

hope, will be removed as early as possible.

Shri P. C. Borooah: May I know how far the prospects of India's exports are likely to improve as a result of the addition of the new chapter to the GATT agreement and how far the industrialised countries have agreed to drop the reservation clauses insisted upon by them?

Shri Manubhai Shah: Well, Sir, the questions are very wide ones, but I can say that the list of commodities which we have placed on the Table of the House is a very comprehensive list in which a good part of India's principal trade is involved. All these items are receiving favourable treatment. Tea being one item in which all are interested, the duties in all countries of the world have been more or less abolished.

Shri Alvares: Will the Government say whether they have elicited opinion from other countries to make a representation against the 15 per cent surcharge imposed by the British Government in order to bridge their balance of payment gap?

Shri Manubhai Shah: We have taken all the steps. We are dealing with all friendly countries of the world, and whatever representation, diplomatically and otherwise, we can make on this account we are making. And, as everybody knows, every country in the world, including the 'FTA' countries, on their own have made their own representations to the U.K. Government.

Guarantee Schemes for Exporters

*362. { ⁺
 Shri P. C. Borooah:
 Shri P. R. Chakraverti:
 Shrimati Renuka Barkataki:
 Shrimati Laxmi Bai:

Will the Minister of Commerce be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Export Credit and Guarantee Corporation has introduced two new guaran-

tee schemes to cover post-shipment advances by banks to exporters;

(b) if so, how far the exporter will be in a better position to find export finance at relatively easy terms;

(c) whether this export promotion scheme will be restrictive in operation, covering a specified schedule of exports; and

(d) if so, what are the enumerative lists to be brought within its purview?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Manubhai Shah): (a) Yes, Sir. New guarantee schemes are (i) Post-shipment Export Credit Guarantee and (ii) Export Finance Guarantee.

(b) These schemes will enable exporters to get liberal rupee credit and it is hoped that the rates of interest will be slightly less than the usual rates.

(c) and (d). Post-shipment export credit guarantee will cover all exports but Export Finance guarantee will cover such credit exports which come under the purview of export promotion schemes like the packing. Other items of export also will be considered under this scheme on merits in the course of time.

Shri P. C. Borooah: May I know whether it is a fact that the Working Group has recommended a ceiling on interest rates charged by banks on pre-shipment and post-shipment advances and, if so, what decision has been taken by Government thereon?

Shri Manubhai Shah: It is a very important question. We are pained to see that our own export credit rate is the highest in the world. I am glad the Study Group recommended to Government that the rates charged by banks on advances should be brought down as early as possible.

Shri P. C. Borooah: May I know whether it is a fact that the cost-shipment credit in India is the highest in the world? If so, what steps have Government taken to reduce it?

Shri Manubhai Shah: Historically, we were working in an absent-minded frame of mind, as far as exports are concerned. Therefore, all these anomalies, hardships and distress have been caused to the export trade in the past. Now we are trying to remove the defects one by one.

श्री तुलशीदास जाधव : अध्यक्ष महोदय प्रायः इस प्रकार से समाचार अखबारों में आते हैं कि जो चीज हिन्दुस्तान से बाहर जाती है वह साम्पल के अनुसार नहीं होती । साम्पल कुछ दिखाया जाता है और माल दूसरा भेजा जाता है । क्या सरकार इसके लिए कोई इन्तिजाम कर रही है कि बाहर जो माल यहाँ से जाए वह साम्पल के अनुसार बराबर जाए, क्योंकि ऐसा न होने से अन्य देशों में हमारी इज्जत कम होती है ?

श्री मनुभाई शाह : मेरी माननीय सदस्य जी से प्रार्थना है कि वह अपने ये ख्याल तबदील कर दें । पिछले चन्द सालों में हमने साम्पल एडहिथरेंस के सिलसिले में बहुत स्टेप लिए हैं और इस प्रकार की शिकायतें बहुत कम हो गयी हैं । दो साल पहले हमने इसी सदन में एक्सपोर्ट इन्सपेक्शन आफ इंडिया एक्ट पास किया था जिसके अन्तर्गत पिछले दो सालों में हमारा 65 प्रतिशत बाहर जाने वाला माल त्रिशिपमेंट स्कीम में आ गया है और मन् 1965 तक 85 परसेंट बाहर जाने वाला माल इस के अन्तर्गत आ जाएगा । इसलिए इस तरह का विचार रखना ठीक नहीं है कि हमारा माल पहले की तरह अब भी जाता है ।

Shrimati Sharda Mukerjee: I understand the Chapalani Committee has given an estimate that the cost of providing pre-shipment finance will come to between Rs. 150 crores to 175 crores. Is this a fact? If so, what is Government's reaction to that?

Shri Manubhai Shah: We are very much beholden to that Committee. As far as the recommendations contained in that report are concerned, we mean to take swift action on them.

Shrimati Sharda Mukerjee: What action?

Shri Manubhai Shah: The two objects of the Committee are to provide adequate finance and cheap finance. Both are being looked into.

Shrimati Savitri Nigam: If the Minister is convinced that a lot of hardship was caused to the export trade because of the absent-mindedness on the part of the Government . . .

Mr. Speaker: Why should she refer to that?

Shri Surendranath Dwivedy: The same remark was made by the Minister in an absent-minded manner.

Shrimati Savitri Nigam: If any hardship has been caused to the exporters because of the absent-minded policies of the Government in the past, may I know what steps are being taken to give immediate relief to the exporters?

Shri Manubhai Shah: As the hon. lady Member knows, we have been taking some measures in the last few years. But it always takes time to get results. Because, these are all very delicate economic matters which are to be thoroughly examined before decisions can be reached.

Production of Pig Iron

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- *363. { Shri D. D. Puri:
Shri M. L. Dwivedi:
Shrimati Savitri Nigam:
Shri S. C. Samanta:
Shri Subodh Hansda:
Shri Yashpal Singh:
Shri P. R. Chakraverti:
Shri Ravindra Varma:
Shri P. Venkatasubbalah:
Shrimati Renuka Barkataki:
Shri H. C. Soy:
Shri P. C. Borooah:

Will the Minister of Steel and Mines be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made in enlarging