

LOK SABHA DEBATES

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Friday, May 25, 1990/Jyaistha 4, 1912
(Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at two minutes past
Eleven of the Clock

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

[English]

SHRI VASANT SATHE: May I make a request to the entire House? A serious matter has arisen. An interview given by the Governor of Kashmir to a weekly *the Current* has appeared today where he calls the entire Muslim population of Kashmir as militants and says, "I want to eliminate them first":

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: At the moment, please allow the 'Question Hour to continue.'

[English]

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. UPENDRA): We are going to discuss Kashmir today. (Interruptions)

SHRI VASANT SATHE: I am not asking for suspension of Question Hour. All I am

requesting is that this discussion on Kashmir should continue first after the Question Hour. (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Will you please take your seat?

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Export of Wheat Bran

*986. SHRI K.S. RAO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have devised a special procedure for export of wheat bran;

(b) if so, whether Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) has been invested with more powers in this regard; and

(c) the guidelines issued in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI AR-ANGIL SREEDHARAN): (a) to (c). A Statement is laid on the table of the House.

STATEMENT

(a) to (c). Wheat bran appears in List 2 Part B Schedule I of the Import and Export Policy Volume-II as an item export of which is subject to annual ceiling. The procedure for release of the ceiling of this item is deter-

mined annually.

In 1989-90, 10,000 tonnes was the ceiling for wheat bran placed at the disposal of Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) for which reasons a "special procedure" in terms of Para 12(3) of the previous Import and Export Policy Volume-II was prescribed. Guidelines in brief, in this regard, are given in enclosed Annexure.

The ceiling and the procedure for wheat bran export for 1990-91 are yet to be notified.

ANNEXURE

"Special" Procedure for Export of Wheat Bran in 1989-90 (Orders issued by CCI&E on 31.1.90 VALID UPTO 31.3.90)

It has been decided to devise a special procedure for export of Wheat Bran in terms of para 12(3) of Section I of said policy book:—

- (i) The ceiling for export of Wheat Bran will be placed at the disposal of Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority, New Delhi (APEDA).
- (ii) The exporters are required to register their contracts backed by 100% Irrevocable Letter of Credit with APEDA.
- (iii) Exporters will submit a Bank Guarantee equivalent to one per cent of the FOB value as per Irrevocable Letter of Credit to APEDA, in favour of the Government, by bond as prescribed in Section VI of the Export Policy 1988-89 (Vol. II)
- (iv) APEDA will not allocate more than 10% of the total available ceiling to any individual exporter.
- (v) On fulfilment of said conditions,

the APEDA will issue ceiling slips to the exporters, on first-come-first-served basis, indicating full particulars such as the name of the exporter, number and date of Order and Irrevocable Letter of Credit, quantity allowed, FOB value and the destination.

- (vi) APEDA shall send the release advice along with the Bank Guarantee to the concerned Port Licensing Authority, who on receipt of the same from APEDA shall ensure that an Export Licence with validity period upto 31st March, 1990 is issued within 48 hours.
- (vii) Entire export will be made within the validity period of the export licence failing which the Bank Guarantee will be forfeited by the Government.
- (viii) No registration of contracts will be made after 31st March, 1990, nor any exports will be allowed by APEDA even if the quantity of the ceiling remains unutilised.

As soon as the ceiling is exhausted, APEDA will report the facts to the Ministry of Commerce, EP (Agri-II) Section.

SHRI K.S. RAO: I have seen the reply given by the hon. Minister. The information is already there in the press report. The same thing has been repeated, with a little more addition.

It is seen that the ceiling fixed initially is 10,000 tonnes. I just wish to know from the hon. Minister whether there is any scientific basis for fixing this 10,000 tonnes because the quantum of production of wheat in this country as also bran is substantial. I wish to know whether it is based on an intention to earn foreign exchange and also to provide getting better price for the wheat growers or it is based on the availability of quantities?

SHRI ARANGIL SHREEDHARAN: This ceiling of 10,000 metric tonnes is fixed with the concurrence of the Ministry of Agriculture, Department of Food, Ministry of Food Processing Industry.

When we export any commodity, our main thrust is, we should be able to earn as much foreign exchange as possible.

In this case also, we will take care of it.

SHRI K.S. RAO: You did not make it clear whether the total quantity available for export is taken into consideration or not. I just wanted a clarification.

My second question is, in regard to rice bran, on many an occasion, in Andhra Pradesh shortage is felt by the mills which are producing oil from the rice bran. The export potential for rice bran cake and oil is also very much. Earlier, the Association of Rice Millers and also Producers of the paddy have made a representation to this Government asking them to allow to import rice bran from some countries like Indonesia, Bangladesh and all that where it is available at a very very cheap rate and they also said, as seen from the statement, that foreign exchange that could be earned by value in the country is substantial, and it is in the interest of the nation also apart from the rice mills. If the desire of the hon. Minister in fixing up 10,000 tonnes is for earning foreign exchange, the foreign exchange could be earned in a substantial manner by allowing the rice millers to import rice bran and export oil and cake. Why the Government has not taken a decision for this allowing of the import of rice?

SHRI ARANGIL SREEDHARAN: The hon. Member has repeated his question. The availability of wheat bran and things like that is decided by the Agriculture Ministry. We only place their demands with them and get their concurrence.

About rice bran, it is no possible for me to give an off-hand reply. The question relates to wheat bran. However, I would like to

inform the hon. Member that rice bran import is banned in this country.

SHRI A. CHARLES: I know the question relates to the Ministry of Commerce. However, I would like to point out that wheat bran, if properly processed by the food processing units in India, can increase our food production. May I know from the hon. Minister whether suitable instructions will be given to the Department of Food Processing to see the possibility of processing of wheat bran instead of exporting it as a raw material and thereafter getting it imported as a processed food?

SHRI ARANGIL SREEDHARAN: The wheat bran is used for two purposes: One is for cattle food and the other is for food. We have not examined this possibility in India. We will consider this proposal raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI M. BAGA REDDY: The quota for export of wheat bran last year was fixed at 10,000 tonnes. I would like to know whether this target is achieved or not. If not, why not?

SHRI ARANGIL SREEDHARAN: In 1989-90, the following two parties were given licence but no import took place:—

1. Asha Pure Minachema (P) Ltd, Bombay.
2. REPL Engineering (P) Ltd, Bombay.

The export could not be effected in 1989-90. Party No. 1 has not taken the export licence and Party No. 2 has sought extension for the validity of the export licence.

[Translation]

SHRI JANARDAN YADAV: Rice bran is required to run small industries in this country. I would like to know from the Government through you whether there is any proposal to utilise the unexported rice bran in India in the small scale industries sector?

[English]

SHRI ARANGIL SREEDHARAN: I have stated in this House in reply to the previous question that export of rice bran is banned in the country. This question does not arise.

Share of Agricultural Commodities in Exports

*987. SHRI CHANDUBHAI DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the export target fixed for 1990-91 and Government's strategy to achieve these targets;

(b) the estimated contribution from export of agricultural commodities; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to increase the share of agriculture based industries in the total exports?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND TOURISM (SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU): (a) to (c). A Statement is laid on the Table of the House .

STATEMENT

(a) The export target fixed by the Ministry of Commerce for 1990-91 is Rs. 36,000 crores. The strategy aims mainly at making exports commercially viable through upgradation of industrial capability, ensuring supply of raw materials at competitive prices, strengthening the infrastructure and simplifying procedures.

(b) The contribution of atricultural commodities including plantations and marine products during 1990-91 is estimated at 15% to 16% of the total target.

(c) The basic strategy for promoting exports of agricultural items will be to generate export surpluses, encourage exports in value added forms, improvement in quality and packaging standards to enhance acceptability in importing countries, research

and product development as well as market promotion, maintaining quality control and provision of institutional support through Statutory Boards/Authorities, Export Promotion Councils and Quality Control Agencies.

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDUBHAI DESHMUKH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has stated that export target of Rs. 36,000 crores has been fixed by the Government for the year 1990-91. I would like to know from the hon. Minister the target fixed for the year 1989-91 and whether this target is higher or lower in comparison to last year's target? Also which are the goods that contributed to the exports?

[English]

SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU: The total exports in 1989-90 were estimated at Rs. 27,682 crores against Rs. 20,302 crores in 1988-89. Our growth rate is 36.5% in rupee terms and 157% US dollar terms. There are lot of statistics here and I can keep reading them out. It will take some time. The volume growth of India's export is estimated at 12 per cent. Seven per cent is the volume growth per annum for the Seventh Plan. In regard to the total export picture for the year 1990-91 where we have fixed a target of Rs.36,000 crores, agriculture and marine products accounts for nearly 15.88 per cent which is roughly Rs. 5,610 crores.

PROF. K.V. THOMAS: Sir, the export of marine products is one of the major sources by which we can get foreign exchange. The hon. Minister Shri Arun Nehru knows very well that there are two major problems facing the marine products. One is, the foreign trollers are catching our fishes to such an extent that we cannot even get five per cent of the fishes. So, what steps will be taken by the Government to see that our trollers are encouraged? Secondly, some of our exporters are not conscious about the quality. As a result of this, some of our export items of consignment sent abroad have been sent back. It is a very serious matter. I would like