

This outstanding achievement, the first by a developing country, marks yet another milestone in our efforts to harness the benefits of modern science and technology for national development. Apart from their purely scientific objectives, research and technology involving the peaceful uses of outer space, can contribute significantly to the solution of economic and social problems.

The satellite and the entire ground system needed for launching and maintenance were built within a short period of less than three years. I should like to place on record my own and the Govt's deep appreciation of the dedicated and conscientious work of our scientists and engineers in the Indian Space Research Organisation under the leadership of Prof. Satish Dhawan and all the others who collaborated. I should also like to take this opportunity to convey our thanks to the Soviet Union for their help during the project and for making available the launch facilities.

17-32 hrs.

#### DEMANDS FOR GRANTS,

1975-76\* -Contd.

##### MINISTRY OF COMMERCE

MR. SPEAKER : The House will now take up discussion and voting on the demands for grants under the control of the Ministry of Commerce.

SHRI PILOO MODY (Godhra) : Mr. Speaker, before you move on to the next item, since the Prime Minister said that on her own behalf and on behalf of the Government. I want to make...

MR. SPEAKER : What is this practice I am standing and you also get up.

SHRI PILOO MODY : The question of standing or sitting... (Interruptions) Before you move on to the next item, I want to make one submission.

MR. SPEAKER : I am not at all willing to listen to you, unless you first sit down

\*Introduced with the recommendation of the President.

I had already congratulated the scientists on behalf of the House and myself and I have also informed them that the hon. Prime Minister would be making a statement.

SHRI PILOO MODY : Just because I did not say : point of order.

MR. SPEAKER : The House will now take up discussion and voting on the Demands for grants Nos. 11 and 12 under the control of the Ministry of Commerce for which six hours had been allotted. Hon. Members present in the House and desirous of moving their cut motions may send slips to the Table within 15 minutes indicating the serial number of the cut motions they would like to move.

##### DEMAND NO. 11—MINISTRY OF COMMERCE

MR. SPEAKER : Motion moved :

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 73,20,000 on Revenue Account be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1976, in respect of 'Ministry of Commerce'."

##### DEMAND NO. 12—FOREIGN TRADE AND EXPORT PRODUCTION

MR. SPEAKER : Motion moved :

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,66,43,08,000 on Revenue Account and not exceeding Rs. 2,38,96,93,000 on Capital Account be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1976, in respect of 'Foreign Trade and Export Production'."

SHRI MANORANJAN HAZRA (Arambagh) : Mr. Speaker, the country's economy and prosperity can be judged only by the performance of trade and Commerce.

17-33 hrs.

[SHRI VASANT SATHI in the Chair] I am sorry to say that in our country, the performance of the Government of India in regard to these things is neither satisfactory nor hopeful.

Since our independence, long 17 years have elapsed but the Government of India had not taken any lesson from the major

[Shri Manoranjan Hazra]

world events with a view to maintain the balance of trade in the country. So an adverse effect has become the net result.

In spite of this fact, the official spokesmen of the Government make tall claims about a 'break through' in export trade. They also make propaganda about the 'unprecedented increase in export earnings'. Let us examine the hollowness of this propaganda.

According to the figure supplied by the Government, India's export during 1973-74 reached a total of Rs. 2483 crores. This was higher by Rs. 512 crores or 26% compared to the exports of the previous year, 1972-73. Though the compound growth rate of exports during the first four years of the fourth plan was only 9.7% per annum, with the so-called unprecedented increase in exports during the last year of the fourth plan, the average annual growth rate for the fourth plan as a whole worked out to 12.8%. The figure relating to the growth of exports, however, conceals the serious crisis into which our foreign trade has fallen. Firstly, the predominant proportion of the increase in export is the direct result of world inflation. Many of our export commodities received higher unit values because of inflationary rise in prices in the major markets in the capitalist world. Secondly, during 1973, for example, world exports expanded by 37.8%. In the case of all the developing countries, the rate of growth of exports in 1973 was 45%. This does not include the fantastic rate of growth of exports of the oil producing countries of West Asia. If we consider all the developing countries of the capitalist world, excluding the oil producing countries, it will be seen that their share in world exports was 11.7% in 1972. It increased to 12.4% in 1973.

On the contrary, India which boasts about 'unprecedented increase' in exports witnessed a decline in its share of world exports from 0.6% in 1972 to 0.63% in 1973. In other words, it was precisely during the period of absolute increase in export value that India's share in world export, declined. This can, by no stretch of imagination, be described as an achievement in the export front. In fact, India's declining share in world exports should

be viewed as a reflection of the serious crisis in which Indian economy is placed. India is being reduced as a smaller and smaller partner in world trade and commerce in relative terms. It is surprising that the Government of India takes credit for the so-called 'export expansion' at a time when India's share in world trade continues to decline.

An equally serious aspect of the problem is the continuous erosion of our foreign exchange reserves due to the unprecedented increase in imports relatively to exports. Total imports during 1973-74 reached the level of Rs. 2,920 crores, marking an increase of 56% compared to the previous year when total imports were only Rs. 1,867.4 crores.

In fact, the value of imports of seven commodity groups, namely, foodgrains, vegetable oils, petroleum and petroleum products, fertilizer and fertilizer raw materials, non-ferrous metals, iron and steel and capital goods increased by the fantastic rate of 90 per cent during 1973-74 compared to the earlier year 1972-73. As a result, India's balance of trade and foreign exchange position worsened. India's balance of trade, which showed a surplus of Rs. 103.4 crores in 1972-73, turned into a serious deficit of Rs. 437.7 crores in 1973-74.

Sir, I would now come to the jute industry. The cultivators as well as the workers those who are the backbones of this industry, are being exploited mercilessly by the jute barons. With a view to earn more foreign exchange, the cultivators once were told that they would get the price of three maunds of paddy for one maund of jute. Sir, the market price of one maund of paddy is Rs. 50 and according to that, the price of three maunds of paddy is Rs. 150. But, how much our jute cultivators are getting? It is not more than Rs. 50. Therefore, in every transaction our jute growers are being cheated by Rs. 100 per maund.

Sir, I do not know what brand of socialism the Government will bring in this country by allowing this type of naked exploitation over the jute cultivators.

If we come to the other side of the picture, we would be able to find, the same condition has been prevailing over the

jute workers. When the jute barons earn Rs. 100 crores by way of profit, the workers are not given their due share in the same. But when the industry faces the slightest of difficulties, it seeks to shift the burden on the workers, in which it receives all support from the Government.

At the time of the withdrawal of the last jute strike it was agreed that there will be no victimisation or retrenchment of workers. But large-scale retrenchments, lay-offs, have already started on the plea that the industry is facing a slump. Since the withdrawal of the strike, about 30,000 *badli* workers other than 'registered' and 'special' *badlies*, have been struck off the rolls and thrown out of employment. In many jute mills production has been reduced by 15 per cent on the plea of shrinkage of market, and it is apprehended that another 30,000 workers are shortly going to be thrown out of their jobs.

Sir, it is true that jute exports have declined by 9.1 per cent in value from Rs. 250 crores in 1972-73 to Rs. 227.4 crores in 1973-74 and for this decline the Government has tried to make responsible the workers, because they were compelled to resort to strike. The Government has not taken into consideration the other factors. Firstly, the jute industry is an exploitation oriented industry. It exploits the peasantry as well as the workers. Secondly, the machines which are being used in the industry are out-dated. Thirdly, there are deep-rooted corruption and malpractices in all the spheres of the industry.

Sir, here is a document with me issued by the Secretary of the IJMA, bearing the number 107D, dated 24th March 1975, in which the Secretary has written :

"During the Jute Delegation's recent visit to North America a large number of complaints were made by hessian importers and bag manufacturers over the slow but definite decline in hessian quality that has become apparent in only the last 6 months.

"While our North American friends are naturally unhappy about poor quality as we understand it in Calcutta, they are particularly distressed over short yardage which they feel is deliberate and can be easily

avoided, and is apparently the most common complaint through the United States and Canada today, Bangladesh is meant to be main culprit in this area, but unfortunately many Indian Mills are included in the list of offenders"

This is one of the causes for the decline in Jute trade.

Now I will come to textiles. with regard to the Textile industry, I would say that this industry should be nationalised immediately. At present the installed capacity is not being fully utilised. The machines are out-dated and not being modernised. Shortage of Cotton continues to exist. workers are not getting their living wages. Lay-off and retrenchment have become the order of the day. Due to larger export, the per capita availability has gone down. The most strange part of the industry is this that there is no equalisation of price in respect of Cotton. Day in and day out this matter has been raised in this August House and outside too, from all quarters, irrespective of party affiliation. Though the west Bengal Government is incapable of doing any good to the country, they have also demanded this equalisation of price. The west Bengal textile industry suffers much more than any other part of the country because it has to buy cotton at a higher rate than the rest of India. Is it justice or uniform behaviour on the part of the Centre towards all States?

Now I will pass on to the Tea Industry. Tea, another important traditional commodity in India's export list, has also been in serious difficulties. Tea exports declined in value by Rs. 2.4 crores in 1973-74 compared to the previous year. This was due to a fall in both unit values and volume of exports. The volume or quantum of exports in 1971-72 was 207.4 million Kg. It declined to 193.2 million Kg. in 1972-73 and to 190.3 million Kg. in 1973-74. In terms of value, the decline was from Rs. 156.3 crores in 1971-72 to Rs. 147.3 crores in 1972-73 and to Rs. 144.9 crores in 1973-74.

It is well known that a substantial portion of India's tea production and trade are still in the hands of private foreign plantation companies. Despite repeated demands, the Government of India has not taken any action to remove the foreign

[Shri Menoranjan Hazara]

hold on the tea plantation industry. Foreign companies have neglected tea plantations in India, using them only as a means for making quick money. As a result, replanting operations have been seldom undertaken. Large number of tea estates have tea bushes which are overaged, needing immediate re-planting. But the huge sums of money in reserve funds originally kept apart for re-planting have been used up by these foreign concerns to declare dividends to their share-holders abroad. No wonder that the problem of "sick" tea gardens has assumed very serious proportions.

As regards coffee, the entire export trade is in the grip of non-official and private traders. They, in connivance with the marketing and blending companies abroad make enormous profits by some unfair means. This has been revealed in the 139th Report of Public Accounts Committee. So, my suggestion is that the entire export trades should be done by the Coffee Board.

Further, I suggest that the Coffee Board should remain outside the influence of big coffee traders and it should be duly re-constituted in the interest of the country.

About the coir industry, the coir products have been able to get higher export earning despite some reduction in the quantum of goods exported. Yet, the monopolists, merchant exporters and traders have been making a hue and cry about the crisis facing them.

In fact, the crisis in the coir industry is a crisis facing the workers and not the owners of big property and merchant exporters. They want to introduce machines for having a larger profit. Though a Central Minister assured in the other House that he was against the introduction of machines in the coir industry, despite that, the Government of India, the Coir Board and the Kerala Government with Shri V. T. Thomas as Industry Minister, have joined together in an unholy alliance with Coir monopolists to introduce mechanisation indiscriminately and to protect the interest of capitalists, traders and exporters in the quest for more profits rather than to protect the genuine interest of the coir workers. Thus, the "crisis" in the coir industry is a crisis facing the working class.

Unless it is looked into, the coir industry which earns more than Rs. 15 crores of valuable foreign exchange to the nation will be ruined.

Now, I come to the cashew industry. Despite increasing difficulties in getting imported raw cashew, total export earnings of cashew kernels have shown an encouraging trend. The unfortunate fact, however, is that, recently the Cashew Corporation of India, a subsidiary of the State Trading Corporation, which is entrusted with the responsibility of ensuring imports of raw cashew from abroad, mainly, African countries, such as, Tanzania and Kenya, has shown its incompetence in undertaking its responsibilities in time. Because of the serious shortage of imported raw cashew, a large number of factories have been closed down, throwing thousands of poorly paid workers out of their employment.

Here again, the limitations of the production base are getting exposed. As is well-known, the cashew industry had entered a period of serious crisis because of the attempts on the part of the cashew traders, merchant exporters and monopolists to decentralise the industry into cottage level units, called "Kundivarappu". It was only after bitter struggles by the cashew workers that the Government decided to step into the industry and initiate a scheme of allocation of imported raw cashew to only eligible units which implement minimum wages and give the legal rights to the workers. Unfortunately, even this scheme is not being implemented properly so that unemployment, under-employment and depression of wages have become the order of the day in this industry which contributes valuable foreign exchange to the nation.

Then, there is an instance of corruption. I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister to this. The Indian Institute of Foreign Trade has published several Market Research Reports which are completely plagiarised Confidential information from Foreign Market Survey Reports has been bodily shifted and put in the IIFT's Market Survey reports without any acknowledgement or reference. For instance, a study on the export potential of Shrimp in USA has used material published in a study by SAMI, an American Market Research

agency despite the fact that they had specially stipulated that no part of their report should be used by anyone else without prior permission and acknowledgement.

This plagiarised report was done under the guidance of Shri V. Vithal Babu, Deputy Director General of the IIFT against whom there are several other serious charges of corruption, nepotism, favouritism and irregularities in appointments and promotions. The Secretary of the IIFT, Shri I. N. Tandon, is now under suspension and he has been charge-sheeted on several counts of irregularities committed in collusion with Shri V. Vithal Babu. I demand that a public inquiry be conducted in to all the charges of corruption against the Deputy Director-General, Shri V. Vithal Babu and Secretary Shri I. N. Tandon, aided by the CBI, if necessary, and they should be suitably punished.

Lastly, I want to say that the balance of trade must be favourable. Otherwise, imports will rise to an unlimited capacity and exports will go down, and as a result of this, Government will be compelled to fill the gap for earning foreign exchange, export more and more and even essential commodities in the country will be exported. This type of trade policy must go otherwise we have no future—if this goes on for an unlimited period.

SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPA (Telli-cherry) : I beg to move :

“That the demand under the Head ‘Ministry of Commerce’ be reduced by Rs. 100.”

[Failure in developing trade in commerce with Cuba. (1)]

“That the demand under the Head ‘Ministry of Commerce’ be reduced by Rs. 100.”

[Need for promotion of export of coir, handloom, cashew and fish products. (2)]

“That the demand under the Head ‘Ministry of Commerce’ be reduced by Rs. 100.”

[Need to export natural rubber (3)]

12-9 ISS [ND]/75

“That the demand under the Head ‘Ministry of Commerce’ be reduced by Rs. 100.”

[Need for urgent measures to be taken for the promotion of export of ready-made garment made out of handloom materials. (4)]

“That the demand under the Head ‘Ministry of Commerce’ be reduced by Rs. 100.”

[Need for the expansion and diversification of the work of the Handloom Design Centre in Cannanore, Kerala. (5)]

“That the demand under the Head ‘Ministry of Commerce’ be reduced by Rs. 100.”

[Need for liberal financial assistance to handloom industry to withstand the present crisis in Kerala due to the crash of the market for crepe cloth. (6)]

“That the demand under the Head ‘Foreign Trade and Export Production’ be reduced by Rs. 100.”

[Need to provide liberal financial assistance for the stabilisation of traditional export oriented industries like coir, cashew and handloom. (11)]

“That the demand under the Head ‘Foreign Trade and Export Production’ be reduced by Rs. 100.”

[Failure to protect the crepe products of the handloom industry in Kerala. (12)]

“That the demand under the Head ‘Foreign Trade and Export Production’ be reduced by Rs. 100.”

[Failure to supply sufficient quantity of raw cashew nuts to Kerala for stabilising that industry and to provide employments to workers round they ear. (13)]

“That the demand under the Head ‘Foreign Trade and Export Production’ be reduced by Rs. 100.”

**[Shri C K Chandraspan]**

[Need for nationalisation of the sick tea plantations. (14)]

"That the demand under the Head 'Foreign Trade and Export Production' be reduced by Rs 100"

[Need to protect the interests of the small coffee producers (15)]

"That the demand under the Head 'Foreign Trade and Export Production' be reduced by Rs 100"

[Need to take over the export trade (16)]

"That the demand under the Head 'Foreign Trade and Export Production' be reduced by Rs 100"

[Need for taking stern measures to enforce quality control in handloom production (17)]

"That the demand under the Head 'Foreign Trade and Export Production' be reduced by Rs 100"

[Need to take adequate steps to prevent the powerloom industry from indulging in unhealthy competition with handloom industry by producing materials of the same pattern (18)]

"That the demand under the Head 'Foreign Trade and Export Production' be reduced by Rs 100"

[Need for enforcing an all-India wage policy for the handloom workers (19)]

**SHRI SARJOO PANDEY (GHAZI PUR)** I beg to move

"That the demand under the Head 'Ministry of Commerce' be reduced by Rs 100"

[Failure to remove shortcomings in the management of foreign trade (20)]

"That the demand under the Head 'Ministry of Commerce' be reduced by Rs. 100"

[Failure to promote the export of Indian goods and products (21)]

"That the demand under the Head 'Ministry of Commerce' be reduced by Rs 100"

[Failure of the Cotton Corporation of India to protect the interest of the cotton growers (22)]

"That the demand under the Head 'Ministry of Commerce' be reduced by Rs 100"

[Decline of handloom and powerloom industry (23)]

"That the demand under the Head 'Ministry of Commerce' be reduced by Rs 100"

[Failure in encouraging Indian Handicrafts (24)]

"That the demand under the Head 'Ministry of Commerce' be reduced by Rs 100"

[Failure of the Jute Corporation in arresting the deterioration of Jute industry (25)]

**SHRI RAMAVATAR SHASTRI (Panna)** I beg to move

"That the demand under the Head 'Foreign Trade and Export Production' be reduced to Re 1."

[Failure to nationalise foreign trade (26)]

"That the demand under the Head 'Foreign Trade and Export Production' be reduced to Re 1."

[Failure to nationalise textile mills in the country (27)]

"That the demand under the Head 'Foreign Trade and Export Production' be reduced to Re. 1."

[Failure to nationalise tea gardens and foreign tea companies. (28)]

"That the demand under the Head 'Foreign Trade and Export Production' be reduced to Re. 1."

[Failure to impose ban on sending the profits of the foreign tea companies outside the country. (29)]

"That the demand under the Head 'Foreign Trade and Export Production' be reduced to Re. 1."

[Failure to ensure workers' participation in the management in all the textile mills owned by private industrialists and the N.T.C. (30)]

"That the demand under the Head 'Foreign Trade and Export Production' be reduced to Re. 1."

[Failure to Canalise entire trade to the countries which accept rupee payment or Import Indian Goods which are available for export to and import from those countries. (31)]

"That the demand under the Head 'Foreign Trade and Export Production' be reduced to Re. 1."

[Failure in developing trade and commerce with Cuba. (32)]

"That the demand under the Head 'Foreign Trade and Export Production' be reduced to Re. 1."

[Failure in giving jobs to all the handloom weavers and supplying them required quantity of yarns on reasonable price (33)]

"That the demand under the Head 'Foreign Trade and Export Production' be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Failure to check recession in mica trade. (40)]

"That the demand under the head 'Foreign Trade and Export Production' be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Failure to nationalise the mica mine and trade. (41)]

"That the demand under the Head 'Foreign Trade and Export Production' be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Failure to check the balck-marketing and smuggling of mica. (42)]

"That the demand under the Head 'Foreign Trade and Export Production' be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to enter into agreement with all socialist countries for the export of mica (43)]

"That the demand under the Head 'Foreign Trade and Export Production' be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Failure to ensure remunerative prices for cotton to the cotton-growers. (44)]

"That the demand under the Head 'Foreign Trade and Export Production' be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to check serious recession in cotton trade. (45)]

"That the demand under the Head 'Foreign Trade and Export Production' be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to open more shops for the sale of coarse cloth. (46)]

"That the demand under the Head 'Foreign trade and Export Production' be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Failure to check corrupt and fraudulent practices in foreign trade. (47)]

"That the demand under the Head 'Foreign Trade and Export Production' be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Shri Ramavatar Shastri]

[Need to open textile factories in Bihar in the public sector. (48)]

"That the demand under the Head 'Foreign Trade and Export Production' be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to stop the irregularities going on in the textile and yarn factories in the public, private and joint sectors in Bihar. (49)]

"That the demand under the Head 'Foreign Trade and Export Production' be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to permit the Bihar Cotton Mill Private Limited, Phulwari Shariff to instal more spindles for its expansion. (50)]

"That the demand under the Head 'Foreign Trade and Export Production' be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Failure to ensure fair prices to jute growers. (51)]

"That the demand under the Head 'Foreign Trade and Export Production' be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Failure to introduce uniform wages for handloom workers throughout the country. (52)]

"That the demand under the Head 'Foreign Trade and Export Production' be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to export natural rubber. (53)]

"That the demand under the Head 'Foreign Trade and Export Production' be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Failure to ban the import of wines and Luxury goods. (54)]

"That the demand under the Head 'Foreign Trade and Export Production' be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to increase the export of mangoes, bananas and leechis. (55)]

"That the demand under the Head 'Foreign Trade and Export Production' be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Failure to check black-marketing in cloth. (56)]

"That the demand under the Head 'Foreign Trade and Export Production' be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Failure to check black-marketing and bungling in the sale of controlled cloth. (57)]

SHRI C. JANARDHANAN (Trichur) : I beg to move :

"That the demand under the Head 'Foreign Trade and Export Production' be reduced to Re. 1."

[Failure in giving adequate financial help to the small and medium industrialists and exporters of marine products. (34)]

"That the demand under the Head 'Foreign Trade and Export Production' be reduced to Re. 1."

[Failure to give more powers to Commodity boards. (35)]

"That the demand under the Head 'Foreign Trade and Export Production' be reduced to Re. 1."

[Failure in prohibiting foreign and Indian monopoly in entering marine products exports industry. (36)]

"That the demand under the Head 'Foreign Trade and Export Production' be reduced to Re. 1."

[Failure to nationalise the export and import trade. (37)]

"That the demand under the Head 'Foreign Trade and Export Production' be reduced to Re. 1."

[Failure to nationalise the foreign owned tea and rubber plantations. (38)]

"That the demand under the Head 'Foreign Trade and Export Production' be reduced to Re. 1."

[Failure to nationalise the sick textile mills. (39)]

"That the demand under the Head 'Foreign Trade and Export Production' be reduced to Re. 1."

[Failure of the new import policy in serving the best interests of the Nation. (58)]

"That the demand under the Head 'Foreign Trade and Export Production' be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to re-organise and revitalise the State Trading Corporation. (59)]

"That the demand under the Head 'Foreign Trade and export Production' be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to increase our trade with socialist countries. (60)]

"That the demand under the Head 'Foreign Trade and Export Production' be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to re-organise Indian Trade Fairs and Exhibitions. (61)]

SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYA (Serampore) : I beg to move :

"That the demand under the Head 'Ministry of Commerce' be reduced to Re. 1."

[Failure to take over jute and textile industry (62)]

"That the demand under the Head 'Ministry of Commerce' be reduced to Re. 1."

[Failure to nationalise big tyre manufacturing industries both indigenous and foreign which export its products (63)]

"That the demand under the Head 'Ministry of Commerce' be reduced to Re. 1."

[Maintaining top heavy administration (64)]

"That the demand under the Head 'Ministry of Commerce' be reduced to Re. 1."

[Not introducing the policy of equalisation of cotton price throughout the country. (65)]

SHRI MANORANJAN HAZRA : I beg to move :

"That the demand under the Head 'Foreign Trade and Export Production' be reduced to Re. 1."

[Failure to nationalise jute industry (66)]

"That the demand under the Head 'Foreign Trade and Export Production' be reduced to Re. 1."

[Failure to nationalise the textile industry (67)]

"That the demand under the Head 'Foreign Trade and export Production' be reduced to Re. 1."

[Failure to check the adverse balance of trade in respect of import and export. (68)]

"That the demand under the Head 'Foreign Trade and Export Production' be reduced to Re. 1."

[Failure to protect the workers' interests in tea, coffee, coir and cashewnut in dustries. (69)]

"That the demand under the Head 'Foreign Trade and Export Production' be reduced to Re. 1."

[Failure to give substantial financial help to the small and medium entrepreneurs. (70)]

"That the demand under the head 'Foreign Trade and Export Production' be reduced to Re. 1."

[Failure to protect the handloom weavers. (71)]

MR. CHAIRMAN : The cut motions are also now before the House.

SHRI M. SUDARSANAN (Narasaraopet) : While supporting the Demands for Grants in respect of the Ministry of Commerce, I compliment the Commerce Minister and his team of officials for the excellent work done during the year. In spite of the wonderful achievements on the exports side, the trade

[M. Sudarshan]

balance has become adverse to the tune of Rs. 1,000 crores. This is because of natural calamities i.e. droughts and various other difficulties. We had to import a lot of foodgrains from other countries at a very high value. We had also to import fertilisers at a very heavy cost. We had also to import oil at a very fantastic price, which is four fold to the normal price. All these factors have been responsible for the adverse balance of trade. The Commerce Ministry alone cannot be responsible for this adverse balance of trade; this is because of the natural calamities and various other factors.

On the export side we showed no better. The international inflation was there and the environment for exports was also very good because of various other global reasons. Still we have to do a lot to create more surpluses. Unless we create more surplus, we cannot have more exports. Both in the agricultural sector and in the industrial sector, we have to do a lot. We need the support of the State Governments and also the various other Union Ministers to increase the surpluses.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The hon. Member may continue tomorrow. We have to take up the half-an-hour discussion.

#### HALF-AN-HOUR DISCUSSION

#### MAHARASHTRA-KARNATAKA BOUNDARY DISPUTE

MR. CHAIRMAN : The House will now take up the half-an-hour discussion to be raised by Prof. Madhu Dandavate. Before he starts, let me remind the hon. members of the rule so that, later on, they do not put me in an awkward position. Rule 55(5) is very clear. It says:

"There shall be no formal motion before the House nor voting. The member who has given notice may make a short statement and the Minister concerned shall reply shortly. Any member who has previously intimated to the Speaker may be permitted to ask a question for the purpose of further elucidating any matter of fact."

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE (Rajapur) : That is, like a call-attention.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I am not going to convert this into a call-attention. Please do not do that.

28-00 hrs.

I will, therefore, request the hon. Members whose names have come in the ballot to formulate their questions right now and ask a question and not put me later on in an awkward position.

SHRI B. V. NAIK (Kanara) : What are the compelling circumstances for us to be reminded of the rule because a certain amount of latitude is allowed in these debates.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I will give you the latitude of lengthening the question, but don't stretch it too far.

SHRI DHAMANKAR (Bilwandi) : All the persons who have come in the ballot are not present. So you please allow me to put a question.

MR. CHAIRMAN : If anyone of them is not present, I will give you a chance.

Shri Dandavate.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : I consider it a proud privilege to initiate this Half-an-hour discussion on the eve of a demonstration that people from the Maharashtra-Karnataka border areas are going to stage before the Parliament tomorrow, to welcome the assurance given by the former Home Minister that the dispute will be settled before the forthcoming General Elections and that an amicable settlement will be arrived at. About a thousand persons from the Maharashtra border areas have already come to the capital and they will be submitting a memorandum to the Prime Minister tomorrow. The Prime Minister has already given them an appointment. She will meet the deputation of the Maharashtra Ekiketan Samiti at 3 p.m. and I will be very happy if the discussion that goes on this evening will help the Prime Minister in arriving at a suitable solution.

I might recall that when the situation in the border areas was very tense in December last, in reply to my letter to the Prime Minister, the Prime Minister had said in her letter of December 8, 1973—I will only reproduce the last part of her letter which is very relevant: