly give them to think that they are on the wrong track. They might have

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won elections. It might, actually, come out to be disastrous for the country as a whole. I would like to make only one point, Sir.

The knee-jerk reactions that the Government is giving, for example, importing the essential commodities, banning the export of essential commodities, imposing restrictions on the futures market, etc., are all anti-farmer measures which will discourage the farmer from producing more next year. This year you suffered from drought and next year it might come as inundation and flood and you are not really equipped to meet that situation. This year you might escape because you have sufficient stocks. But, next year, you might be really in trouble and don't think that the electorate is as favourable to you that time as they are this time. Thank you.

(Ends)

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Thank you. You stick to time. You have taken less time.

SHRI SHARAD ANANTRAO JOSHI: Sir, I always do that.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN: You are very crisp and to the point. And, you have made very good points.

SHRI SHARAD ANANTRAO JOSHI: Thank you, Sir.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN: Smt. Stanley.

SHRIMATI VASANTHI STANLEY (TAMIL NADU): Thank you Vice-Chairman, Sir, for giving me the opportunity. I record my concern here over the increasing trend in prices of essential commodities like edible oil, pulses, etc. The result is showing on other commodities also like vegetables and fruits. This has a direct affect on *Aam Aadmi* for whom

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we say that the entire Government is working. So, this is of much concern and the need of the hour is to address this sincerely.

The main reason for increase in the prices is the mismatch between supply and demand. That is, when the demand is very high and the supply is less, certainly, it paves way for increasing the price. The supply is less due to floods and drought conditions. In such a condition, the supply of essential commodities can be increased only through import. If at all there is hoarding, we can impose stockholding limits. Tightening of de-hoarding operations will have only a temporary relief.

(CONTD. BY PB "3S")

PB/3s/5.30

SHRIMATI VASANTHI STANLEY (CONTD): This cannot have a desired effect on price rise if the supply condition is acute.

(Hon. Member may fill the Tamil portion)_____

says the Tamil Poet, which means, 'The Government should be able to create the resources, guard it very well and then equally distribute it.' This is what the Government of India is doing now.

India is now facing such a short supply, particularly, in respect of pulses and oils. The Government of India is implementing a scheme for importing and supplying edible oils and pulses to the State for its distribution through PDS. But, Sir, the quantum of supply is very, very inadequate for Tamil Nadu. For instance, in Tamil Nadu, the State has supplied 71,000 tonnes of *Tur dal*, whereas, the Central Government agencies have supplied only 250 tonnes. Then, 29,000 and odd tonnes of *Urad dal* has been supplied through PDS in Tamil Nadu, whereas, the

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Central Government agencies have supplied only 4750 tonnes to Tamil Nadu. Similarly, 69,000 and odd kilolitres of palm oil has been supplied by the Tamil Nadu Government through PDS but the Central Government agencies have supplied only 20,000 kilolitres of palm oil to Tamil Nadu. Likewise, 17000 and odd tonnes of *Atta*, 4000 and odd tonnes of *Sooji*, 15,000 and odd tonnes of *Maida* and 43 tonnes of *Masala* packets have also been distributed through PDS from April, 2009 in Tamil Nadu. So, apart from introducing the scheme of providing rice at Rs. 1 per kg, the distribution of *Masala* packets is another unique system of curbing the price rise in Tamil Nadu. All the important *Masala* items like coriander powder, chilli powder or even mustard seed, etc., are packeted, which is worth than Rs. 100 but it is distributed through the PDS at just Rs. 50.

So, here it is very clear that the supply given by the Central Government is very inadequate, but still the State Government of Tamil Nadu is able to manage the situation. How is it possible? It is done only by the additional budgetary provisions. An amount of nearly Rs.400-500 crores is being spent to buy the essential commodities from the open market and to supply this at the subsidised rate to protect the poor people of Tamil Nadu irrespective of the quantum supplied by the Government of India. The same is the case with sugar also.

I would like the Government of India to take some long-term measures by increasing the production and also the productivity so that there is an increase in the supply. This can be achieved only by incentivising the cultivation of such crops and also by adopting better

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seeds and promoting high yielding variety seeds and also by following good agronomic policies.

(Hon. Member may fill the Tamil portion).

Sir, there is another interesting Tamil cinema song which is worth quoting here.

(Hon. Member may fill the Tamil portion)

which means everything is possible if you are concentrating properly on the farmers and on the field. ...(Time-bell)...

Sir, pulses and oil seeds can be grown in large quantities in our climatic conditions. For this, I request that the Government can give the hybrid seeds to the farmers free of cost. If it cannot provide it free, it should be provided, at least, at 50 per cent rates.

Finally, I will make just two more suggestions. The MSP is always fixed at a very low level, as a result of which the Government agencies are not able to procure the desired quantity. I request that the remunerative rate may be fixed for the essential commodities like we have fixed for sugarcane. Otherwise, the MSP should be fixed on par with the moving average, that is., taking into consideration the market price.

With this reservation, Sir, I request that the Government of India should support the State Governments like Tamil Nadu which is taking several proactive measures to implement PDS as an effective anti-

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inflationary scheme and also to consider the short-term and long-term measures to curb the price rise at large. Thank you, Sir.

(Ends)

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Dr. Subbarami Reddy. ... (Interruptions)...

DR. K. MALAISAMY: Sir, I would like to thank ... (Interruptions)...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN: Dr. Subbarami Reddy. ... (Interruptions). Yes; yes.

(Followed by 3t/SKC)

3t/5.35/skc

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY (ANDHRA PRADESH): Sir, this past year has been very unfortunate for the households in our country because the prices of fruits, vegetables, even eggs, chicken, sugar and palm oil have gone up abnormally. This is mainly because this year, we had unprecedented drought on one side and heavy floods on the other, and most disproportionate patterns of rainfall throughout the country. This is one of the major reasons. The price of potato rose by 82 to 100 per cent, onions by 49.9 per cent, pulses by 23 per cent. The price of rice was up by 12.19 per cent and wheat, by 7.47 per cent. Now, there is no doubt that we have a very knowledgeable and committed Minister for Agriculture. As the Minister for Agriculture, Shri Sharad Pawar is doing his best to control the prices but certain things are beyond his control. At the same time, there are some remedies which I would like to suggest on this occasion. For instance, take sugar. Today, sugar has become so expensive. It is priced at Rs. 40 to 50 and in some places, even Rs. 70 per kg. Why? How to control it? Today, prices are high all

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over the country and cane production has gone down by almost 50 per cent. This is because in the last several years, the sugar industry has been made to suffer extensively. At one time, there were heavy imports. Later, imports were stopped. Subsequently, cane was not grown fully and cane growers had problems. Sugar factories closed down as a result. Thus, there have been many problems continuously. Today Government wants to import sugar, but the international prices of sugar are very high. Even by importing sugar they would not be able to control prices. So, what is the option? The option is, at least, for the future, what they must do is, sugarcane farmers must be encouraged to grow more sugar. Now, cane production has gone down by 50 per cent. At least, in future they must be encouraged. Similarly, in sugar factories which are sick in States like Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra and various other States, the Government must take initiatives to give them more incentives and even ask banks to give them loans at less rates of interest and restructure the sick factories. The cooperative sugar factories should also be restructured. This should be done on a war-footing and, at least, in the next one or two years, the price of sugar must be completely brought under control. There must be a boom and production should go up.

Sir, similar problems are being faced in the case of palm oil. You cannot import palm oil. Not many countries produce it; there are a very limited number of countries that does that. So, we must produce more in our country itself. We must also concentrate on potatoes and onions. The Agriculture Ministry must concentrate on some special crops where there is a shortage always. Every season we talk about potatoes and

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onions; this is a burning issue in every season. How to solve it? The only solution is warehouses. Whenever there are good monsoons and a bumper crop, you must put warehouses to use. There is the Warehouses Corporation and there are cold storage facilities, but they are not sufficient. The Ministry must take more aggressive steps and encourage the private enterprises to come forward. If you have cold storages and warehouses, whenever there is more production of fruits and vegetables in a particular area, you may store them and use them again. Also, wherever in some area there is a surplus of foodgrains and vegetables, Government must take the initiative to transport them to places where they can be stored. The system is not well-coordinated. Now, the Government must take active part in, (1) coordination of transportation of vegetables, fruits and foodgrains from surplus areas to the deficit areas within the State and between States in a very scientific manner; and (2) wherever more crops are produced, particularly in areas where the monsoons have been good, they should provide for cold storage by giving them more loans and encouraging public-private partnership, and see that the vegetables and food items are stored and then given out when there is a shortage of food. Then, there are monsoons and floods; this is a continuous process in the country. Even though this cannot be solved immediately, there should be some solution, that is, they must concentrate on improving the irrigation system at the national level. Now, just as we are giving top priority to power, construction of roads, the next priority should be irrigation. If we give priority to irrigation, whenever there are floods, water will not flow out to the sea; it would be actually stored to be used again for

cultivation. Similarly, when there is a drought, this water could be utilised.

(Contd. by hk/3u)

HK-NB/3u/5.40

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY (CONTD.): The next priority should be irrigation. Whenever there is a flood, water should not go to sea. It should be stored for cultivation so that this water could be utilised when there is drought. When the flood will come again, it will not damage the crops; water will be stored in reservoirs. In conclusion, I would like to say that even though we have succeeded to bring down the inflation from 12 per cent to zero per cent in one year, again, it has now become 1.3 per cent. Foodgrains and vegetables prices have gone up to 13 per cent, 14 per cent or 21 per cent. It is quite possible for the Government to control the prices with all remedial measures and future planning, and also help the people who are suffering. You must have the planning, at least, for future one or two years in a very scientific way.

(Ends)

श्री राजनीति प्रसाद (बिहार) : उपसभाध्यक्ष जी, आपने मुझे इस विषय पर बोलने का अवसर दिया, इसके लिए धन्यवाद। मैं यहां इसलिए खड़ा हुआ हूँ ताकि मैं अपनी पार्टी की तरफ से महंगाई के खिलाफ पुरजोर विरोध प्रकट कर सकूँ।

उपसभाध्यक्ष जी, हम समाजवादी आंदोलन से आते हैं और हम लोगों ने नारा दिया है - "रोको महंगाई, बांधो दाम, नहीं तो होगा चक्का जाम", यह हम समाजवादी लोगों की मांग है। हमारी दूसरी मांग है - "महंगाई जो रोक न सके, वह सरकार निकम्मी है, जो सरकार निकम्मी है, वह सरकार बदलनी है"। अभी हमारे एक मित्र बता रहे थे कि आप सरकार नहीं बदल सकते, क्योंकि अभी साढ़े चार साल बाकी हैं। मैं उनको बताना चाहता हूँ कि साढ़े चार

साल नहीं, केवल चार साल और दो महीने बाकी हैं। यह जो सरकार आती है और जो सरकार जाती है, अगर आप महंगाई को नहीं रोकेंगे, तो सरकार को जाने में ज्यादा समय नहीं लगेगा। मुझे याद है कि जब जनता पार्टी की सरकार थी, तो प्याज का दाम बढ़ गया था और प्याज का दाम बढ़ने की वजह से हमारी सरकार चली गई। यहां तो हर चीज का दाम बढ़ गया है, केवल आदमी का दाम घट गया है। आदमी का दाम कम हो गया है, बाकी सभी चीजों के दाम बढ़ गए हैं। अभी हमने हाल ही में सुना कि पानी का भी दाम बढ़ गया है। हमने यहां एक प्रश्न पूछा था कि क्या पानी के लिए मुंबई में लड़ाई हो रही है, तो उन लोगों ने कहा कि यह स्टेट का सब्जेक्ट है। हमको लगता है कि आने वाले दिनों में हवा के लिए भी परमीशन लेनी होगी और उसका भी दाम लगेगा।

उपसभाध्यक्ष जी, इस देश में जहां 77 फीसदी आदमियों को रोज 20 रुपए मिलते हैं, वहां पर अगर आप गुड़ की कीमत को बढ़ा देंगे, तो कैसे काम चलेगा? हम लोग देहात में जाते हैं, तो एक लोटा पानी मिलता है और उसके साथ थोड़ा सा गुड़ मिलता है, ताकि आप गुड़ के साथ पानी पीजिए, लेकिन यह "कबीरदास की उल्टी बानी, बरसे कम्बल, भीगे पानी" वाली बात हो रही है कि चीनी का दाम कम है और गुड़ का दाम ज्यादा है। यह कमाल का देश है। फिर हमारे यहां के जो कृषि मंत्री हैं, वे गुड़ के दाम को आगे बढ़ा रहे हैं और चीनी के दाम को कम कर रहे हैं। चीनी का दाम, गुड़ के दाम से कम हो रहा है, यानी गुड़ का दाम 50 रुपए किलो और चीनी का दाम 40 रुपए किलो हो रहा है।

उपसभाध्यक्ष जी, इस देश में महंगाई है और कलराज मिश्र जी को यह विषय यहां उठाने के लिए मैं धन्यवाद देना चाहता हूं, लेकिन उन्होंने आंकड़ा बहुत ज्यादा बताया। हिंदुस्तान के जो 77 फीसदी लोग हैं, उनको आंकड़े से कोई मतलब नहीं है, GDP कितनी बढ़ी, GDP कितनी कम हुई, इससे उन लोगों को कोई मतलब नहीं है। आपको अगर यह फख्र है कि हम जीत गए हैं और बहुत अच्छी तरह से जीते हैं, तो यकीनन आप हार जाएंगे, बहुत अच्छी तरह से हार जाएंगे, महंगाई आपको छोड़ने वाली नहीं है। वैसे महंगाई किसी को छोड़ने वाली नहीं है, महंगाई ने हमको भी नहीं छोड़ा। जब जयप्रकाश जी की जनता पार्टी की सरकार आई, तो महंगाई उसको भी ले डूबी। इसलिए इस देश में महंगाई एक बहुत बड़ी चीज है। आज हर चीज का दाम बढ़ गया है - आलू का दाम बढ़ गया है, प्याज

का दाम बढ़ गया है, आटे का दाम बढ़ गया है, सूजी का दाम बढ़ गया है, हर चीज का दाम बढ़ गया है, लेकिन हमारी जो आमदनी है, हम यह नहीं कहते कि हमारी फीस बढ़ा दीजिए। हम तो वकील थे, हमें पता ही नहीं लगता था कि किसने कितना पैसा दिया, किसी ने पांच सौ रुपए दिए, किसी ने चार सौ रुपए दिए, पता ही नहीं लगता था।

3W/VNK पर क्रमशः

-NB/VNK-KSK/3w/5.45

श्री राजनीति प्रसाद (क्रमागत) : यहां भी पता नहीं लगता है कि महंगाई क्या है, लेकिन गांव में लोगों को सब्जी नहीं मिलती है। आपका जो मिड-डे मील प्रोग्राम है, उसमें गांव में जाकर देख लीजिए, वहां खिचड़ी में रंग दिया जाता है, उसमें दाल नहीं होता है। महंगाई का यह असर है कि खिचड़ी में पीला रंग दिया जाता है। उसमें दाल नहीं होता है। यह एक गंभीर मामला है, इसलिए मैं इस गंभीर मामले के बारे में आपसे निवेदन करूंगा कि महंगाई पर जरूर रोक लगनी चाहिए। सर, महंगाई एक जबर्दस्त चीज है, "न संभलोगे तो मिट जाओगे ये हिन्दुस्तां वाले कि तुम्हारी दास्तां भी न होगी दास्तानों में", अगर गरीबों का असर आपको लगेगा, तो सरकार आपकी नहीं चलेगी। यह सरकार पांच वर्ष तक नहीं चलने वाली है, यहां आंदोलन होने वाला है। सब लोग मिल जाएंगे और महंगाई के खिलाफ आंदोलन होगा और फिर आपका साढ़े चाल साल और पांच साल सब दिवास्वप्न हो जाएगा।

उपसभाध्यक्ष (प्रो. पी. जे. कुरियन) : कृपया आप समाप्त कीजिए।

श्री राजनीति प्रसाद : मैं आपसे निवेदन करता हूँ कि महंगाई पर रोक लगाइए। मैंने आपके बारे में सुना है कि आप बहुत एक्सपर्ट आदमी हैं और अच्छे आदमी हैं, इसलिए मेरा आपसे निवेदन है कि महंगाई पर रोक लगाइए और गरीबों को राहत दीजिए। गरीबों को माओवादी और नक्सलाइट बनने से रोकिए। इन्हीं शब्दों के साथ मैं अपनी बात समाप्त करता हूँ। धन्यवाद।

(समाप्त)

श्री मंगल किसन (उड़ीसा) : महोदय, आज़ादी के 62 साल बाद आज महंगाई पर चर्चा हो रही है। आज़ादी के बाद एक राष्ट्र को संपूर्ण रूप से निर्माण करने के लिए 62 साल का समय दिया, मगर हम लोगों ने आज तक आम जनता के लिए चावल, गेहूं, आटा, साग-

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सब्जी, दाल और खाने का तेल पहुंचा नहीं पा रहे हैं। इसके लिए सरकार को सोचना चाहिए। महोदय, industrial product के लिए हर साल ज्यादा मात्रा में पूंजी निवेश किया जा रहा है। मगर पं. जवाहर लाल नेहरू के बाद जो mega irrigation project, medium irrigation project और minor irrigation project को समय-समय पर भारत सरकार सेन्ट्रल प्रोजेक्ट के रूप में लेती थी और मेगा प्रोजेक्ट के जरिए किसानों को इरिगेशन के जरिए पानी देती थी, जिसके चलते आज कम से कम पचास प्रतिशत जनसंख्या कुछ खाद्यान्न खाने के लिए अच्छे से पा रहे हैं और पचास प्रतिशत जनसंख्या अभी starvation-like condition में जी रही है। Irrigation subject एक state subject है। मगर जैसे without water, there is no question of fish farming. Like that, without irrigation, there is no question of farming. महंगाई तो बढ़ेगी और population भी बढ़ेगी, मगर इनके खाने-पीने का जुगाड़ करने के लिए जो जमीन है, उस जमीन का जो एरिया है, it cannot be increased. यह हिन्दुस्तान का जितना जमीन है, उतना ही रहेगा।

(3x/MP पर जारी)

GSP-MP/3X/5.50

श्री मंगल किसन (क्रमागत) : इसीलिए जो 70 परसेंट average ज़मीन rainfed है, उसको सरकार irrigation की facility दे। Without taking any tax, water tax, farmers should be given the irrigation facilities. जब तक आप यह नहीं करेंगे, तब तक हर साल पार्लियामेंट में महंगाई पर चर्चा होगी। फिर आप बोलेंगे कि इस साल मौसम अच्छा नहीं हुआ, एग्रीकल्चरल प्रोडक्ट्स कम हुए, इसलिए महंगाई हो रही है। कभी आप बोलेंगे कि महंगाई को कंट्रोल करने के लिए राज्य सरकारें भारत सरकार के साथ सहयोग नहीं करती हैं, इसलिए महंगाई बढ़ रही है। कभी बोलेंगे कि वायदा बाज़ार के चलते hoarding हो रही है, इसलिए महंगाई बढ़ रही है। कभी बोलेंगे कि हम लोगों की जो गवर्नमेंट मशीनरी है, that Government machinery is not able to control the blackmarketers. ये कारण आप गिनाएंगे, मगर ये कारण तो 50 परसेंट ही जिम्मेदार हैं।

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जब तक आप 100 परसेंट secure irrigation facility हर स्टेट को, हिंदुस्तान की हर इंच ज़मीन को नहीं देते हैं, तब तक महंगाई बढ़ती रहेगी और फूड शॉर्टेज होती रहेगी।

(MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN in the Chair.)

इसलिए मैं भारत सरकार से निवेदन करता हूँ कि for the incomplete mega irrigation projects and the medium irrigation projects, which are pending at the State level, the Central Government should come forward and ensure hundred per cent funding to complete all these incomplete projects, and, it should also provide hundred per cent irrigation facilities throughout the country. Then only, this problem may be solved. Otherwise, we will continue to discuss it again and again, and, perhaps, will not find any solution. (Time-bell) और हम लोग विशेषकर जो बोलते हैं "आम आदमी के साथ", तो क्या हम "आम आदमी के साथ" हैं? Fifty per cent of the *aam aadmi* is now in half-starved condition. Sir, if the Government does not make any provision and does not give them hundred per cent support, there may be anarchy in the country.

श्री उपसभापति : किसन जी, समाप्त कीजिए।

श्री मंगल किसन : जैसा अभी राजनीति प्रसाद जी बोल रहे थे कि आम आदमी फूड के लिए लड़ाई लड़ने के लिए घर से निकलेंगे और देश unruly हो सकता है, इसलिए the Government should provide hundred per cent irrigation facilities to the farmers of the country. Thank you.

(Ends)

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Shri Barun Mukherji. (Interruptions)

डा. (श्रीमती) नजमा ए. हेपतुल्ला : सर, फाइनेंस मिनिस्टर आ रहे हैं या नहीं आ रहे हैं?

श्री उपसभापति : फाइनेंस मिनिस्टर क्यों आएंगे?

डा. (श्रीमती) नजमा ए. हेपतुल्ला : क्यों नहीं आएंगे? उनको भी महंगाई की इस बहस का जवाब देना चाहिए।

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DR. BARUN MUKHERJI (WEST BENGAL): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, it is a matter of great concern not only due to the fact that the prices are steadily rising but also due to the fact that the Government is quite indifferent about it. We are at a loss to think as to what is going on. Some of the earlier speakers have already said that it is for the third time that we are discussing the same issue, namely, price rise, during the second term of the UPA Government. Periodically, this is coming up, we are discussing it and the same stereotyped answer is coming but the problem remains the same. Not only it remains the same but it is also becoming acute day-by-day. It is really a matter of great concern for the whole nation.

(Contd. by sk-3y)

SK/3Y/5.55

DR. BARUN MUKHERJI (CONTD.): If the Government is concerned for the people, we expect them to tackle this crisis on war footing. We may prosper in many ways. We may feel proud saying that the GDP is improving and all these things. But when it comes to the essential commodities, prices are rising steadily. Starting from salt to sugar, from rice to pulses, prices of every thing are rising. We are gradually having the impression that the Government is not very serious about it, and that really is a matter of concern. It has been repeatedly demanded, particularly from the Opposition parties, that the forward trading should be banned. But, it has not been banned, and no categorical answer is coming as to why it has not been banned. We have analysed that these profiteers, hoarders, the people engaged in forward trading, they are causing the serious price rise. But the Government is reluctant to

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ban it. We are seriously raising this issue again and we want a very categorical answer as to why it has not been done. If the Government has some other answer to overcome it, we would not have raised this point. But we find that the basic reason is not being taken care of. Moreover, no action has been taken against the profiteers. When the recent potato crisis was there, we found that tons of potatoes were stored safely under the care of some hoarders. Then, the Government came with the plea that they did not have adequate law in their hands to take out all those potatoes from the godowns and all these things. There are so many excuses. There may be some genuine reasons also. But apparently it seems that we are bowing down to the nature. We are taking the name of the droughts or the floods or inadequate monsoon. But the point comes is, if these adverse circumstances continue, what would be the fate of the people? We are bowing down to the nature. We don't have the power to overcome nature's adversities. Sir, the other day, we noted that the hon. Finance Minister also stated that to overcome the problem, the PDS has to be strengthened. May I ask the hon. Minister what steps have been taken? Our hon. Agriculture, Food and Supply Minister is here. Everything is in his hands. So, what steps have been taken to strengthen the PDS? It is the artificial barrier between BPL and APL. It should also go. The Government must come forward to give more subsidies, particularly for these food items and other essential items. If necessary, even half of the total Budget should be spent for protection of these millions of hungry people. (Time-bell) So, all we say is, not only the price rise is a matter of concern, but we also find that the Government is indifferent

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about it. So, they must show that they want to address the problem. They have got the mandate of the people. They have come to power for the second time. But they must justify it. The people's demand is that they must have their salt; they must have their water; they must have their rice; they must have their food. But nothing is being supplied. Is it not betrayal to the people? Once more, we have participated in the debate. I find that it is an ongoing process. But please don't make it an ongoing process. Please come out with positive assurances, and not only assurance, but positive actions also so that the prices can immediately be controlled. Thank you. (Ends)

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Shri Bharatkumar Raut, you have got 4-5 minutes. (Followed by 3z)

* Pp 460 onwards will be issued as a Supplement.

**SHORT DURATION DISCUSSION ON THE SITUATION
ARISING OUT OF CONTINUED RISE IN PRICES OF
ESSENTIAL COMMODITIES IN THE COUNTRY (CONTD.)**

श्री भारतकुमार राऊत (महाराष्ट्र) : उपसभापति महोदय, वैसे तो मैं अंग्रेजी में अपने विचार व्यक्त करता हूँ लेकिन आज मैं हिन्दी की सहायता ले रहा हूँ। क्योंकि आज का विषय है - महंगाई, यह महंगाई विषय ऐसे आम आदमी का है जिसका दिल सेंसेक्स बढ़ने से उछलता नहीं और जी०डी०पी० ग्रोथ के बड़े-बड़े आंकड़े उसके लिए कोई मायना नहीं रखते। ऐसे विषय पर मुझे बोलना है। मुझे लगता है कि मैं आखिरी वक्ता हूँ, बहुत सारे मुद्दे तो आ चुके हैं, मुझे सिर्फ दो-तीन सवाल आपूर्ति मंत्री से पूछने हैं। क्या आपने यह देखा है कि जिन चीजों के दाम मार्केट में बढ़े हैं, मैसूरा रेड्डी जी ने आपको पूरा हिसाब दिया कि उनका जो उत्पादक है उसे कितना भाव मिलता है। आज भी आलू का उत्पादन करने वाले जो लोग हैं, उन्होंने जितना इनपुट दिया उतना भी उनको रिटर्न नहीं मिल रहा है और आज आलू के दाम ऐसे हो गए कि बिना आलू के सब्जी बनने लगी है। उपसभापति महोदय, एक दूसरी बात यह है कि एक तरफ हम बोल रहे हैं कि एसेंशियल कर्मांडिटीज महंगी होती जा रही हैं। मंत्री जी ने पहले कहा था कि यह दाम तो अगले तीन-चार महीनों में बढ़ने वाले हैं। एक तरफ एसेंशियल कर्मांडिटीज के दाम बढ़ते हैं, दूसरी जगह बड़ी-बड़ी कार, बड़े-बड़े टी०वी० सेट्स, कॉस्मेटिक पाउडर, टूथ पेस्ट जैसी चीजें जो ऊंचे लोगों की वस्तुएं हैं, उनके दाम कम होते जा रहे हैं, क्योंकि वे बड़े-बड़े एडवर्टाइजमेंट टी०वी० पर देते हैं तथा उनके कम दामों की एडवर्टाइजमेंट टी०वी० पर दीखती है। हम टूथ पेस्ट खाकर जिन्दा नहीं रह सकते, हम कॉस्मेटिक पाउडर खा नहीं सकते, लेकिन उनके दाम आप घटाते जा रहे हैं। यह आपकी क्या पॉलिसी है? मुझे लगता है कि यह जो एसेंशियल कर्मांडिटीज की मूल्य वृद्धि हो रही है, यह मेन मेड है, यह नैसर्गिक कृपा से नहीं हुई है। कृषि मंत्री महाराष्ट्र से आते हैं, महाराष्ट्र में 1995 से 1999 तक शिव सेना और भाजपा का शासन था। उस समय मंत्रालय के सामने एक बड़ा बोर्ड लगाया गया था और उस पर पांच एसेंशियल कर्मांडिटीज के दाम लिखे गए थे और साढ़े चार साल वही के वही दाम रहे, उसमें एक पैसे की वृद्धि नहीं हुई। इसका मतलब यह है कि अगर आपकी प्रशासन पर कमांड है, अगर

आपकी नीति साफ है और अगर वहां पर ट्रांसपिरेन्सी है तो भाव बढ़ नहीं सकते। मुझे लगता है कि यही प्रयोग अब आप और राज्य सरकारों में क्यों नहीं करते, क्यों नहीं ऐसे बोर्ड लगाते कि यह-यह दाम हैं और ये इतने साल तक कायम रहेंगे। उसके लिए एक नीति की आवश्यकता है।

उपसभापति महोदय, ज्यादा नहीं बोलूंगा लेकिन मैं अरबन पुअर के बारे में थोड़ी सी बात करना चाहता हूं, मैं मुम्बई से आता हूं, हमारे आसपास की तीन फेमिलीज का सर्वे किया गया। एक फेमिली है, जिसमें पति बी0एम0सी0 -मुम्बई म्युनिस्पल कार्पोरेशन में लोअर डिविजनल क्लर्क है, उसकी वाइफ हाउस वाइफ है, उनके दो स्कूल गोइंग बच्चे हैं। उनकी मासिक आमदनी 18 हजार रुपए है। इस 18 हजार रुपए में उनकी जो ग्रासरी का खर्चा है वह 15 हजार रुपया है। दूसरी प्लम्बर की फेमिली है, उसकी वाइफ मेड सर्वेंट है, उसकी मासिक आमदनी 8 हजार रुपए है। उसकी ग्रासरी का बिल 6 हजार रुपए है। जो तीसरी फेमिली है वह हमारी बिल्डिंग का सिक्योरिटी गार्ड है, उसकी वाइफ सफाई वर्कर है। उनकी आमदनी 6 हजार रुपया है। उनकी ग्रासरी का खर्चा 5 हजार रुपया है। अगर इतना खर्चा हो रहा है तो उसके आगे उसकी हाऊसिंग है, उसका इलेक्ट्रिसिटी बिल है, उनके बच्चों की पढ़ाई है, उनका क्लोदिंग है, उनका कम्प्यूटिंग का खर्चा है, तो इस तरह से यह एक गरीब आदमी कहां से जिंदा रहेगा? क्या सरकार ने सोचा है कि यह गरीब आदमी, आम आदमी जिसकी आप बातें करते रहो, यह कैसे जिन्दा रहने वाला है? आप बोल रहे हैं यकायक बारिश हुई, इसलिए आपके पास अनाज नहीं है इसलिए अनाज के दाम बढ़ रहे हैं, जो सही नहीं है। आप महाराष्ट्र से आते हो। मैं महाराष्ट्र की एक बात आपको बतलाना चाहता हूं कि महाराष्ट्र में जो कोआपरेटिव शुगर फैक्ट्रीज हैं, जो आजकल साइड बिजनेस करके शराब बनाते थे, इसमें से कई शुगर इण्डस्ट्रीज को आपने चावल, गेहूं, बाजरा और ज्वार से लिक्कर प्रोडक्शन के लाइसेंस दे रखे हैं। लोगों को खाने के लिए अनाज नहीं, लेकिन लिक्कर बनाने के लिए, शराब बनाने के लिए इस सरकार के पास उनको लाइसेंस देने की नीति है।

(4A/GS पर क्रमशः)

GS-VKK/4A/6.05

श्री भारतकुमार राऊत (क्रमागत) : सिर्फ लाइसेंस देकर ही चुप नहीं बैठे, उन्होंने सरकार की पूंजी से, राज्य सरकार की तिजोरी से, उनको सबसिडी दी है। कृषि मंत्री जी जिस पक्ष से आते हैं, उस पक्ष के जो लोग हैं, उनकी जो सहयोगी पार्टी है, वे सहयोगी पार्टी के लोग क्या कर रहे हैं ? आप हमें सिखा रहे हैं, आप लोगों को बोल रहे हैं। आपकी पार्टी के जो लोग हैं, जो धान है, उस धान से शराब पीने का आप लाइसेंस दे रहे हैं, ऐसा कितने दिन चलेगा ? ..(समय की घंटी).. यह नहीं चलेगा । महंगाई मार देगी। महंगाई पहले हमें मार रही है, उसके बाद में सरकार को मारेगी, यह मैं जरूर कहना चाहता हूँ। यह सिर्फ एक सिग्नल है। यह सिर्फ एक वार्निंग है। अगर यह सरकार ऐसे ही चलती रहेगी, तो जैसा मेरे सहयोगी ने कहा, वैसे ही जनता सड़कों पर आएगी और जब जनता रास्ते पर आएगी, तब जनता कहेगी कि सिंहासन खाली करो। वह ऐसा नारा देगी । यह दिन नहीं आना चाहिए। इसलिए आज ही माननीय मंत्री जी को कुछ कदम उठाने की जरूरत है। मैं इतनी ही विनती करता हूँ और मैं अपनी बात समाप्त करता हूँ। धन्यवाद।

(समाप्त)

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, I have been carefully listening the discussion in the House regarding rise in the price of essential commodities. I would like to share the concerns of all the hon. Members because this particular subject is a subject which is affecting practically each and every household of this country and, particularly, the vulnerable sections of the country. Middle classes of this country have to face a very serious situation. It is true that we have discussed this subject in the month of August and it is also true that there is no remarkable change in the situation. I recollect, in the discussion in August, in my reply, I had explained what was the ground level situation,

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what steps had been taken and for how long this situation will continue. Of course, when I tried to take the House into confidence and, through the House, the people of India, I tried to put a proper picture before them. I have seen that there are some allegations against me that because of my statements, certain things are happening and I don't want to hide. I have definitely tried to tell the truth to the countrymen because I was quite convinced that this type of situation will continue for such and such period. The issue is not restricted to prices of essential commodities. I recollect, in my young days, I was in the Congress Party. And, the Working Committee of the Congress Party in 1960s took a decision that nationalisation of foodgrains failed. That was a major decision. Practically, within three months' time, the Party took another decision and withdrew from that decision because the Government and the Party realised that it was not a subject which the Government or the Government machinery or officers would control and implement very effectively to protect the interests of public. Here, if we have to resolve this issue, we have to take a long-term approach. We have to take an approach which can take corrective measures immediately.

(Contd. by MKS/4b)

MKS-VKK/6.10/4B

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR (CONTD.): For long term, in a country like India, it is the responsibility of all of us to see how we will be able to improve our production of agricultural goods and the productivity from each and every inch of land. We have to give it a topmost priority. Pundit Jawaharlal Nehru had said once: "Everything can wait but not agriculture." It is a huge country. We have six per cent land of the

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world; we have three per cent water of the world, but we have to feed 17 per cent population of the world! So, feeding 17 per cent population of the world, with such limited resources, is not easy unless and until we are ready to make, we are prepared to make substantial investment in the agriculture sector, whether it is irrigation, whether it is other facilities or whether it is cold chains, and save the post-harvest losses to reserve providing sufficient market facilities.

Some of the decisions were definitely taken in the last few years. When the UPA first took the responsibility to protect the interest of this country, in our programme, it was announced that such and such steps we are going to take in the area of agriculture and we would like to change the overall approach in agriculture; balance of trade also we would like to change. The overall investment pattern which was not giving justice to this sector has also been changed and tried to improve. Credit system has been improved. I recollect that in the year 2005-06, the total agricultural credit which was provided in this country was Rs.86,000 crores, crop loan, has been enhanced to Rs.3,01,000 crores this year. Interest - it has always been a normal discussion in the villages that if anybody wants to buy a small car, the credit is available or the money is available in some financial institution @ 8-9 per cent whereas the crop loan in this country is available @ 12 per cent. In Indian region, certain decision has been taken to reduce that from 12 per cent to certain percentage. Similar programme has been taken in hand and the House is fully aware that in the last Budget, the hon. Finance Minister has announced reducing the rate of interest, for crop loans, from eight to seven per cent, and those who were ready to pay

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regularly, they will charge six per cent. So, practically, we have come down from 12 per cent to 6 per cent. Of course, this is the precondition that regular payment should be there.

One of the points raised here by one of the hon. Members was that we should try to provide substantial money for irrigation purposes. It is true that 60 per cent of our agriculture is rain fed. It depends on uncertainty of monsoon, and unless and until we try to bring more irrigation percentage in the country, to resolve the question of food security is not that simple.

(Contd. by TMV/4C)

-MKS-TMV-LT/6.15/4C

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR (CONTD.): So, a special programme has been taken up in this country, that is, the Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP). Thousands of projects were taken up by the State Governments. But for years together, they are incomplete. So, the Government of India took a decision to provide a special assistance to the States where they are in a position to complete these projects within two to three years. And, practically, every year, we are enhancing the budgetary provision for that purpose. The intention behind it is to improve the agriculture production and productivity, and make available sufficient foodgrains in this country. There are other schemes for which also a lot of monetary provision has been made. I recollect that on 17th May, 2006-07, I called the Chief Ministers' meeting and this particular subject was discussed practically for the whole day. For the first time, in the last forty or fifty years, an exclusive meeting of the Chief Ministers was called to discuss the problem of agriculture. It was decided in that

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meeting to provide Rs.25,000 crores and to introduce a new scheme, namely, the Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana, where flexibility has been provided to the State Governments, and the State Governments, as per their requirements, can take up schemes in their respective States which will be useful to enhance agricultural production, particularly, foodgrains and other items, and productivity. We are implementing that Scheme for the last two or three years.

Another major decision was taken to improve the National Food Security Mission. An amount of Rs.5,000 crores has been provided. It was planned to enhance the wheat and pulses production by 20 million tonnes by 2011. The implementation of the Scheme is also doing quite well and I must say that most of the States are cooperating extremely well, and that is the reason why both the decisions are definitely going to show some results from some time now. So, one way our approach is to improve production and productivity, and make foodgrains available.

Another area where we have to take a lot of interest is the Public Distribution System or to make foodgrains available in the market. In the Public Distribution System, which we have accepted in this country for years together, there was a change in the approach when the NDA Government took the responsibility to run the Government. The change was a slightly different. The change was to give more weightage to the targeted sections of the society which are really the poorest of the poor. A decision was taken that 35 kilograms of wheat and rice should be provided to all the BPL families throughout India. Another new scheme has been introduced, namely, Antyodaya Anna Yojana. Those who

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come under the Antyodaya Anna Yojana are also eligible to get 35 kilograms of wheat and rice per family per month, and the price, which was fixed in 2002, is Rs.2 per kilogram of wheat and Rs.3 per kilogram of rice. Till today, the same price pattern has been there. We have not changed that, though the minimum support price for wheat and rice has been substantially hiked. But this section of the society are, for years together and even today, getting 35 kilograms of rice and wheat at this particular price.

(Contd. by 4D/RG)

RG/6.20/4D

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR (contd.): So, we have the PDS and the AAY. There are about six crore families, that is, 30 crores of people, of this country, who have taken full advantage of these schemes. Another decision was taken by this Government to introduce a new category, called, the APL, that is, Above Poverty Line. Now, the people of this category are also entitled to get the foodgrains under the PDS. But it depends on availability. In the last few years, 10-12 kgs. of wheat and rice have been provided to the APL category. There is an exception to the States of the North-East, Jammu and Kashmir, hilly States, Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep, where we are even supplying 35 kgs. for the APL category. But the other States are getting around 10-11 kgs per family per month. And, if the availability improves, then, the Government will, happily, take a decision to enhance this quantity as well. Along with these, our effort is also to see to it that there is availability in the local market. Now, there are a number of families who do not want to go to ration shops. They are not generally

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dependent on the Public Distribution System of the Government. They prefer to buy in open market. For the sake of that section, it is also our responsibility to see how the foodgrains are made available in local markets. As I said, the availability can be met from production within our country. But, if there is shortfall, a pragmatic decision has been taken on a number of occasions to allow imports liberally. But when we allow imports liberally, we also try to take care that domestic farmers are not affected. In the last, practically, ten years, we have been importing pulses. When we look at the position of the total production of pulses and the total demand of pulses of this country, there is a gap by about 4 million tonnes. So, unless and until, we allow imports to meet the shortfall of 4 million tonnes of pulses, the availability will not be there, and the price of pulses will not be under control. So, we do import them. There was a criticism as to why this Government is allowing import of edible oil. This decision has not been taken today. This practice has been going on for a number of years. I have not got the details with me now. But I can collect the information and give it to the House. But, for years together, we have been importing palm oil from Indonesia and Malaysia, and ensuring availability of edible oil in this country. So, edible oil and pulses are two items which are generally imported because there is shortage. The reasons are manifold. I will also go into some specific details about other individual commodities. A number of issues have been raised here. I will, definitely, go into each and every item. Prior to that, I will try to bring out the broad thrust of the measures which have been taken in the last few months to improve

availability. We have been encouraging imports, as I said, and discouraging exports.

(Continued by 4E)

TDB/4E/6.25

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR (CONTD.): From the last one year, we have totally banned rice export, other than Basmati. We have banned wheat export. We have banned, except one or two small items which are required for Indian community, particularly in the Gulf, edible oils from our side. So, we have now totally banned a number of items. And, there are a number of items where we have practically removed 100 per cent duty. We have done it because we want availability should be there in the country. To ensure that the vulnerable sections of the country are protected, the Government of India has given considerable support to the Public Distribution System. An extremely important step in this direction has been to keep the Central issue price constant since the year 2002. We have two prices. One is acquisition price from farmer. The second is the issue price for the public distribution. These are two prices, and practically, the issue price is constant for years together. But, the acquisition prices have been increasing. That has been enhanced. The Minimum Support Price in the last five years has been enhanced by practically up to 70 to 80 per cent. At the same time, thanks to the record production of last year, the Government procured a record 58.53 million tonnes of food grains, i.e., 33.30 million tonnes of rice and 25.23 million tonnes of wheat this year. As a result, the Central Pool Stock of wheat as on 1st November, 2009 was 266.88 lakh tonnes. In 2009-10, the quantity of 129 lakh tonnes of rice has been procured till

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first of December. I have briefed the House while this year we are expecting less rice production because of the drought situation in certain States, but still Punjab, Haryana, parts of the Western U.P., these Governments have taken tremendous efforts to save their paddy crop this year. The Government of India has also supported them. We have provided them diesel subsidy. We have provided them additional power and because of this, they could save their crop and that is why, at least, these two States or three States have definitely saved their paddy crop. That is why our paddy procurement, which has been started from practically two months, is quite good and, as compared to last year, till today, our procurement is a little higher. But, I don't expect similar situation all over India because there are a number of other States which have been affected. Modification has been made to the order issued under the Essential Commodities Act to provide powers to the States to fix and enforce the stock limit for several essential commodities. So, these are some of the quick decisions which have been taken.

Sir, the hon. Members would recall that in the last Session of the House, we had discussed the situation arising because of poor monsoon that we experienced last year. Since then, we have received full information about the monsoon of the current year. The monsoon has ended with overall shortage of 23 per cent. It is reported that it has been the worst monsoon since 1972. The State Governments have declared 316 districts in 13 States, namely, Assam, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Manipur, Nagaland, Orissa, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Andhra Pradesh to be drought affected or scarcity or drought-like conditions. (Contd. by 4f-kgg)

kgg/4f/6.30

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR (CONTD.): So, in 316 districts of the 13 States, the State Governments have declared the drought. Subsequently, States like Karnataka, Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh, lost a lot of their crops in the post-monsoon period. Commodities like sugarcane, rice, potato and onion were affected.

I am not aware of what exactly has happened when a point was raised here by the hon. Member, Smt. Jaya Bachchan, that when she was coming from Nasik to Mumbai, on the way she has seen two-truckloads of onion was thrown away. Definitely, I would inquire into it. But, I am fully aware that in that particular belt, because of the excessive rains, sizeable onion crop has been practically rotten; and, that is why, the farmer might have tried to remove that and dispose it of somewhere. That might be the reason, but, definitely I would go and try to collect the information from the State Government.

Sir, the adverse climatic conditions have been coupled with the high prices of certain commodities in the international market. These two factors taken together have considerably restricted the capacity of the Government to take remedial measures; and, at the same time, on account of the steps taken to promote growth and employment, the economy has continued to grow. The targeted scheme like NREGA has also helped to improve the income of the rural poor. And, all this has led to increase demand of the essential commodities. Hon. Member, Shri Sharad Joshi, has raised this particular subject. He said that because of a number of Government schemes, now the purchasing power of the rural areas has definitely been improved and that is why there is more

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demand. He also said that the country is facing a little different situation from region to region. In villages, the situation is different. Our people from villages want better price to their products and in urban areas the prices should be proper, at a particular level. So, there is a sort of contradictory situation in what he says and I entirely agree with him.

While I go into the details about the specific scenario regarding inflation of the essential commodities today, I would like a fact to be kept as a backdrop in mind. The annual rate of inflation in food articles is currently 17.5 per cent. This is a matter of great concern. Although, the annual rate of inflation based on monthly WPI stood at a low level of 1.34 per cent for the month of October, 2009, the high inflation in food articles is certainly disturbing. I do not deny that, we accept that. We are quite serious about that. Though there has been an increase in the total foodgrains production in 2008-09, the production of some of the items, say, some varieties of pulses is low. Sugar has been altogether different. The first advance estimated production of major agricultural crops in 2009-10 for kharif would be 96.53 million tonnes, which is lower than the first advance estimate of last year, which was expected to be 115 million tonnes. So, practically, we are coming down from 115 to 96.

India is not self-sufficient in some of the agricultural commodities, as I said, particularly, edible oil and pulses. That is why, I said that we have no choice but to import. But, simultaneously, certain important decisions have been taken by the Government of India to provide a better price to the farmer. For instance, the Minimum Support Price for wheat has been increased from Rs.640 per quintal in 2004 to Rs.1,100 per quintal this year.

(Contd. by sss/4g)

SSS/4G/6.35

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR (CONTD.): If the minimum support price has gone up from Rs. 642 to Rs. 1,100 definitely, there will be some impact in the price front in the open market. It is not possible to get or make available that wheat at the same price which was there around one year or two years or three years back. Similar is the case with paddy. Now, for the common variety of paddy, the minimum support price has been increased from Rs. 560, per quintal, to Rs. 1000 in the year 2009. That means, in percentage terms, the MSP of wheat has been increased by 72 per cent, and paddy, by 79 per cent. So, if the paddy price has been enhanced by 79 per cent for the last three to four years, definitely, there will be some impact on the prices of rice. When we give Rs. 1000 per quintal, for the paddy crop, that means, actually, we are getting 60 kgs of rice. That is why Rs. 1000 is the price of paddy, which means Rs. 1600 is the State price of rice, plus conversion charges, acquisition charges, *mandi* charges and State Government's taxes. So, altogether, practically it goes to, somewhat, near Rs. 2000. But whatever figures which have been published, we have a system, that Delhi Government will communicate the figures of the various essential commodities to the Government of India's Consumer Affairs Department daily. They collect the figures from a number of shops, and whatever latest information which I got from Delhi Government, six months back, the retail price of rice was at Rs. 20 per kg. Three months back, it had gone up to Rs. 21. One month back, it had gone up to Rs. 22. One week back, it was Rs. 23, and as on today, it is Rs. 23. Yes, it is true it is going on the higher side but we are not in a position to buy fast. One thing is, if the

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price which has been paid to the farmers at Rs. 1000, that means Rs. 1600 which is the cost of rice will ultimately reflect up to retail at this price. Similarly, of course, one point was raised in the House that the price has gone up to Rs. 30 or Rs. 40 for per kg of rice. That is not the information which I have got from a number of the other districts. There is every possibility that there are some types of rice like Basmati or some other good variety of rice. Prices are high but the prices which I am quoting is of the common variety, and the common variety prices are here only. Similar is the case with wheat. Though the minimum support price of wheat has gone up to Rs. 1100 per quintal but practically, we have to pay 12 per cent market taxes, plus mandi charges, gunny bags, loading, unloading, transport, storage for acquisition cost in Punjab. Altogether, ultimately it goes up to Rs. 15 to Rs. 16. But the retail price in Delhi market is Rs. 15 per kg. That is the latest price which we have got about Delhi. Of course, there are some other places. In Mumbai, it is Rs. 19. In Trivandrum, it is something like Rs. 23 - Rs. 24 because we have to consider the total transport cost from Ludhiana or any destination from Punjab and Haryana to Trivandrum or Chennai. That has to be added. That is why, comparatively, the prices of Southern States are always high. So, as I said, our position is still better because we have a record production, and last year, procurement was very good. The stock of wheat and rice is, therefore, sufficient to meet the demand of the public distribution system and all other welfare fund. The price of rice and wheat in the open market has been rising on account of the minimum support price as I have already explained here.

(Contd. by NBR/4H)

-SSS/NBR-NB/4H/6.40.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR (CONTD.): But, still, we are trying to maintain the price at a particular level. What have we done? We have earmarked 30 million tonnes of wheat and 10 million tonnes of rice to sell in the open market. How to sell? The Food Corporation of India can sell by inviting tenders. But, we took a decision to handover these to States. We requested the State Governments to sell or take these at a particular price and make them available in the PDS even for APL category. Sir, 10 lakh tonnes of wheat and 10 lakh tonnes of rice has been allotted to States and UTs under the Open Market Sale Scheme for the retail consumer to be distribution between the October, 2009, and December, 2009 i.e., two months. So, we have written to the States and UTs that such and such quantity of foodgrains was made available to them. These allocations have been made at a subsidized rate of MSP plus freight without adding tax, procurement charges, handling charges, interest, storage which are borne by the Government of India. So, the MSP which we have paid to the farmer has to be paid by the State Government plus freight from Ludhiana to that particular place. The other costs such as procurement charges, handling charges, interest, storage rate, etc., will be borne by the Government of India. The objective of the Scheme was to make wheat and rice available to retail consumer for his consumption and to control market prices. The State delivery system has to take the benefit of this Scheme. However, the lifting of wheat and rice, it is really surprising, under the Scheme by the States has been very, very poor. As per latest position i.e., as of 6th December, 2009, from the FCI, 21,992 metric tonne of wheat has been

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lifted by the States. So, out of 10 lakh MT, the States have lifted only 21,992 metric tonnes! There are some States which are asking that we should provide them wheat at the BPL price. It is not possible. We are asking them to pay only the price that we have paid to the farmers. We are not asking more than that. The acquisition and other charges are all borne by the GOI. The States have to pay only the transport and the price which was paid to the farmer.

SHRI P.V. RAJEEVE: What about the additional allocation to the State of Kerala at the APL price.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: I will come back to you.

So, 1,49,176 metric tonnes of rice has been lifted by the States out of 5 lakh MT allotted to them. And, as I said, the same formula has been adopted for this as well. So, I think, it is the responsibility of the State Governments to take advantage of the Scheme and see that market will improve. I am going to take up this issue with all the State Governments. If the State Governments will not take this, then, the FCI will enter into open market and dispose these through open market tender process. But, our desire is that the State Governments can take these and use its machinery of the PDS.

Sir, one particular issue was raised here regarding the allocation and off take of APL rice to Kerala.

(CONTD. BY PB "4J")

-NBR/PB-VNK/4J/6.45

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR (CONTD.): Sir, it is true that the total allocation for Kerala has been reduced and there are reasons. In fact, I had given these reasons to the House. It is because whatever allocation was

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made was not lifted sufficiently by the State Government.
...(Interruptions)...

SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: When was this taken place?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You can ask it after the reply.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: From the years 2003-04, 2004-05, 2005-06 up to 2006-07, the off-take was not lifted. For instance, for the year 2006-07, 13,61,000 lakh tonnes was the allocation for Kerala, but the off-take was 1,81,000 only. In fact, that has been improved after that. So, during all these four years, i.e., 2003-04, 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07, Kerala Government has not lifted what was allocated to it. Then the Government took a decision not only for Kerala but also for all other States, and all those States which were not lifting their off-take, their allocation was reduced. Now, it is true that the State is asking, particularly, for the APL quota, but, as I said earlier, with regard to AAY and BPL we are fully honouring our commitments. We are honouring commitments; but there are some problems in the case of APL and I am not in a position to accept the Kerala Government's request in toto. But whenever they ask for something additional, that additional has definitely been provided to them. I recently saw that statement of the hon. Chief Minister of Kerala that there was a commitment given by Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru that 'this is a State which produces plantation crop and that is why the entire responsibility of providing it foodgrains will be taken by the Government of India.' I am searching; my office is also searching that communication, but I don't see, at least, any record ...
...(Interruptions)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Let him complete. ...(Interruptions)...

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SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Sir, one minute. ...(Interruptions)... He has yielded. Sir, our difficulty is, this is a State where we are producing only 15 per cent of the food articles, that means, staple rice. We are producing only 15 per cent and we are producing 85 per cent cash crops. No other Indian State has such a situation. So, naturally, the Central Government has to give a special assistance to the Kerala State, and, at that point of time, a statutory ration system was there under which the Central Government was providing sufficient rice to the State. Now that practice is stopped. So, naturally(Interruptions)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No; no; the Minister is saying that they are not lifting. The off-take is not lifted. ...(Interruptions)...

SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: No; no; Sir, that is not the situation. That is not the situation. There was statutory ration system in the State and more than one lakh tonne was allotted for the State per year. But now that has been restricted. With regard to APL, because of the given situation which is prevailing in the State and due to shortage of production, naturally, the State owes an assistance from the Centre and that was there. The State is producing cash crops which are exported and the country is gaining from that. So, naturally, a reciprocal gesture was there earlier and that should be retained. That is what we are saying. ...(Interruptions)...

PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Sir, it was the Union Government which encouraged Kerala to go for cash crops. For example, we were importing rubber by giving foreign exchange. So, Kerala was asked to go in for rubber and such other cash crops by which we gained foreign exchange. Then Kerala was promised by the Union Government that

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statutory ration and enough rice will be supplied. That was a promise by the Union Government. It is known to everybody. It may not be known to his office. But it is known to(Interruptions)... irrespective of the party(Interruptions)... Let me finish. As far as Kerala is concerned, every party, every Government in Kerala is accepting and knowing that. Therefore, it is the responsibility of the Union Government to provide more rice to Kerala. ... (Interruptions)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: How can you get answers like this? ... (Interruptions)... How can you get an answer like this? ... (Interruption)...

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: Allow me to complete. ... (Interruptions)...

SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE: Sir, in West Bengal, when the West Bengal started the jute production(Interruptions)...

श्री उपसभापति : पहले इनका जवाब पूरा हो जाने दीजिए ..(ब्यवधान)..

SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE: There was a Committee ... (Interruptions)... in the Central Government ... (Interruptions)... to provide rice allocation.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Let the hon. Minister complete his reply and then this can be taken up. ... (Interruptions)... Let there be some order. ... (Interruptions)... Let there be some order. ... (Interruptions)...

(Followed by 4k/SKC)

4k/6.50/skc

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I would call your names one by one; you may then put your questions. Now, let him complete his reply. Please.

SHRI P. RAJEEVE (KERALA): Regarding the point about statutory ration... (Interruptions)...

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MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You may ask that after he completes.

SHRI P. RAJEEVE: Sir, the statutory ration system was introduced in 1967. At that time, Mr. Minister, no records were there. Regarding the other point about the off-take, at that time the price in the open market was lesser than the APL price. That off-take is less. Now, the price is very high. So, we are compelled to have it at the APL price.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: The point is that the concept of statutory ration is not there now; it was abandoned by the Government of India long back. The Government of India took a conscious decision to introduce 'targeted public distribution'. 'Targeted public distribution' means, we want to target that section which is really affected, poor and vulnerable. This decision was taken ten years back, and that is continuing even today. (Interruptions) Some decision might have been taken in 1948-49. But these days, we have factors like population, availability etc. and today's position is vastly different. That is why, a different decision has been taken and that decision has been implemented in this country.

SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN (KERALA): At least, increase the APL rice...(Interruptions)...

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: The only question is that of availability. If there is availability, I would be definitely happy to enhance it, not only for Kerala but for other States also. I don't want to say anything more. About edible oil, certain decisions have been taken, and I have already explained that. Now, another important issue was discussed here, about sugar. Hon. Member, Shri Javadekar, said that I had talked about availability of sugar last year, only a few months back. That is true. In the last two seasons production of sugar in this country was

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exceptional. We have practically reached 300 million tonnes. It is much, much more than our requirement. So, there was no choice but to encourage export. In fact, most of the mills were not in a position to pay farmers cane price. They should be in a position to pay the price to the farmers; so, Government of India has encouraged export. These decisions were taken. I recall that at that time, the price of sugar was about Rs. 16 per kg. In the same House, last year, I have made a statement that if we are not ready to accept an enhancement in the price of sugar in the open market, sugarcane farmers would definitely shift from sugarcane to some other crop, and the country will have to buy sugar at the rate of Rs. 30 to 35. This was my statement made in this House, on record, and exactly the same situation has occurred. There was tremendous opposition for providing an additional price. And because of that, ultimately, when the farmers, particularly farmers from Uttar Pradesh and other Northern States, started getting greater price for wheat and rice, they shifted from sugarcane to wheat and rice. They preferred the wheat and rice crops. They get money practically within eight or ten days at the most; for sugarcane price they have to wait even up to one year. That is the reason why the area under sugarcane cultivation has been substantially dropped and that is the situation we are facing today. Our efforts are to provide a better price to the farmers. Unless and until we provide a better price to the farmers, they would not grow sugarcane. Today, you are complaining that sugar prices are going up. I remember, for practically two days, the House could not function because the price which the Government of India had announced for sugarcane in its Ordinance was not approved; there were agitations, and

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the functioning of both the Houses was practically stalled. And when a certain decision has been taken and the price of sugarcane has been enhanced, farmers would surely go back to this crop. Today, sugarcane prices have gone up from Rs. 129 per quintal. In Uttar Pradesh, it is Rs. 185; in the Gorakhpur area, some mills have given even Rs. 200, and some, Rs. 210. (Contd. by hk/4l)

HK/4/6.55

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR (CONTD.): States like Maharashtra, Karnataka, Andhra and Tamil Nadu are providing between Rs.220 and Rs.240. So, that price will definitely change the entire situation. But sugarcane crop is not a crop which one can plan today and get the result practically within two months. This is a yearly crop. It will take some time, but I am sure that the situation will definitely change.. With sugar, there is a problem today, but the situation will definitely improve. So far as pulses are concerned, it is true that *tur* prices are really creating serious problem for each and every family; it has gone up to Rs.90 to Rs.100. Pulses are essentially rain-fed crops. In a country like India where 60 per cent agriculture is rain-fed, if you do not get the proper monsoon, it always get affected, and that situation has happened this year. Practically, every year, as I said, we import it, but this year the major supplying countries are also facing problems and that is why internationally prices have gone up and that is reflected in our own country too. But this year additional area has been brought under *tur*. I am sure that in another two months' time, when the harvesting of *tur* will start, there will be more availability of *tur* in the open market and the

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prices will definitely start coming down, and the situation will definitely improve about *tur.* ..(Interruptions)..

SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE: On PDS ..(Interruptions)..

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: As on today, it is not possible because today we are providing Rs.60,000 crore as a subsidy for Public Distribution System.

SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE: You have only given a concession of Rs.4,00,016 crore in one year's Budget to the corporate sectors. ..(Interruptions).. You have to provide for the whole nation. ..(Interruptions)..

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: Five years' back, when I took the responsibility of this Department, at that time, the subsidy bill was Rs.19,000 crore and today it is Rs.60,000 crore. Still we are concentrating on targeted section. If it is universal, then the Rs.60,000 crore can go up to, I don't know, any level. That type of money, as on today, is not available. If that type of money is available, definitely we will be very happy to take these types of decisions. But today we are not in a position to take this decision. Potato prices are definitely coming down; crop is good. Onion prices are definitely on the higher side, but have again started coming down. I have enquired today also with major producing States like Rajasthan, Gujarat, Karnataka, Nasik and other belts of Maharashtra. Although the crop was affected everywhere because of certain things, now the real season has been started and we will be able to see that the market changes and the change will be for better, and the prices will be coming down here. In all these areas though the situation is quite serious, the process of improvement has been started. But you cannot

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expect this type of result within a week's time or a month's time. To get crop and take it to farmers' home, it does take a lot of time and that process is definitely certain. One of the major issues which has been raised here is regarding the effective action against the black-marketers and others. As I said earlier also, all these powers have been delegated to the State Governments. It is the responsibility of the State Governments to take action. There are some State Governments which have taken action. There are some State Governments like Gujarat and others which have practically prosecuted a large number of culprits. They have booked culprits and prosecuted them and the cases are pending in the court. But there are some State Governments which have not shown any interest. We are continuously writing them. I am also getting in touch with the Civil Supply Ministers of States.

(Contd. by 4m/KSK)

KSK/7.00/4M

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR (CONTD): And, because of that, I hope they will take this particular issue very seriously. Another issue, which was raised here, was that we should ban the futures trading. In fact, some of the items have been withdrawn from futures trading. We have withdrawn sugar, tur, rice, potato. But, I do not see any impact over that. I have already briefed the House. One Committee was appointed under the Chairmanship of Prof. Abhijit Sen to go into the details of how far future trade or commodity exchanges are responsible for this rise in prices. Their report came negative. Still, we would like to continue ban on some of the items and we will see that if the market improves, prices come down, then, we may take a policy decision in this regard. But, unless and until there is clearcut proof, we will not be able to take a final decision about that. I do not want to take more time of the House. I know that issue is serious...(Interruptions). In such a

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situation, the State Governments have to take the responsibility, and the Government of India will also have to take the responsibility. We have to improve our agricultural production; we have to improve our productivity; we have to improve our availability. Then only, this situation can be improved. But, this Government is quite serious about this problem on every front, and, I hope, there will be proper results...(Interruptions). (Ends)

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Sir, I will not ask any question. Sir, my point is very simple...(Interruptions).

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I will call Members one by one.

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Sir, the UPA Government came with the manifesto and they said that within hundred days, they would control price rise.

SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: We said that steps would be taken.

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Then, what are the steps? Now, what is the reality? You give the price. You are telling only these things. Sir, we are not satisfied with the answer. We walk out.

(At this stage, some hon. Members left the Chamber)

SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE: Sir, we will walk out. There are no assurances, no ban on futures trading...(Interruptions).

SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Sir, we are dissatisfied with the reply, and we are forced to walk out.

(At this stage, some hon. Members left the Chamber)

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The House stands adjourned to meet at 11.00 a.m. tomorrow.

The House then adjourned at three minutes past seven of the clock to meet at eleven of the clock on Wednesday, the 9th December, 2009.

