

for Economic Affairs of the Federal Republic of Germany met the Commerce Minister at New Delhi on the 14th December, 1981 and had discussions on bilateral economic cooperation between India and the Federal Republic of Germany. The German Minister evinced interest in the modernisation of the Rourkela Steel Plant and the establishment of a new Steel Plant at Vijayanagar, besides collaborating with India in tele-communication, petro-chemical & coal mining sectors. No formal Agreement was, however, signed during that discussion.

Export of Potatoes

2313. SHRI KRISHNA PRAKASH TIWARI:

SHRI RAM LAL RAHI:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that irregular supplies and poor business management has prevented India from making a mark in the world potato market;

(b) whether absence of an organised agency for export of potato was also responsible for India's poor performance in potato export and potato was accorded "C" priority in transportation, despite the fact that India's potato crop area has increased three times and production seven times; and

(c) if so, what steps Government propose to take for improving potatoes export?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) Potatoes being a perishable commodity can be exported only during winter. On account of disparity in prices, there is limited export of potatoes.

(b) and (c): All export traffic including potatoes is arranged under priority 'S' Production of potatoes was 10 million tonnes during 1978-79, while it was 9.6 million tonnes during 1980-81. The area under production

was 0.8 million hectares in 1978-79 and 0.7 million hectares during 1980-81. Export of potato is freely allowed under Open General Licence without any quantitative restriction.

12 hrs.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE (Rajapur): I have raised a very important national issue. The ex-Chogyal's son has actually challenged the integration of Sikkim with India.

MR. SPEAKER: You talk to me first and then talk about it.

(Interruptions)

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: I see your difficulty....

MR. SPEAKER: No difficulty whatsoever. I want to talk to you about this.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: It is a challenge to the integrity..

MR. SPEAKER: Please talk to me before you talk over it here.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Now I am talking to you.

MR. SPEAKER: Not now. I want to talk to you privately. We will talk it over first and then you can talk here.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: The security of India demands it and you want me to talk to you in the Chamber.

MR. SPEAKER: The Chamber is yours, not mine.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Is it not an important issue?

MR. SPEAKER: That is why, I am asking you. I will explain to you certain things and I will do whatever you say.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Anyway, I accept your invitation to the Chamber.

SHRI SATYASADHAN CHAKRABORTY (Calcutta South): I have