

[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 agricultural 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

to know whether the government will look into these two items—firstly, foreign trollers catching fishes and secondly, about the quality of fishes that is being exported.

SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU: The hon. Member has made some very valid points. We have had some problems of other trollers coming into our water. But the problem is not a very serious one. There has been very small percentage of it. In fact, we have confiscated quite a few trollers in the last few years. But we do not really have a shortage of our trollers going in our areas. In fact, as you know, for marine products, the basic export is of Shrimps. Now we are getting Shrimps from inland farming also which is a brackish water farming as far as Shrimps are concerned. Now about the exports, as you can see, if you take the figures of overall marine exports, they have not been very good in the last year. We have not had the type of growth which wanted to have. For that, we have been holding a lot of meetings. Our biggest markets today are Japan and the US. With USA, we have had some problems of quality. we are impressing upon our exporters that they must maintain quality control at all levels. Now in marine products, quality control is a problem which is not only faced by us, but it is faced by most of the countries also. And if you have a problem upto two to three per cent, it is tolerable. If it goes up beyond five per cent, then it becomes a very serious problem. Now certain measures have been taken and a few manufacturers who are not adhering to the quality schedule, have been asked to do so.

SHRINANI BHATTACHARYA: Sir, may I request the Minister to explain or to apprise this House whether this export target assessment is of about Rs. 36,000 crores? What would be the export component of agriculture including spices and plantations? This is the first part. Secondly, the recent sweeping changes in the alignment of forces in the East European countries and also in some other countries have been taken into account while proving the potentiality of export in those countries and also while fixing the targets.

SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU: Sir, I would like to give the hon. Member figures for the last three years as far as agricultural products are concerned. When we are talking of products, we are also talking of the plantation and marine products and the whole thing. In 1988-89, our total export was of Rs. 3,556 crores. Last year, we have exported for about Rs. 4,434 crores. In the current year, our export is 5,610 crores. I can give you the statistics, if you want to have, for each individual products, products also, like spices, cashew, tobacco, cereals, oil-cakes and the whole lot. At the moment, if you talk in terms of percentage, out of 36 thousand crores, the total agricultural products export will comprise about 15.88 per cent of the total export. As far as the changes in East Europe are concerned, I do not think, it fundamentally affects our exports. We do not anticipate any problem. Whatever Budget we have fixed, we have taken into account Eastern Europe. There are a few countries which want to trade with us in hard currencies. We have said that if they want to pay in hard currencies, we are willing to do so from tomorrow. So, we do not anticipate any great problem.

[*Translation*]

SHRI NANDLAL MEENA: Garlic is being grown in Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh for the last four years. The cost of production including the price of seed of garlic comes to about Rs. 5,000 per bigha, but when farmer goes to the market to sell his produce, he gets Rs. 190 to Rs. 400-500 per quintal and thus he has been incurring a huge loss. Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister through you whether the Government of India is thinking in terms of exporting garlic also alongwith other agricultural commodities? If not, the Government may inform the House the amount of loss being incurred by the farmers and how the Government proposes to meet out this loss?

[*English*]

SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU: Sir, I cannot answer for the Ministry of Agriculture.

Basically, these problems are looked after them. If they can give us some other areas, then we can... (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI NAND LAL MEENA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the farmers are suffering a loss of Rs. 3000 to 4000 per bigha in selling garlic I would like to know whether the Government will export garlic?... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Joshi, I did not call you, please sit down.

(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAM KISHAN YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, India is an agricultural country and all agricultural commodities are being produced here. I would like to know from the Hon. Minister of Commerce the names of the commodities which are being imported in to our country and the measures being taken by the Government to prevent the imports?

[*English*]

SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU: Sir, none of the items which are being exported are being imported. Imports are being done only when you have a shortage. Things like Palm Oil, if you have a small shortage, then it is being imported. Four or five years ago, we used to import nearly three quarter of a million tonne of palm oil. Today, we are not even importing hundred tonnes. Our imports of foodgrains are very very small. But that is only when you have a marginal shortage. Otherwise, we are exporting the surplus, when we have. I would like to clarify that for all agricultural commodities, it is the Ministry of Agriculture which indicates the surplus; then we export. So, unless surplus comes from them, it is very difficult to make predictions.

DR. ASIM BALA: It is very good that the agricultural products form 15 to 16 per cent of the total exports. Here, I want to know from

the Minister as to what is the total percentage of export from annual sources.

SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU: Sir, there are five hundred different items. We will have to calculate the percentage of each individual items. (*Interruptions*)

DR. ASIM BALA: Sir, I want the Minister to communicate this percentage of exports from animal sources, to me.

SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU: We will do it.

SHRI S.B. THORAT: Sir, I will limit myself only to the Part C of the Main Answer. It is stated in the answer that, "the basic strategy for promoting exports of agricultural items will be to generate export surpluses..". Cotton and cotton yarn are items which will generate export surplus. The Government of Maharashtra has requested to export cotton. The Central Government has stopped the export of cotton and cotton yarn. Will the Government re-think and allow the Maharashtra Government to export cotton and cotton yarn?

SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU: Sir, this is a matter for the Textiles Ministry.

SHRI BALGOPAL MISHRA: Sir, as you know, prawns and shrimps have become a major source of foreign exchange, so far as India is concerned, by exporting them. But Japan has totally banned the import of prawns and shrimps from India because the quality was bad during the last two years.

I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether it is a fact that Galadhari Brothers have also got a hand in spoiling the Indian market.

SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU: Sir, I am afraid, the hon. Member's information is totally incorrect. Japan has not banned the import. In fact, Japan happens to be our biggest market. We are selling marine products worth nearly Rs. 300-400 crore.

As far as Galadhari Brothers are concerned, I do not know what they have to do with shrimps export. There may be hundreds of parties exporting shrimps from India. But we are not aware of any complaint.

SHRI JOSS FERNANDEZ: My hon. friend mentioned about poaching in the Arabian Sea waters. It is also my information that foreign countries are definitely poaching in the Arabian Sea with Purseine boats, which have sophisticated equipment, including refrigeration facilities, which are staying in our waters for two months at a time.

I would like to ask the hon. Minister, if we do not have such sophisticated equipment, whether we can ask other countries to teach our staff to man those boats to enable us to ensure better share of the trade, particularly for tuna fish.

SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU: Sir, we have no intention of getting sophisticated equipment for poaching from somebody else. As far as our waters are concerned, if the hon. Member has any information about any particular type of ships which are poaching, we can look into it. We have received no such complaint. We have had some trawlers coming in. Some trawlers had also been confiscated. Beyond that, there is not much poaching.

As far as tuna fishing is concerned, we have taken up the deep-sea fishing. We want to encourage tuna fishing but we are not aware of refrigerated ships coming into our waters.

[*Translation*]

SHRI DILEEP SINGH BHURIA: As has been stated by the Hon. Minister, the Government of India will export goods worth Rs. 36,000 crores to other countries. We receive many complaints that the goods we are sending are not of that specification which was approached. NAFED was set up to export agricultural produce to foreign countries. I want to know whether the Government will export commodities through this

agency by banning all the private parties so that no complaint may come from foreign countries and only approved goods are exported? On one hand private parties are not sending the goods in time and on the other fruits and vegetables perish in the way. It also spoils our reputation in the world market. I would like to know whether the Government will export such produce through the organisation such as NAFED?

[*English*]

SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU: Sir, when we are dealing with fresh vegetables and agricultural products, certain amount of wastage quality complaints do come in. They come in both from the Government sources and also the private sources. But I do not think we can take a decision that we will give the whole thing to the Government source so that there will not be any problem. The fact is, we have to improve upon our pre-shipment inspections. We have to impress upon people that if they got their goods rejected they will not get export orders again.

SHRI LOKANATH CHOUDHARY: It seems marine products from a substantial part of our exports and Government of India wants more exports to save our economy. May I ask the hon. Minister what steps he is taking in specific fields just like in the marine products? Apart from prawns, there are other types of fish. And they have been wasted as they are not processed. Apart from this, there are other marine products also which can be processed and exported. I would like to know as to whether or not the Commerce Ministry has any proposal just to help the trawler owners who are becoming bankrupt. Other than prawns, there are other types of fish which should be processed and plans should be made to export them also. Secondly, I would like to ask about Orissa iron-ore mines which were getting good foreign markets. But these iron-ore mines are being closed down because now, the export has been brought down. Shall I bring this fact to the notice of the Commerce Minister and ask him as to what steps are they proposing regarding the present mining operation of

Orissa to at least, provide employment to the laborers there?

SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU: Fishery and iron-ore are very diverse fields. But I do not mind answering them. Firstly, I would like to mention that as far as the total world market for marine products is concerned, it is of the order of 50 billion dollars and out of 50 billion dollars, 40 billion dollars constitute fish products. We are encouraging to export other types of fish also to foreign markets in Europe and America. We are exporting a lot of things like cuttle fish and other varieties. In Orissa, we have made massive investments and we want to make further investment for shrimp farms and brackish shrimp farm. We are speaking to the Chief Minister in this regard. So far as iron-ore in Orissa is concerned, the hon. Member is aware that we are thinking of deepening Paradip Port also so that additional quantities can be exported. Iron-ore exports has not come down in Orissa. We want to conserve some of the iron-ore in Orissa for our own production. But there is no question of iron-ore exports coming down and there is also no question of unemployment being generated in Orissa.

[*Translation*]

Tourism Places in Maharashtra

*988. **SHRI HARI BHAI SHANKAR MAHALE:** Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the details of tourist places of National and International importance in the State of Maharashtra;

(b) the steps taken for the development of these places during the Seventh Five Year Plan; and

(c) the details of proposals for further development of these places under consideration of Government?

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI SATYA PAL MALIK): (a) to (c). A statement is laid on the

Table of the House.

STATEMENT

(a) To identify and develop tourist places of National and International importance is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments. However, the Central Department of Tourism extends financial assistance for strengthening of tourism infrastructure based on the specific proposals received from the State Governments, their merit, availability of funds and inter-se priority.

(b) The following projects/schemes were sanctioned by the Central Department of Tourism during the Seventh Five Year Plan:—

1. Floodlighting of Bibi-ka-Maqbara, Aurangabad
2. Provision of toilet and drinking water facilities at Ajanta, Elloranta and Ellora.
3. Cottages at Ganpatipule
4. Beach Resort at Vaineshwar
5. Yatri Niwas at Shegaon
6. Wayside facilities at Khopoli
7. Trekking equipment for Maharashtra
8. Water sports equipment.

(c) The detailed project reports alongwith estimates for Central financial assistance for the year 1990-91 are yet to be furnished by the State Government of Maharashtra.

[*Translation*]

SHRI HARIBHAI SHANKAR MAHALE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to tell the hon. Minister through you that there is no mention of an concrete programme in the details of the place of tourist interest in the State of Maharashtra, but there are 8 to 10 hotels in Delhi, like Ashoka Hotel and Samrat Hotel