

This is just to express BKD's indignation against the economic policies that the New Congress Government has been pursuing of late. While on one hand, stringent levies have been imposed which will hit the entire people, on the other, in the name of putting a curb on price-spiral, steps are being taken which will serve to bring down the incomes of the people. Prices are shooting up, not because the price of agricultural produce is relatively high but, first, because unproductive expenditure is being indulged in both by the Union Government and State Governments almost with a spirit of abandon. Second, because of Government's incompetence in handling the problem of Bangla Desh which has already saddled India with ten million refugees, and made our country an object of ridicule throughout the world.

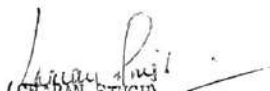
BKD is strongly of opinion that, in view of the fact that sugarcane crop is very poor this year, prices of inputs have increased considerably and there is virtually no control on price of sugar which is going up, the price of sugarcane should, in any case, be fixed at more than Rs. 10/- per quintal. In the circumstances, one finds it baffling, indeed, how the Central Government has persuaded itself that status quo, viz., a price of Rs. 7.37 per quintal, should be maintained. It should have known that even fuel wood costs more than Rs. 10 per quintal at site.

Not only that : Government has imposed restrictions on crushers and a ban on forward trading in Gur. These steps will again affect the peasantry adversely. It must be realised that industrial production which has greatly slumped this year, will go up only when purchasing-power of the masses goes up, not while it goes down. It is also not to be forgotten in this connection that several crores of rupees in the form of cane price due to cane-growers are still outstanding against the mill-owners for about an year now.

I would, therefore, appeal to Government of India to please pause and re-consider.



LUCKNOW :
25th October 1971.


(CHARAN SINGH)
BHARATIYA KRANTI DAL