item in the list of business, before 5.30 p.m. when the half-an-hour discussion has to start, shall we resume the debate on the railway budget? Shall we take up the Railway Budget again, if we have any time left? I take it that that is the opinion of the House. Then, we shall resume discussion on he Railway Budget after these items are over.

श्री हुकम चन्द कछवाय : ठीक है, मैं भी इसको सपोर्ट करता हूं ।

16.36 hrs.

BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

THIRTY-EIGHT REPORT

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI K. RAGHU RAMAIAH): Sir, I beg to present the Thirty-eighth Report of the Business Advisory Committee.

16.36½ hrs.

STATEMENT RE: REMOVAL OF RESTRICTIONS ON MOVEMENT OF COARSE GRAINS

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI F. A. AHMED): After careful consideration of the coarse grains procurement and availability position, Government decided towards the end of January, 1974, to advise all the State Governments:—

(a) that all restrictions on the movement of coarse grains within their respective States should be removed; and

(b) the ban on inter-State movement of coarse grains should be modified to make it possible for sponsored agents of the State Governments to purchase and move coarse grains from other States.

A further review of the situation has been made and Government have now decided that free movement of coarse grains throughout the country should be allowed without any restrictions whatsoever, with immediate effect.

16.37 hrs.

STATUTORY RESOLUTION RE: EXPORT DUTY ON HIDES AND SKINS

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI K. R. GANESH): I beg to move the following Resolution:—

"In pursuance of sub-section (2) of section 4A of the Indian Tariff Act, 1934 (32 of 1934), this House approves the notification of the Government of India in the Ministry of Finance (Department of Revenue and Insurance) G.S.R. No. 6(E), dated the 1st January, 1974, increasing the export duty on hides, skins and leather, tanned and untanned all sorts, but not including snake skins and manufactures of leather, from 10 per cent *ad valorem* to 20 per cent *ad valorem*, from the date of the said notification."

Exports of raw hides and skins are banned. Finished leather is also totally exempt from export duty under a separate notification. The purpose of this notification, therefore, is to increase the export duty on semi-finished hides and skins. It has been Government's policy to change the pattern of leather export trade by discouraging the exports of semi-finished hides and skins and increasing the exports of finished leather and leather goods. This is desirable in the interest of increasing the export earnings and also for generating employment in leather industry in the country. In pursuance of this policy, a quota restriction has been imposed by the Ministry of Commerce on the exports of semi-finished hides and skins and in furtherance of the same objective the export duty on semi-finished hides and skins

[Shri K. R. Ganesh]

which was 10 per cent. *ad valorem*, has been raised to 20 per cent. *ad valorem* with effect from 1st January, 1974.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Statutory Resolution moved:

"In pursuance of sub-section (2) of section 4A of the Indian Tariff Act, 1934 (32 of 1934), this House approves the notification of the Government of India in the Ministry of Finance (Department of Revenue and Insurance) G.S.R. No. 6(E), dated the 1st January, 1974, increasing the export duty on hides, skins and leather, tanned and untanned all sorts, but not including snake skins and manufactures of leather, from 10 per cent *ad valorem* to 20 per cent *ad valorem*, from the date of the said notification."

Shri Madhuryya Haldar.

*SHRI MADHURYYA HALDAR (Mathurapur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, by raising the export duty more revenue is sought to be earned. If that is the consideration in this case also, then I am afraid the prospects are not very hopeful. This is so because in our country the export trade in leather is mostly owned and controlled by private traders. These traders export leather to foreign markets where there is a demand. But with a view to capture the foreign markets they quote lower rates and also resort to other malpractices like under-invoicing etc., to evade legitimate taxes and duties. In their books atleast, they show lower figures. Sir, India and some other countries also enjoy a sort of monopolistic position in the field of leather trade in the international market. If the export duty on skin and leather was raised to exploit that situation then of course we had nothing to say. But, Sir, as a result of raising the export duty on leather two things have developed in the country. One is, that those people who eat meat have now to pay a higher price for meat. The meat traders went on strike in January last and increased the price of meat. Their contention was that the price of hides and skins have fallen in the country and unless they raise the price of meat, the trade was not profitable to them. So, on one hand the price of meat went up and on the other hand the small traders and suppliers of hides and skins were paid lower prices by the big businessmen and exporters since tanning and export trade in leather are controlled by these private traders. Lower prices were paid to the small producers under the plea that export duty on these items have been raised. So, actually the higher export duty has been imposed by the Government to benefit the big businessmen and exporters etc. This Government speaks aloud about Socialistic Society all the time but it is nowhere to be found in their actions. Instead of helping the small traders, those who slaughtered a few animals and traded their hides, the Government is actually helping the big traders. This is their pattern of Socialism! The poor traders needed some relief in these hard days when the prices of all daily necessities of life are skyrocketing. But instead they have been made to suffer as they are getting much lower prices for the few skins sold by them for their livelihood. How are they to survive? The Government has no thought for these poor people, they are really helping the private big businessmen. It has been demanded many a time both in the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha that the leather industry be nationalised. Why this is not being done? Perhaps the Minister, Shri Ganesh will say that this matter is under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Commerce. But when more revenue can be earned, when the skins and leather can be sold in the international market at a better price and the legitimate export duty can be collected by the Government, why pressure is not being exerted on the Commerce Ministry to take over the export trade in leather and skins. We can thereby earn much more foreign exchange. Such direction can be issued by the Cabinet. Why this is not being done and the export trade is left in the hands of private businessmen. The country is suffering a colossal loss due to the present policy of the Government. We are losing a huge amount of foreign exchange and let us not be under any illusion that bigger revenue will accrue to the

*The original speech was delivered in Bengali.

Government on account of the enhanced export duty. Shri Ganesh alone may be under that illusion. From that point of view I will say that the raise in the export duty is wholly unreasonable. On one hand the small poor traders are standing to lose and on the other hand the common people who eat meat are having to pay higher price for meat due to the wrong policy of the Government. Shri Ganesh has issued this notification to oblige the foreigners and the big traders and exporters at the cost of the poor people of this country. Now he is seeking the approval of the Parliament. That is why, Sir, I oppose this resolution.

श्री राम रतन शर्मा (बांदा) : सभापति जी, इस संकल्प का मैं विरोध करता हूं । इस संकल्प से निर्यात शुल्क बढ़ने से किस पर असर पड़ेगा यह मंत्री जी को ध्यान देना चाहिये था जो कि उन्होंने नहीं दिया । मेरा विचार है कि इस निर्यात शुल्क के बढ़ने से जो चमड़ा उद्योग में लगे छोट लोग हैं उन पर इस का असर पड़ेगा । सभापति जी, चमड़ा उद्योग में जो बड़े लोग लगे हुए हैं जो छोटे लोगों को एक्सप्लायट करते हैं और मुनाफ़ाखोरी करते हैं इस निर्यात शुल्क के बढ़ने से उनको और मौका मिलेगा और छोटे लोगों की रीढ़ टूटेगी । इसलिये मैं मंत्री महोदय से निवेदन करूंगा कि इसको पुनः सोचें, समझें और इस संकल्प को वापस लें लें ।

श्री हुक्म चन्द कछवाय (मुरैना) : सभापति जी, जो संकल्प सदन के सामने है मैं उसका विरोध करता हूं । ऐसा लगता है कि शायद मंत्री जी ने इस संकल्प को लाते समय उन में छोटेलोगों का बिल्कुल ध्यान नहीं रखा है जिन पर इसका बुरा प्रभाव पड़ने वाला है । जो व्यक्ति अपने घरों में चमड़ा पका कर बड़े व्यापारियों को सप्लाई करते हैं, इन ड्यूटी के बढ़ने से उन छोटे छोटे लोगों पर जो चमड़े का काम करते हैं बुरा असर होगा ।

आप ने अपने बयान में कहा है कि चमड़े का निर्यात कम से कम हो जिस देश में लोगों को चमड़े की चीज अधिक बनाने का रोजगार मिले । यह भावना अच्छी है । परन्तु क्या वास्तव में हम चमड़े को बाहर जाने से रोकने में सफल होंगे ? क्या अधिक ड्यूटी लगने से चमड़ा बाहर जाने से रुकेगा ? कभी नहीं । जो इने गिने व्यापारी हैं, जो मद्रास में इसके केन्द्र हैं वे अधिक पैसा बाहर के लोगों से लेंगे ड्यूटी के नाम से परन्तु नीचे जो लोग हैं जिन से वह चमड़ा लेते हैं उनको नहीं देंगे । और इसीलिये मेरा कहना है कि है जो ड्यूटी बढ़ायी है इस को वापस लें । हो सकता है कि आपकी भावना हो कि इससे अधिक पैसा मिलेगा, लेकिन यह भी नहीं बताया कि कितना अधिक पैसा मिलने वाला है । टुकड़े टुकड़े में इस तरह का प्रस्ताव लाकर आप कर बढ़ाना चाहते हैं । आपने जो जनरल बजट पेश किया था उसमें कोई उल्लेख नहीं है । इस तरह से छोटे छोटे प्रस्ताव अलग अलग लाकर आप पैसा जनता से खींचना चाहते हैं । परन्तु देश के अन्दर महंगाई आसमान को छू गई है । मंत्री जी इसका अनुभव नहीं करते होंगे कि कपड़ा बाजारों के अन्दर बुरा हाल है उन को पता ही नहीं । आपकी भावना भले ही अच्छी हो कि चमड़ा यहां का बाहर न जाय और लोगों को देश में अधिक रोजगार इस व्यवसाय में मिलें, लोग अधिक चमड़े की चीजें बनायें । लेकिन इस ड्यूटी के बढ़ने से छोटे छोटे व्यापारियों को कोई लाभ नहीं होगा । बल्कि बड़े बड़े व्यापारियों को होगा ।

हमारे देश की चमड़े की बनी हुई चीजें बड़ी लोकप्रिय हो रही हैं विदेशों में और मांग भी ज्यादा है और उससे बड़ी मात्रा में विदेशी मुद्रा हम कमाते हैं । जब हमको उससे अधिक पैसा मिलता है तो उस का लाभ उन लोगों को भी तो मिलना चाहिये जो देहातों में कच्चा माल तैयार करते हैं । लेकिन ऐसा नहीं होता । लाभ बड़े व्यापारियों

[श्री हुकम चन्द कछवाय]

को मिलता है, और इस ड्यूटी के बढ़ने से उन को और लाभ होगा और छोटे छोटे लोगों को जो इस व्यवसाय में लगे हुए हैं कोई लाभ नहीं मिलने वाला है। इसलिये मेरा निवेदन है कि आप इसको वापस ले लें। इस संकल्प का किसी ने भी समर्थन नहीं किया है क्योंकि इससे छोटे लोगों पर बुरा असर पड़ेगा।

आपकी भावना अच्छी है लेकिन उसकी गहराई में आप नहीं जाते हैं। देहातों में रहने वाले आदमियों तथा चमड़े के छोटे उद्योगों पर बुरा प्रभाव पड़ेगा यह आप नहीं देखते हैं। यह सारी योजनायें आप एयर कंडीशन्ड कमरों में बैठ कर बनाते हैं और यहां लाकर पेश कर देते हैं। आगरा, कानपुर में जो चमड़े का काम करते हैं उन पर इसका क्या प्रभाव पड़ेगा इस का आपने अध्ययन नहीं किया। इसलिये यह प्रस्ताव आज की मंहगाई के अन्दर ठीक नहीं है। आप इसे वापस ले लें, नहीं तो इस का विरोध होगा।

SHRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM (Tiruchirapalli): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I want a clarification from the hon. Minister for coming forward with such a Resolution.

To me, it appears, the small leather merchants who are dealing in raw hides and skins and semi-tanned hides and skins will suffer the most. Already, by the policy of the Government in canalising export trade in hides and skins, they are affected very much. Only big business people are able to export finished goods and leather goods. I am afraid, this measure also will help such people. The increase in the *ad valorem* duty is in respect of raw hides and skins. It does not apply to finished goods and leather goods. So, this will be another blow to small traders who are already affected by the policy of the Government for which, of course, the Finance Ministry may not be responsible.

I want to know from the hon. Minister whether they examined this aspect of the matter and whether they will at least postpone this for some time and consult the opinion of the trade.

SHRI K. R. GANESH: The main reason for increasing this *ad valorem* duty on semi-processed hides and skins from 10 to 20 per cent was in pursuance of the Government's policy to change the pattern of leather export trade by discouraging the exports of semi-finished hides and skins and increasing the exports of finished leather and leather goods. This was examined by a committee under the Chairmanship of Dr. Seetharamiah who was a former Director-General of Technical Development. This committee was set up to study ways and means to bring about this switch-over from export of semi-processed hides and skins to export of finished leather, footwear and various types of finished leather goods.

Firstly, this change-over from export of semi processed goods to finished leather goods will increase the foreign exchange earnings and will also provide larger employment by the expansion of the leather industry in the country as such. This is as a result of the detailed study which this committee has made, and this proposal has come. The committee has recommended a higher level of export duty. They have recommended even more than 10 per cent of the export duty and even now there is another thinking that it should be further increased, if it is to work as a disincentive for the export of semi-processed goods, because in recent years there has been a tremendous increase in the demand for these goods in various countries and as a result of it the leather industry faces a terrific shortage of raw material, *viz.*, the semi-processed leather. Consequently, certain leather factories were on the verge of being closed and there was a lot of agitation.

Therefore, this is as a result of the Government's declared policy of shifting

the pattern of trade. The hon. Member only thinks that poor people will be affected. We are now dealing with the export trade and the accruance of this export trade, as far as the nation is concerned, in terms of the foreign exchange and secondly, in terms of larger employment, will be quite considerable. Therefore, this proposal has come as a result of this.

Certain specific points the hon Member has made. The hon. Member thought that this should come as a Budget proposal. But this notification was issued on the 1st of January, 1974 before the Budget was presented and we have now come here to the House seeking the approval of the House for this Notification.

With these words, I commend this Resolution for the acceptance of the House.

श्री हुकम चन्द कछवाय: मंत्री महोदय ने अपने वक्तव्य में कहा कि इससे माल बाहर जाना कम होगा । इससे लोग अपना माल तैयार करके भेजेंगे । तैयार माल की मांग बाहर अधिक है । सरकार ने यह नहीं बतलाया है कि किस प्रकार वह माल को बाहर भेजेगी । अगर वह कोई ऐसा प्रस्ताव लाये तो अच्छा है । इस के ऊपर प्रतिबन्ध लगेगा । आप ड्यूटी अधिक लगा रहे हैं, इससे माल का बाहर जाना रुकेगा नहीं । सब से अच्छा तरीका यह है कि आप यह तय कीजिये कि हमको कच्चा माल भेजना ही नहीं है । हम तैयार माल बाहर भेजेंगे ।

श्री आर० क० गणेश : कमेटी ने सब कुछ सोच कर ऐसा किया है ।

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, I will put this statutory resolution moved by Shri K. R. Ganesh to the vote of the House.

The question is:

"In pursuance of sub-section (2) of section 4A of the Indian Tariff Act, 1934 (32 of 1934), this House approves the notification of the Government of India in the Ministry of Finance (Department of Revenue and Insurance) G.S.R. No. 6(E), dated the 1st January, 1974, increasing the export duty on hides, skins and leather, tanned and untanned all sorts, but not including snake skins and manufactures of leather, from 10 per cent, *ad valorem* to 20 per cent, *ad valorem*, from the date of the said notification."

The motion was adopted.

MR. CHAIRMAN: As we have some time now at our hand, we will resume the discussion of the Railway Budget.

श्री हुकम चन्द कछवाय : मैं वोटिंग मांग रहा हु । आप आगे कैसे बढ़ गये ? सारा सदन इसका विरोध कर रहा है । आप इस तरह से कैसे पास करेंगे ?

MR. CHAIRMAN: The item is over. We now go to the discussion of the Railway Budget.

श्री हुकम चन्द कछवाय : जब आपने पूछा तब हमने नो कहा । हम नो पर वोटिंग चाहते हैं ।

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have taken the opinion. I have found the majority and I have now gone over to the next item.

श्री हुकम चन्द कछवाय : मैंने प्रारम्भ में कहा था आप रेकार्ड देख लीजिये । पता नहीं आप क्यों ऐसा कर रहे हैं ।

MR. CHARMAN: Mr. Kachwai, you have not asked for a vote before I passed on to the next item. That item is already over. You cannot ask for a vote again. Please don't obstruct the proceedings.

श्री हुकम चन्द कछवाय : मैं आपकी व्यवस्था चाहता हूं । मैं इस प्रस्ताव पर वोटिंग मांग रहा हूं ।

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have said that when I asked for a voting, nobody asked for a division. Therefore, I have passed

[Mr. Chairman]

on to the next item. The decision of the Chair is final. I have given my opinion. Please don't obstruct. Mr. Ramkanwar to proceed with his speech.

श्री राम कंवर (टोंक) : सभापति महोदय, ...

श्री हुकम चन्द कछवाय : सभापति महोदय, सदन में गणपूर्ति नहीं है ।

MR. CHAIRMAN: There I agree with you. The quorum bell is being rung

Now there is quorum. Shri Ramkanwar.

16.58 hrs.

RAILWAY BUDGET, 1974-75—GENERAL DISCUSSION—*contd.*

श्री राम कंवर (टोंक) : सभापति महोदय, जो रेलवे बजट पेश किया गया है वह एक ऐसा बजट है जिस को हमें तीसरे दर्जे के यात्रियों की बैकग्राउंड में देखना चाहिये । कारण यह है कि मंत्री महोदय ने कहा है कि थोड़ी दूरी तक चलने वाले जो तीसरे दर्जे के यात्री हैं उन का किराया भी हम ने बढ़ाया है । सम्भवतः सदन को भी यह महसूस हो रहा होगा कि तीसरे दर्जे के यात्रियों को मंत्री महोदय ने मेल और एक्सप्रेस गाडियों की सुविधाओं से वंचित कर दिया है । मुझे इस बात का खेद है ।

इस सम्बन्ध में मैं सब से पहली बात यह कहना चाहता हूं कि जितनी भी मेल गाड़ियां हैं उन में तीसरे दर्जे के यात्री बाथ रूम और गलियारे में खड़े हो कर अपना समय बिताते हैं । सरकार उन की सुविधाओं की तरफ ध्यान न दे कर उन का किराया बढ़ा रही है ।

रेलवे में सभी श्रेणियों में जो छोटे से छोटा टिकट है, प्लेटफार्म टिकट का दाम उस से भी ज्यादा रख दिया गया है । मैं समझता हूं कि शायद उत्तर प्रदेश के चुनावों की वजह से रेल मंत्री को इस बजट के बारे में सोचने का कोई मौका नहीं मिला है, और रेलवे बोर्ड ने जो कुछ उन के सामने रख दिया, उस को उन्होंने स्वीकार कर लिया है ।

17.00 hrs.

मंत्री महोदय ने इस बजट में नई रेलवे लाइनों का जो प्रावधान रखा है, उस में उन्होंने राजस्थान को छुआ तक नहीं है । राजस्थान के प्रति मंत्री महोदय का यह सौतेला व्यवहार देख कर मुझे बड़े खेद के साथ कहना पड़ता है कि राजस्थान के इस ओर और उस ओर के सभी सदस्य पिछले तीन साल से नई रेलवे लाइनों के निर्माण के बारे में बराबर जो मांग करते रहे हैं, मंत्री महोदय ने उस की बिल्कुल उपेक्षा की है । उन्होंने राजस्थान की ओर बिल्कुल ध्यान नहीं दिया है और अपने निर्वाचन-क्षेत्र की ओर ही उन का विशेष ध्यान रहा है ।

पिछले सेशन में भी मैंने रेलों के सम्बन्ध में राजस्थान की आवश्यकताओं का जिक्र किया था । मैंने इस बारे में मंत्री महोदय को कई चिट्ठियां भी लिखी हैं । आज ही उन की ओर से एक चिट्ठी का जवाब आया है, जिस में उन्होंने कहा है :

कोटा अजमेर नई लाइन

कोटा-अजमेर नये रेल के लिए अन्तिम स्थाननिर्धारण इंजीनियरी एवं यातायात सर्वेक्षण सब से पहले 1946 में किया गया था । 1955-57 में रिपोर्टों और अनुमानों को संशोधित करके अद्यतन बनाया गया था । संशोधित रिपोर्टों के अनुसार, इस 202.45 कि० मी० रेलवे लाइन (बड़ी लाइन) की अनुमानित लागत 8.78 करोड़ रुपये रखी गई थी और लाइन खुलने के बाद छटे साल में इससे 0.9 प्रतिशत का लाभ होने की आशा प्रकट की गई थी । बहुत कम लाभ की संभावना होने के कारण इस लाइन के निर्माण