

DEMANDS* FOR GRANTS 1973-74-Contd.

MINISTRY OF COMMERCE

MR. SPEAKER : The House will now take up discussion and voting on Demand Nos. 10 to 13 relating to the Ministry of Commerce for which/six hours have been allotted some marginal adjustments will be made.

Hon. members present in the House who are desirous of moving their cut motions may send slips to the Table within 15 minutes indicating the serial numbers of the cut motions they would like to move, giving also their preference, if any

DEMAND NO. 10—DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN TRADE

MR. SPEAKER Motion moved

"That a sum not exceeding 4 13,66,000 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, 1974, in respect of 'Department of Foreign Trade' "

DEMAND NO 11 — FOREIGN TRADE

MR SPEAKER Motion moved

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 116,54,98,000 on Revenue Account and not exceeding Rs. 35,00,00,000 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, 1974, in respect of 'Foreign Trade'."

DEMAND NO. 12 — EXPORT ORIENTED INDUSTRIES

MR. SPEAKER : Motion moved

"That a sum not exceeding Rs 7,26,20,000 on Revenue Account and not exceeding Rs. 6,78,03,000 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, 1974, in respect of 'Export Oriented Industries'."

DEMAND NO. 13—DEPARTMENT OF INTERNAL TRADE

MR SPEAKER Motion moved :

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 13,58,09,000 on Revenue Account and not exceeding Rs 7,04,31,000 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, 1974, in respect of 'Department of Internal Trade'."

The hon Members may now move the cut motions

DR LAXMINARAIN PANDEYA (Mandsaur) I beg to move

"That the demand under the head Department of Foreign Trade be reduced by Rs 100 "

[Failure to export many Indian products despite possibilities of their export with a view to earning foreign exchange (8)]

"That the demand under the head Department of Foreign Trade be reduced by Rs 100 "

[Continuance of import of a number of commodities despite ban on their import (9).]

"That the demand under the head Department of Foreign Trade be reduced by Rs 100 "

[Failure to take effective steps to promote export trade (10).]

"That the demand under the head Department of Foreign Trade be reduced by Rs 100."

*Moved with the recommendation of the President

[Dr. Laxmi Narayan Pandeya]

[Failure to remove difficulties faced by small traders in their avocation created as a result of huge profit being taken by S.T.C. in imported commodities (11).]

"That the demand under the head Department of Foreign Trade be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Failure to effect a balance between import and export trade of India. (12).]

"That the demand under the head Department of Foreign Trade be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Failure to remove difficulties faced by exporters (13).]

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

"That the demand under the head Department of Foreign Trade be reduced Re. 1."

[Failure to nationalise the entire Import and Export Trade. (14).]

"That the demand under the head Department of Foreign Trade be reduced Re. 1."

Failure to nationalise the export trade of cashew. (15).]

"That the demand under the head Department of Foreign Trade be reduced Re. 1."

[Failure to nationalise the foreign owned Rubber and Tea plantations in India. (16).]

"That the demand under the head Export Oriented Industries be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Failure in giving more assistance to S. T. C. and Rubber Board to purchase the entire stock of rubber lying with the rubber growers. (17).]

"That the demand under the head Export Oriented Industries be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Failure to provide more shipping facilities to Marine Products Exporters. (18).]

"That the demand under the head Export Oriented Industries be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Failure to provide more deep sea fishing vessels. (19).]

"That the demand under the head Export Oriented Industries be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Failure to give adequate assistance for Kerala Cashew Corporation to take over more cashew factories. (20)]

"That the demand under the head Export Oriented Industries be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Failure to export more regional languages motion Pictures. (21)]

"That the demand under the head Export Oriented Industries be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Failure to stop the import of rubber. (22)]

"That the demand under the head Export Oriented Industries be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Failure to stop the import of arecanut. (23)]

"That the demand under the head Department of Internal Trade be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Failure to give a new orientation to the Khadi and Village Industries. (24)]

MR. SPEAKER : the cut motions are also before the House.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Burdwan) : Sir, I rise to oppose the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Commerce. The Report of this Ministry for the Year 1972-73, I am sorry to say, does not give the real picture that is prevailing now in trade and commerce in this country, and fails to take notice of the various problems that

are confronting the trade and commerce. The record of this Ministry for the period under review has been of poor performance, of unattained targets and of scandals in which the rag scandal has carved out a place of its own. Till today we do not know what steps have been taken with regard to the completion of the inquiry by CBI ; I am told that the CBI has been looking into the rag scandal. But till to-day we have not been informed what steps have been taken or whether the report has been given. We want an assurance from the hon. Minister that stern action would be taken against those persons who were found responsible.

The trade in this country has been suffering for a long time due to the lack of a clear policy. Our export policy has really been decided by *ad hoc* decisions which have been taken from time to time and which have failed to take note of the targets and the real causes that are confronting this part of the economy of the country.

Wide publicity has been given that during the period April to December 1972 there have been rapid strides by way of increase in our exports. It is claimed that exports have gone up during this period by 23.1 per cent as compared to the previous year's corresponding period. But, you will find that this is somewhat a misleading picture that is sought to be given. We certainly wish to give credit where it is really due. But we should not fail to take note of the real state of affairs which is now prevailing. You will find that what has been claimed has not really been achieved. India's exports, as a percentage of world exports, has declined from 2.2 per cent to 0.6 per cent during the years 1951-1971. While other developing countries are making progress, it is unfortunate that we are lagging behind. This rise of 23 per cent during this period, April to December 1972, though appears to be very impressive, has been achieved, what can be described, more by accident than by design, because this increase has been

effected more by rise in prices than by any increase in the quantum of exports. Half of the increase is due to the straight grants to Bangla Desh and also the *de facto* devaluation of the rupee following the decision of the British Government to float the pound and our decision to accept or to allow the rupee also to float along with the pound. It has also been found that there has been a windfall by reason of the rise in prices of hides and skins in the world market and the temporary disruption of the jute industry in Bangla Desh.

If you will be good enough to look at the Annual Report of this Ministry, at page 21, it says :

"This impressive growth in exports has been contributed by several commodities, principal amongst which are : cotton textiles, leather and leather goods, fish and marine products, tobacco, cereals and cereal preparations. A slackening tendency in the export of the following commodities has, however, been in evidence : jute manufactures engineering goods, chemicals and allied products and iron ore. The factors responsible for the declining trend in the case of these commodities require attention".

You will find that the report indicates that the shortfalls have been there in our traditional items of export, the main foreign-exchange earner items like jute manufactures, engineering, goods etc. But no solution is put forward and it is not indicated as to what is the policy that is being adopted by this Government to face these difficulties and to boost up the exports in these goods.

13 hrs.

If you are pleased to look at the Economic Survey which has been published by the Government of India for the year 1972-73, page 74, para 239, it states :

"But, in the absence of commodity-wise details of exports beyond the

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month of August it is difficult to identify all the factors underlying the unusually rapid growth of exports over this period. Still, there is little doubt that it was induced more by rising demand abroad for Indian goods than by faster growth of domestic output and real national product."

Para 240 says :

"Provisional data relating to trade with Bangladesh have been compiled by the D. G. C. I & S for the period April to November, 1972. These show Rs. 51 6 crores worth of exports to Bangla Desh. If these exports financed mostly through loans and grants are excluded the rate of growth of exports during the first 8 months of 1972-73 effective has to be 18 0 per cent."

Although it has been claimed that there has been an increase of 23 per cent, the Economic Survey published by the Government itself belies that. The real growth will not be more than 18 per cent. So far as the planned target is concerned it has provided for an increase of 7 per cent annual growth. During the first 3 years of the fourth plan the average rate growth was of the order of 5.8 per cent. In certain spheres there are larger exports but in far more important items we are losing our markets. For example, this is so in jute manufacture. There are items like sugar, coffee, apieces, iron-ore, manganese ore etc. in which we are losing our markets. We feel that for the export policy to be effective it should be linked with a realistic approach and proper assessment of exportable surpluses available in our country. The production base should be augmented. Proper steps should be taken for generating the required quota of exportable surpluses. That is this should be an integral part of production planning itself. Unfortunately I do not find any awareness of this at least from the report published or from policy decisions taken so far. How does the Government

propose to reach these export targets. How does the Government propose to coordinate these activities, the entire production planning in this country? How is this to be linked with exports? What are they going to do to create exportable surpluses? This is a very important aspect of the matter for developing our export trade. This has not been given its due importance. The prospects are bleak. There is the phenomenon of stagnant economy of the country because of the failure in the field of industrial production. Severe shortages of power are there. This also is bound to cause less and less industrial production and industrial activity in the country. There will necessarily be less and less of exportable surplus.

In this connection, I would like to refer to page 68 of the report which says :

"In the last few years the growth of India's exports has been hampered by adverse factors both internal and external such as shortages of certain essential raw materials (steel, non-ferrous metals, industrial fibres, etc.) sluggish trend in industrial production rising cost of production restrictive trade policies pursued by certain developed industries, international monetary crisis, recession in world steel industry, inadequate shipping space and increasing freight rate and more recently Indo Pak hostilities which exerted unusual strain on Indian economy during 1971-72."

Causes are being referred to ; but what is the effort made what is the Policy that is being adopted to counter act these factors? What is the new orientation given to the export policy? How can these difficulties be avoided? These have not been given the attention that they deserved. What is necessary is that there should be a Continuous process of exploration of foreign markets, generation of export surpluses, stepping up of export production, creation of

of export oriented industries, supply of raw materials at competitive prices, and if necessary, compulsory export also, in respect of important items. In regard to jute there are various difficulties. Export duty on jute is bound to affect the export of jute goods. In 1972-73 jute exports fell by only Rs. 50 crores.

Intense competition is there because of the synthetics that have come into the market, and also from Bangladesh. How will increase in export duty of jute goods help in large exports being made? This should be looked into. The export during November 1972 declined by 17 per cent. Carpet backing is one of the most important item of exports. There we find a decline of 36 per cent.

I would like the hon. Minister to spell out what is the policy that is being adopted by Government for the purpose of increasing our export and getting rid of this difficulty. It is necessary that the price of jute has to be made competitive and there has to be modernisation of the industry. The export duty has to be kept within a reasonable limit.

The other aspect which I wish to emphasise is that we must see that there is greater and greater production of tea. Instead of deliberate efforts being made in that direction, we find even some of the jute mills which had been functioning are either not functioning or closed down. For example, in some of them the workers are on strike. For the last three months from January 29, the workers of the J.K. Jute Mills, Kanpur, have been on strike. No attempt has been made by Government to see that this dispute is settled and the indifferent attitude of Government has really encouraged the management to take a vindictive attitude towards the workers. I request the hon. Minister to intervene in this matter because it is essential that there should be greater and greater production of jute in the country.

What is needed so far as jute manufacture is concerned is cost consciousness at the manufacturing level, modernisation of

production, professional management etc. If necessary, the Jute Corporation should take up upon itself the procurement of all available quantities of jute at a remunerative price without allowing the private trader or the mills to corner supplies or please the traders. In West Bengal, so far as the National Jute Mill Company is concerned—it is the biggest jute mill in the country—it is lying closed. I would like to know what the hon. Minister is proposing to do either to nationalise it or take over its management.

Then I come to tea which is one of the most important foreign exchange earners of the country. But unfortunately, every year the financial position of tea gardens is going down on account of growing competition in the international market and the incapability of the Indian tea industry to make prices competitive. Over and above this, the new zonal system which has been adopted for imposition of excise duty is causing great concern and is affecting the smaller gardens particularly. There are litigations pending. I do not want the hon. Minister to go into the merits of it. But I would ask whether Government feel that the imposition of this excise duty on a zonal basis without there being a rational classification is helping in the greater production of tea or not. If he is satisfied that this has not resulted in larger production of tea, he should scrap it—this unreal and unrealistic rate of excise duty imposed.

It is also essential that the sale of tea in foreign markets should be under the control of the public sector. Why should the most important part of the tea exports, that is, the marketing of tea, should be left in the hands of the foreign monopolists, the British monopoly concerns. This matter has been raised every year from time to time. What is the rational explanation that tea, which is one of our biggest foreign exchange earner, should in the matter of marketing be left in the hands of foreign monopolies in England, who have been doing it for ages now?

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Why should we not enter this field? If necessary, we want the public sector to intervene immediately and take over the marketing of tea.

The other important aspect in regard to tea concerns is the sick tea gardens. Undoubtedly, some of these gardens are now in difficulty. We want larger tea production. We want that the unemployment caused by the closing down of the sick gardens should be stopped and these persons should be given employment. I would request the hon. Minister to look into this matter and tell the country what Government are proposing to do with regard to the opening of the sick tea gardens? Are you going to take them over or not or are you going to help them financially or not? What is the policy of the Government? This is a very important aspect, and I request the hon. Minister to give his attention to this matter.

Next is the question of engineering goods. The export has been lower during the period under review. It has come down from Rs. 200 crores to Rs. 150 crores. During 1971-72, the export was to the extent of Rs. 126 crores against the target of Rs. 165 crores. One of the main reasons for this drop in the export, as has been stated, is the increase in the home demand for engineering goods where unit prices are higher than the international market.

As a result, the urge to make greater and greater export has got blunted. It is essential to increase the capacity of this manufacturing sector and also to curb the home consumption.

It is surprising that in the matter of increasing the export of engineering goods, although we find incentives are given and encouragement is given, there has not been adequate response because the industrialists are not willing to lower the margin of their profit. They want their margin of profit and they do not want to curtail it, and so the incentives and encouragements which are

given are not utilised for the purpose of export but they are utilised for the purpose of making larger profits. If such incentives and encouragements are given to these industrialists, why should not the Government enter into this field and take upon itself the entire export trade in engineering goods?

Then I come to a very important aspect which is now agitating the common people of this country, and that is with regard to the supply of yarn to the handloom weavers. The industry is now in a very serious state because of the lack of supply of handloom yarn to the handloom weavers, and there is now an acute shortage in the supply of yarn. So far as the handloom weavers are concerned, they are not assured of any supply and they are unable to get any supply and the handloom industry now is on the verge of closure resulting in large scale unemployment and increase in poverty. Recently, the price has been fixed. This is a very important matter and I request the hon. Minister to consider it. The price that has been fixed by the Government for cotton yarn is on the basis of the price prevailing in December, 1972. The December 1972 price was higher than the January, 1972 price. Now, while the price has been fixed at higher rate, why the December, 1972 price level has been accepted and why not the January 1972 price level be accepted to the basic price? There have been representations by the various handloom weavers' societies which are complaining of high prices of the handloom yarn. The result of this is only big mills are able to make purchase of the yarn at a higher rate, and what has now resulted is nothing but a spurt in prices and it is nothing but surrender to monopolists who are getting the biggest slice of this yarn.

Therefore, I request the hon. Minister to give attention to this very important matter. So far as the common people are concerned, they are the real purchasers of handloom cloth and if the handloom cloth price is increased, they will suffer, apart from it, the handloom weavers are themselves suffering very much.

One more important aspect which I would like to bring to the notice of the hon. Minister is with regard to 11 cable companies which, it appears, are being prosecuted for violation of the import regulations. These are some of the leading and important cable companies in this country. The charges against them are they have misused the raw materials which were imported under actual users licence. But surprisingly, no order has been issued debarring them from getting licences or grant of licences. What is the reason behind it? If some of the lesser organisations or lesser concerns has been prosecuted for violation of the actual user licence long ago they would have been debarred also, but why these 11 cable companies are not debarred from getting the import licence? That is what I want to know.

The last point that I would like to make—my time is very short—it is with regard to the import of photographic goods and materials. This is very important. A British company or a company with British collaboration or British capital, is now getting the largest chunk of photographic goods and materials that are imported into this country, while the Indian concerns, a well-established importers, are being given two to four per cent of their quota so far as the photographic goods and materials are concerned. This has resulted in unemployment and restriction of their activities.

There is cornering of almost the entire photographic trade by this concern; I believe it is Agfa Limited. Agfa limited gives its supplies to some of its favourite concerns; but old and well-established concerns who are also established importers are not given. Government should immediately direct its attention to this matter and redress the difficulties faced by the photographic dealers.

Lastly, we demand that in view of the fact that the jute industry as well as the tea industry have not been able to keep pace with the economic development which is expected to be in this country, they

should be nationalised. They have not been utilising the incentives and assistance given to them and there has not been larger production. We demand that their management should be taken over forthwith so that not only the export trade of this country is boosted but also the exploitation of these vital industries is not continued in the hands of the private sector. With these words, I oppose these demands.

SHRI M. SUDARSANAM (Narasaraopet): In supporting the demands for grants of this Ministry, I should first of all congratulate the Minister of Commerce Prof. Chattopadhyaya and his team of officers for the excellent work during the year 1972-73.

13.18 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

The report of the Ministry of Commerce states somewhat modestly that exports would exceed the target of Rs. 1,760 crores. In fact, projections made by me on the basis of the actual data for the 10 months ending January 1973 indicate that exports may amount to Rs. 1,860 crores and exceed the target by about Rs. 100 crores. Furthermore, for the first time since independence we will have a favourable balance of trade of nearly Rs. 150 crores, even taking into account that imports in the months of February and March would be much larger than the average imports in the 10 months ending January 1973. The reasons for this happy trend have been mentioned on page 15 of the report and it is admitted that part of the spectacular rise is due to the fact of currency fluctuations and exports to Bangladesh. Be that as it may, one cannot but feel happy about the situation for the results have been achieved despite the fact that exports of certain items have not shown marked improvement, including engineering goods. One can ill-afford to be complacent. Indeed, the nation's goal must now be to achieve self-reliance on the basis of trying to run export surpluses from year to year. It is only then that we can meet our debt liabilities and increase imports of goods needed for development and defence.

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The new import policy announced on 2nd April has been welcomed fairly widely. The policy carries further the role of public sector, but at the same time it is quite pragmatic inasmuch as it provides that registered exporters would be granted letters of authority in respect of canalised items where such items are used in the manufacture of export products.

It also introduces a new and healthy principle that supplies of indigenous materials at international prices to exporters would be treated as exports for all purposes. My first comment concerns the working of the public sector units. Prof. Chattopadhyaya had given a clear indication at the meeting of the Advisory Council on Trade that they must work with devotion and commitment. He is quite correct. In other words, greater rationality in the distribution and pricing systems by these agencies must be achieved for, while canalisation has come to stay, it is not an end in itself. The end is to reap the advantages of bulk buying and to serve the interests of industry and trade. Unfortunately, this has not always been so. Evaluation teams of the working of some of the public sector corporations were set up by Government last July, and I would earnestly suggest that whatever recommendations have been made by these evaluation teams, must be implemented. It is also high time that the proposal for appointing an Expert Group to review the distribution and pricing policies is given concrete shape so that industry and trade have minimum of complaints against the S.T.C. and M.M.T.C. There is a feeling that supplies are not procured of requisite quality in time—the case of shortage of caprolactum used by nylon yarn producers has been highlighted through advertisements in the recent past—and there is no effective liaison with the users despite the fact that there are as many as 55 consultative or advisory committee and panels attached to the S.T.C. I feel very strongly that efforts must be made on a continuous basis to see that the state trading agencies have a better rapport with their

clients and recrimination and mutual criticisms are avoided. It is in national interest to see that the State trading agencies functions well.

In the past, I have sought to draw attention to the need for rationalising the work of commercial organisations which maintain contact and liaison with Government in general and Ministry of Commerce in particular. I find that, even at Central level, there are a large number of organisations, such as Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Associated Chambers of Commerce of India, All India Manufacturers' Organisation, Federation of Indian Export Organisations, Federation of Associations of Small Scale Industries of India, National Alliance of Young Entrepreneurs, I do not know of any other country where there are so many organisations. India's case is also somewhat unique that in cities like Calcutta, Bombay and Madras, a large number of chambers of commerce apparently do the same kind of work. Even in the sphere of industrial associations, there are more than one all-India bodies for tea, engineering and chemical products. This naturally makes for some confusion and at times one does not know which organisation should be met by a visiting trade or commercial delegation. What I wish to suggest is that multiplicity of organisations is not conducive for maintaining live and purposeful liaison between them and Government. Is it, not therefore, time to think of having a review of their functions? Government could perhaps think of appointing a Committee or an Officer on Special Duty for this purpose so that he can study and recommend. We have 17 Export Promotion Councils. Could this work not be done by industrial associations in respect of items covered by each Council? Or alternatively should not a better liaison be established between them and industrial associations? May I also mention in this connection that in a country like the U.K. whose pattern we are following, a Committee has recently been set up to examin-

whether the chambers of commerce should have a public law status, as is the case in the countries of the European Economic Community.

It is good to note that, for the first time in the report of the Ministry of Commerce, a whole chapter has been devoted to the implementation of the Export Policy Resolution. The review is good as far as it goes and outlines the positive steps that are being taken. Obviously, the guidelines in the Export Policy Resolution have to be pursued with vigour and energy continuously.

In this connection, I would like to commend the idea mentioned by the Minister for better liaison with the other concerned economic ministries. We now have a Cabinet Committee on Industry and Trade. Separately, some specific points have been mentioned in the report of the Ministry of the attempts being made between the Ministries of Commerce and Industrial Development in drawing up concrete export production plans with the assistance of other administrative ministries concerned. A number of Working Groups have been set up. Their task must be carried on with great expedition and speed, for, in the ultimate analysis, our export effort will succeed only on the basis of our ability to create export surpluses in agricultural and industrial sectors at internationally competitive prices.

I also suggest that some Members of Parliament drawn either from the Consultative Committees attached to the concerned Ministry or on any other basis should be selected so that the inter-ministerial problems in the export front can be discussed by them in a purposive manner with a view to suggesting positive programmes.

India's export effort is adversely affected by continuance of high export duties on some of our staple items of exports. The Ministry of Commerce should be able to

exercise greater weight and pull in convincing the Ministry of Finance to reduce the burden of these duties. For one thing, it occurs to me that, while we maintain export duties on some items, we also ask for removal of import duties on them by other countries. In this situation, our case can become stronger if we, on our part, take the first instance, requisite measures to remove the burdens. In this connection I would also like to suggest that appropriate rates of drawback and customs duties on different export items must be fixed very quickly because, in this year's budget, there has been a large increase in import and excise duties.

At a recent seminar on GSP organised by the Indian Institute of Foreign Trade, the problem came to the fore that we have not been one of the beneficiaries of the Generalised System of Preferences. Our failure to take advantage of the situation arises mainly from the fact that we could not build up export capacity and production quickly and at the same time we did not also attract foreign enterprises to shift their plants to India for export production. I think some hard thinking on this subject is required for no amount of effort in disseminating information or other steps will succeed unless we build the infrastructure for exporting more by creation of additional capacity and production in lines which have a growth potential. India has provided leadership to developing countries in international forums and this can be sustained only if we build up our economy in a big way.

While we have to continue making efforts for promoting exports to different parts of the world, the developing countries of South-East Asia offer tremendous opportunities. The Asian Trade Expansion Programme was launched in November 1971. Further negotiations have covered a much wider area than mere exchange of tariff preference.

I also suggest that for evolving a common policy for export of iron ore, we need discussions from time to time with Australia

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and Brazil, big exporter of iron ore like India.

Prof. Chattopadhyaya would be shortly visiting Japan for the meeting of the ECAFE. The opportunity of this visit should be taken to have in-depth discussions with the Japanese Government and businessmen to induce them to set up export-oriented enterprises of India. The future of world trade lies, in my view, in promoting exports of labour-intensive products and undertaking international sub-contracting. If we take quick measures, we should be able to make some positive advance in this direction.

It also occurs to me that serious studies must be initiated to assess the trade and economic impact of the coming together of China with Japan and America. From a long term point of view, the Chinese presence in the ECAFE region will be of great importance. The ending of war in Vietnam and the reconstruction and rehabilitation requirements of the region can also offer some opportunity for our export. On all these matters what is needed to have anticipatory planning of our commercial policy in close consultation with industry and trade.

One point which has been mentioned in the Report of the Ministry concerns the Ocean freight rates. The Ministry of Commerce is exerting itself in negotiating with the Conference Lines and some results have also been achieved. In recent months, however, the problem has become more and more acute. There is frequent levy of surcharges and freight hikes. The Conference Lines have also levied currency adjustment surcharge to the full extent of the dollar devaluation in February 1973, although there is no justification for increasing the surcharge to the full extent. I am of the view that India's national shipping lines must take a nationalistic view and help shape the policies of the Conference Lines in a manner that India's trade interests are not adversely affected. At the same time, I would suggest that the Ministry should examine the need for

introducing some form of compulsion through legislation or otherwise, before any shipping line operating in India can increase freight rates.

I would also like to make a plea for speedily setting up the Tobacco Marketing Board, to which a reference has been made in the Report. I would request the Minister to give topmost priority to this.

I think that the Ministry have done a commendable job in the year 1972-73 and not withstanding the difficulties that are at present, such as due to power shortage, it should be possible for us to plan for an export target of Rs. 2,000 crores in 1973-74.

SHRI C. JANARDHANAN (Trichur): Sir I rise to oppose these grants. The Ministry have come before us with a favourable trade balance and they have taken much pains in their report to establish that these improvements are due to the correctness of their 1970 policy resolution. I do not deny that there are many good points in their policy resolution.

Under this policy resolution three-fourths of the import trade and one-fifth of the export trade are canalised through public sector undertakings. While this is an achievement, I cannot understand why they cannot take over the entire import and export trade. What is the difficulty standing in their way? In order to fix priorities for essential things, to face more confidently the crisis in the international monetary system,—the recent devaluation of the US dollar, is the latest in the series— is it not better to nationalise the entire import and export trade?

This slogan was raised long back. But why this gradualness in the policy of this Government. Only some days back, the Minister had come out with a new import policy. Of course, there are some new points in it. I do not deny that. But there is no fundamental change, no basic change, in the new import policy also. They are taking over some more items; they are banning some more import items.

and they are fixing some compulsory export obligations on some non-traditional industries. All these are welcome features. But why can't we make a fundamental change in the policy. Why can't we nationalise the whole thing? I fail to understand that.

Coming to the performance of this Ministry, as I said at the outset, they have a favourable trade balance. As my hon. friend, Shri Somnath Chatterjee and my Congress friend also said, everybody admits that this favourable trade balance may not be favourable by the end of this year. Rs. 38 crores of this trade is with Bangladesh. We do not expect it to continue. The other main thing is Rs. 72 crores worth of leather-goods exports. It is about Rs. 35 crores or Rs. 38 crores—I do not know the exact figure—more than that what was during the period in 1971. There was a sudden boom in the international leather market and we tried to exploit it. The exploitation was unscrupulously done. Wherever we could manage, we exported leather abroad. It is not manufactured leather goods that we exported. It is only leather, finished, unfinished and hides that we exported. By that we got about Rs. 72 crores. It is good. But what happened to our home industry? Many of the small-scale leather industries were closed down. Thousands of workers were out of jobs. Is it a good practice or a wise policy to export raw material by killing the home industry and by throwing thousands of workers on the streets? I can understand the difficulties about foreign exchange resources. But this sort of short-term policy should not be resorted to. The Ministry should think over it. The same thing is about engineering goods also.

As other hon. Members also pointed out, consecutively for two years, 1971-72 and 1972-73, we are not reaching the target. This is supposed to be the growth sector. This year, our target was Rs. 200 crores. We have not reached even the target of Rs. 150 crores. What has happened?

Some reasons are given. Some say, it is due to high prices; some say, there are other difficulties also. Any way, we are not reaching the target. So, the picture given is not very rosy. Even now only our traditional items are going up or, rather, we are maintaining them. In the new field, we have not been able to make a break-through as we want.

Coming to the STC, I wish to point out one thing. There is a severe criticism about the functioning of STC. Business people say that the STC is taking too much commission. Apart from the commission, they give sales-tax also. If the STC is buying in bulk from abroad, the benefit should be given to the entrepreneurs. But they are not getting it. What is happening there? This has been going on for a long time. On every commodity this complaint is there. So, I would like to have a clarification on this point.

We had a great fair here, Asia 72. It was wonderful. They had done some good business also. But I would like to have a point clarified. Many countries participated in that, both West and Asiatic countries. But two countries were conspicuous by their absence, namely, U. K. and U.S.A. What happened to those countries? Did we not invite them, or did they refuse our invitation? I would like to know this. If they had refused to participate in this Asia 72 Fair, then I would like to know whether the Ministry or the Government would consider the proposition of breaking our trade relationship with those countries, however great they may be, who refused our invitation and thus insulted us. If they are not going to consider us as their equals, then why should we carry on having the relationship with them?

Then, I would like to come to some of the items. Marine products industry is an up and coming industry. We have, of course, shown some improvement in this item. But taking it as a whole, I would say that the industry is still in its infant stage. Only in Kerala it has developed

[Shri C. Janardhanan]
 a certain extent. But that industry is facing many difficulties. Apart from port development and other things, they were demanding more trawlers by which they could exploit the deep sea. These trawlers can be very useful for deep sea fishing. Our Government were having some negotiations with the Soviet Union and some other countries. But upto this time nothing has happened. No new trawler has come to this country. From the press reports I find that we are having some negotiations with Poland; Poland has agreed to supply us trawlers and they have even agreed to have an industry to build trawlers. I have seen this in the papers. I do not know the details of this agreement. I would like to ask the Minister to make a detailed statement on this agreement because that is vital to this industry.

Another point here is that when this industry is coming up, as usual, the monopolists, both foreign and Indian, like the Imperial Tobacco, Union Carbide, the DCM, Tatas and Birlas, are trying to enter the trade. Everybody seems to have suddenly developed an interest in this trade and they are trying to corner this business. So, I would like to know what steps the Government propose to take to curb these monopolists from entering this business because this business was developed all along by the small scale entrepreneurs in the country and we should see that the monopolists do not enter this trade and exploit our wealth.

Another thing, Sir Shipping has become the bottle-neck in our exports now. Not only this difficulty is there in respect of marine products exports, it is here in respect of engineering goods as also in respect of cashew nuts. It has become a major bottle-neck, I should say. Here, I would like to read out certain relevant portions from a letter, Mr. C. Achutha Menon, Chief Minister of Kerala, has written to Shri Raj Bahadur, our Shipping Minister. It is very relevant and I will

read out only the relevant and important portion :

"The main complaint is about the U.K. and Continental Conference lines. I should like to bring to your kind notice the following fact which I have been able to gather from the various Trade Associations.

The shipment of cargo from Malabar Coast—from Mangalore to Trivandrum—is the monopoly of the Malabar Coast/U.K. Conference and the Malabar Coast/Continental Conference.....

During the past 10 years the service has deteriorated, especially in respect of steamer opportunities to the U.K. and the Continent and provision of cargo space

MR. DEPUTY -SPEAKER : Too long a reference to shipping.....
 You are going out of the scope.

SHRI C. JANARDHANAN : Because it affects.....

MR. DEPUTY -SPEAKER : You can just refer to it, but don't dwell on it too long. Your time is limited.

SHRI C. JANARDHANAN : In this letter he has narrated the whole thing. There was a conference of shippers and in this conference the representatives of the Foreign Trade Ministry participated. There, at the conference, the representative of this conference line refused to give shipping facilities to our commodities and it is said—I will read only one para :

" Trade circles estimate that there are at least 20 crores of rupees worth of goods locked up in Cochin for the Conference ports (in the U.K. and the Continent). Some of these goods were required at the destinations for the 1972 X'Mas sales"
 "The cargo is still accumulating at the wharves."

I hope the Minister will now be convinced that the situation is very serious.

"So far as our export trade is concerned, it will bring a tremendous amount of business and foreign exchange and thousands of families engaged in the trade of various products as well as in the production of those goods and commodities will also be benefited and it will create a lot of employment. I therefore request you to urgently look into the matter."

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : That is to Shri Raj Bahadur and not to him.

SHRI C. JANARDHANAN : It concerns exports. Their representatives participated in the conference. That man did not raise a single finger against the attitude of the Conference representative.

Another important point is about rubber. In rubber the country has achieved self-sufficiency. Even then synthetic rubber is produced and it is also imported. Why should Government do it, I don't know. I request Government to stop importing synthetic rubber or manufacturing synthetic rubber. Accumulation of 15,000 tonnes of natural rubber is causing a situation of grave anxiety. This is lying with rubber growers. Government should immediately ask the STC to take this over. The problem is very serious and should be immediately looked into. Unless you have rubber-based industries the growers of rubber will be bound to face various difficulties. This is a problem which you can solve and for a long time we have been asking this Government to take proper actions in the matter. These foreign-owned plantations, both tea and rubber plantations, are trying to destroy our plantations. I am sorry to point this out. I request Government to take over these plantations. These rubber plantations owned by foreigners should be taken over by Government immediately. This is my plea.

I want to say a word about khadi and weavers. Khadi and Village Industries is a subject which is coming under this Ministry now. The workers coming under Khadi and Village Industries have been demanding gratuity, bonus and for some wage

increase due to rising cost of living. But nothing has been done to these people. This should be looked into. Handloom weavers are not getting the yarn. This is not only in Kerala, but throughout the country. They do not get yarn and unless immediate steps are taken to remedy the situation, it is going to be very hard on the weavers of this country. Thank you.

SHRI S. R. DAMANI (Sholapur) : I rise to support the Demands of the Ministry of Commerce. This is one of the most important economic Ministries of the Government of India. It looks after our exports in the sense that the exports increase as per targets, and also, they look into the reduction of our imports in the sense that imports are properly controlled and regulated. Industries like textiles, cotton, woolen, art-silk and the jute industry are under the control of this Ministry. Plantation industries like rubber, tea, coffee and other big industries which are exporting and which are meeting the internal requirements are also under the charge of our hon. Minister. Big corporations like STC, MMTTC, Cotton Corporation of India, are all under this Ministry. As such this Ministry has great economic importance and so far as the performance during the year is concerned, I think, this is very satisfactory. This is the first time our exports increased by 22 per cent. Opposition friends quoted some figures of world-trade. I don't know why we should at all get linked up with those factors. We are interested in our own export trade. We are interested to know whether our exports have increased or not. That is the point. That is the main criteria. Our exports increased by 22 per cent. This comes to Rs. 1800 crores. This is an all-time-high figure. I congratulate them and compliment them for this increase of export items. Textiles have contributed about Rs. 39 crores. more this year. The figure for tea for 6 months is Rs. 6.8 crores. The half-yearly figure for jute is an increase of Rs. 18 crores. There are many other items. Therefore, this increase in our export performance has been considerable.

[Shri S. R. Damani]

Side by side, our imports have declined. Against our target, our imports will be Rs. 1,640 crores. Thus there will be a surplus trade balance this year, the first year this has happened. Therefore, the working of the Ministry so far as the export and import performance is concerned is very satisfactory and all concerned should be complimented for it.

But while on this point, I would like to sound a note of caution. As we all know, during this year throughout the country, on account of the failure of the monsoon, there is a power shortage with the result that a cut ranging from 15 to 75 per cent has been imposed. This has already affected, and is still going to affect, industrial production. As such, it is a very essential that the Ministry should plan ahead so that our exports are maintained and that our imports do not increase. I hope Government will take proper care about this aspect of the matter.

I would now like to say something about textiles before I move on to other points. In the last few years, the textile industry was suffering on account of shortage of cotton and many units have had to go out of production. But in the last two years, cotton production has been very good. In 1971, our production was 72 lakh bales and in 1972 in spite of the failure of the monsoon in Gujarat and Maharashtra, it is 65 lakh bales. The result was that many units which have had to close down could resume work and increase production. This year our export of textiles has gone up by as much as Rs. 39 crores. After meeting the requirements of the country, this has been achieved. Similarly, in the decentralised sector also, the production of handlooms and powerlooms has gone up.

There is another new development. This year we will be exporting to Japan, who is our competitor in textiles, cotton textiles in a substantial quantity. This shows that our quality has improved and we will be able to meet their competition.

While on this, I would like to speak about the import duty of 40 per cent proposed to be imposed on cotton in this year's budget. The reason given by the Finance Minister for doing so is that this cotton is being used for superfine or fine cloth which is for the upper classes, and hence it is justified. But I do not know whether he is aware that already there exist a heavy percentage of levy on this very cotton which yields Rs. 25 crores or a little more. This amount is being utilised for encouraging our export. This is how our exports are going up in this industry. The total export of the textile industry has been Rs. 150 crores this year and in the next year it may reached more than Rs. 175 crores including our exports to Japan. The effort is made by the industry itself, and so, this increase in import-duty is going to affect the industry very — adversely.

14 hrs.

Side by side, I would like to say one thing. Many hon. Members have referred to the shortage of yarn and high prices of yarn, and how the handloom weavers are suffering. They have mentioned it. The reason is not far to seek. Because, yarn of fine and superfine counts is the raw material both for the handloom and the powerloom industries, and both the handloom and the powerloom industry are using 60, 80 and 100 counts of yarn. This proposed import duty will also effect the prices of yarn because such counts are made out of the imported cotton and this will contributed to the rise in the price of yarn. So, I request that the hon. Minister must take up the question of import duty with the Finance Ministry so that substantial relief is given to the industry in the matter of import duty and the export of both the handloom and the powerloom industry is not affected.

I would here like to make one suggestion to the hon. Minister. I have said that the production of the textile industry has been increasing. The time has come when the industry should be allowed expansion. The industry has not been allowed

any expansion for the last 30 many years. Now, it is very essential to meet the requirements of the country, to meet our export demand or to increase our export demand. In order to do this, it is very essential that the industry should be allowed to expand at least to the tune of 25 per cent and for that purpose the necessary foreign exchange for importing some plant and machinery which are not manufactured indigenously may be allowed. I would say that the hon. Minister should keep this in mind and do the needful to increase our production and also to increase the export, so that the industry can meet the home demand and maintain our export.

I would then like to say something about the STC's working and also about the working of the MMTC. It is a matter of regret that the MMTC has not shown in the last three or four years any improvement in the export. They are given the monopoly for exporting iron ore, manganese ore ferro-manganese ore. Every year, they fix a target which is never achieved. Last year, they mentioned a target of 13 million tonnes iron ore for export. Most of them were meant for Japan. Actually, their export has not been more than seven million to eight million tonnes. What is the use of fixing a target which is not achievable. Sometimes, they say there was a strike; sometimes they say that space was not available. The targets are not fulfilled. Therefore, I think the Minister should take care of the working of the Corporation and see that they fulfil the target. The labour is not getting employment and in most of the mines in Orissa and other backward States there is no alternative employment. Therefore, it is very essential that the MMTC should improve its functioning and the export of iron ore should be taken seriously.

Secondly, about the import of bulk commodities, that is, bulk purchases that are being made. According to my information, they issue tenders for 30 days or 40 days so that everybody knew what quantity was required to be imported. Suppliers of foreign countries join hands and

this contributes to high prices. Is this the system, and is it a business like purchase? In this way, it is well known that our country is not getting the benefit of bulk purchases by adopting this kind of tender system.

The STC are claiming that their exports are increasing but actually the export is not their own. Small entrepreneurs visit various countries, secure orders and export goods to those countries; they canalise their exports through the STC, which takes credit. What is the contribution of the STC in developing new markets—? What are the new items they have introduced? While replying to the debate, the hon. Minister should throw light on these points.

Lastly, about handicrafts board, the figure given is an export of Rs. 80 crores. If you examine it a little deeply, Rs. 50 crores are gems and diamonds. Are they handicrafts, actually? The handicrafts export is only Rs. 4.5 crores. We had great expectations of our artisans in rural areas; we felt that they should get employment and they should be able to export to many countries. But this is what is happening.

Lastly, my hon. friend talked about the nationalisation of the tea industry and also of the jute industry. I am not opposed to nationalisation; it is good in certain areas. But by constant repetition of this demand, one should know how much harm is being done to the country. It is known the life of a person is at the pleasure of God and the wealth of a person is at the pleasure of the Government. If one goes on shouting: nationalise it, it affects us injuriously. When the Government thinks fit they will nationalise it; they will not announce in advance. But this sort of shouting does not help the country.

*SHRI E. R. KRISHNAN (Salem):
Hon. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to place my views on behalf of my party the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam on the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Commerce for which the hon. Minister of

Commerce has sought the attention of this House.

Sir, in Tamil Nadu, next to agriculture, the handloom industry is the mainstay of many millions of people. There are about 5.5 lakhs of handlooms in Tamil Nadu upon which 20 lakhs of people are dependant for their livelihood. I am deeply pained to inform you, Sir that these so many lakhs of people engaged in handloom industry are undergoing unprecedented hardships and untold miseries for the past few months. In fact, they have reached the point of starvation. The main reason for this is the short fall in the production of yarn and the steep rise in the price of yarn during the past three months. I am sorry to say that even the misery of millions of handloom weavers is being exploited for political gains by the members of the ruling party here, who happen to be in opposition in Tamil Nadu. All the Opposition parties in Tamil Nadu are out to discredit the D.M.K. Government by staging protest marches, by organising *dharnas* before the Office of Collector, by conducting meetings to condemn the State Government. In my constituency, Salem, the situation is getting worsened day by day because of the violent approach of the members of the ruling party here, who are in opposition there. Taking advantage of this, some anti-social elements recently burn a State transport bus.

With a view to suggesting an immediate remedial step, the Tamil Nadu Assembly unanimously passed a Resolution sponsored by the State Industries Minister recommending that all the yarn produced in more than 200 spinning mills in the State should be exclusively distributed among the handloom weavers in the State. Our Chief Minister, Dr. Kalaignar Karunanidhi followed this by writing a detailed letter suggesting various steps to the Prime Minister on 24-2-1973. But the Central Ministry has paid so far no heed to these constructive suggestions.

I raised a Short Notice Question in this House on 2-3-73 to focus the attention of the Government on the grave situation prevailing in Tamil Nadu in the handloom industry. While replying to that Short Notice Question, the Hon. Minister of Commerce gave wrong information to the House stating that the Tamil Nadu Government had not lifted even the allotted yarn. I have to say categorically that such a favourable situation never arose in Tamil Nadu. But the opposition parties in Tamil Nadu, including the members of the ruling party here, took the cue from the Central Minister's wrong statement and made a mountain of the mole-hill. For them even a wrong statement from the Central Minister is a stick strong enough to beat the State Government. I am constrained to say that there seems to be a premeditated attempt on the part of the Centre and the members of the ruling party here who are in opposition in Tamil Nadu to discredit the State Government for no fault. I will not dilate on this much longer. Now, the Centre has controlled the distribution of yarn throughout the country. It is really regrettable that even now the requirement of yarn in Tamil Nadu is not being fully met. In March the requirement of yarn in 1 to 20 counts was 7750 bales, but the allotment was only 6610 bales, which comes to 85% of the requirement. The requirement of yarn in 21 to 40 counts was 7250 bales, but the allotment was 2297 bales, which is about 32% of the requirement. Above 40 counts the requirement of yarn in March was 5000 bales but the allotment was 903 bales, which is barely 18%. This is for handlooms. But for power-looms the requirement of cone yarn upto 40 counts in March was 16,000 bales, but the allotment was 1578 bales. It is only 9% of the requirement. The cone yarn requirement from 41 to 100 counts in March was 4000 bales and the allotment was 578 bales. It is about 14% of the requirement. Therefore, only 11966 bales have been allotted though the total requirement both for handlooms and for

power-looms in March was 40000 bales. I would like to know from you, Sir, whether this will even partially solve the problems of handloom weavers.

This may be called as adding insult to the injury. In Tamil Nadu there are 12 cooperative spinning mills. Under the new system the yarn produced in these mills has been brought under the General Pool System. Sir, you should know that there are 900 weavers' cooperative societies in Tamil Nadu in which there are many thousands of handloom weavers. Now they are also denied their supplies from these 12 cooperatives spinning mills. I strongly urge upon the hon. Minister of Commerce that the entire production of yarn in these 12 cooperative spinning mills should be taken away from the General Pool System and should be exclusively reserved for the 900 weavers' cooperative societies.

I would now refer to another annoying anomaly. When there is acute scarcity of yarn for handloom industry throughout the country it is really inexplicable to me that the Centre should maintain that the export of yarn should continue. The hon. Minister of Commerce has said this in very clear terms in this House. I entreat upon him that in the interest of millions of handloom weavers in the country the export of yarn should be stopped at least temporarily till the situation eases within the country. Unless this is done, the problem of handloom weavers will become very grave as has been mentioned by the hon. Members who preceded me.

Sir, there has been the long-standing demand that certain varieties of cloth should be exclusively reserved for the handloom sector, if it is to survive in competition with the mill-made cloth. Dr. Kalaignar Karunanidhi, the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu has written a letter in this regard also to the Prime Minister on 11-8-72. I appeal to the hon. Minister of commerce that certain varieties of cloth

should be exclusively reserved for the handloom sector and immediately a directive should be issued to this effect.

Sir, reverting for a while about the export of yarn, I would like to suggest that after stopping it temporarily steps must be taken to boost up the export of handloom cloth. You know, Sir, that till recently there was a craze in international markets for Indian handloom cloth.

If the Government really want to do something for the survival of traditional handloom industry in our country, all the spinning mills must be forthwith nationalised. Then only the handloom weavers will be able to get their requirement of yarn in full and in time.

Sir, the estimated expenditure for the Third Asian international Fair was Rs. 583 lakhs. But in the end there was 50% increase in the expenditure and the expenditure according to final calculations was Rs. 853 lakhs. I would like to know from the hon. Minister the reasons for 50% increase in the expenditure on III Asian International Fair.

Last year the price of coffee was 8-50 per kg. But now it is being sold at Rs. 12 per kg. you must be knowing, Sir, that all the common people in Tamil Nadu take coffee. In 1970-71 there was the record production of coffee, i. e. about 1,08,000 tonnes. This target of production was expected to be achieved only in 1973-74. As per the international agreements and on account of trade agreements with East European countries, in 1970-71 38,167 tonnes of coffee were exported and the remaining 69,833 tonnes were made available for indigenous markets. This led to a fall in price of coffee in March, 1971. In 1971-72 the production of coffee was just 68,000 tonnes, which was just 50% of 1970-71 production. In 1971-72 40,104 tonnes were exported, at the cost of indigenous requirement. In 1972-73 the production slightly went up to 87,000 tonnes, but still it was much less than 1970-72

[Shri E. R. Krishan]

production, I would like to know the reasons for sudden fall in coffee production during 1971-72 and 1972-73. I would also like to know what steps the Ministry has taken to bring back the coffee production to 1970-71 level.

The picture is not any different in tea also. In Darjeeling area 6 tea gardens have been closed. In North-east India many tea gardens are reported to be in the stage of being closed. What are the reasons for this? Besides this, there has been sudden drop in the export of South Indian tea. During April-December, 70 the export of South Indian tea was 31.02 million kgs.; during April-December, 71, 38.01 million kgs.; in April-December, 72, 32.69 million kgs. Is it that the quality of Nilgiris tea has gone down and this has resulted in less exports? If that is so, what steps the Government have taken to improve the quality of Nilgiris Tea? I would like to know the reasons for the closure of 6 tea gardens in the Darjeeling area. Have the Government tried to make out the reason for their closure? What steps have been taken to arrest this trend because tea is an important foreign exchange earner?

In reply to a question on 23.2.1973, the hon. Minister of Commerce stated that on account of scarcity of leather and steep rise in the price of leather, the footwear industry is in a crisis. He also said that a scheme is being formulated by the Government to assist the foot-wear industry. I want to know from the hon. Minister the details of this scheme and when this scheme is likely to be implemented.

Sir, the Khadi and Village Industries Commission has submitted a scheme to the Government for starting 445 rural fabric centres which will produce about 440 lakh metres of standard cotton cloth. This will also provide employment to 30,000 people. I request the hon. Minister to inform the House as to when this scheme will be implemented.

In reply to a question on 23.2.1973, the hon. Minister of Commerce stated that the information regarding the location of branches of Sahu Jain industries in foreign countries was not readily available. I need not say that the Ministry of Commerce has got a plethora of big and small officers. Without having information about the location of branches of companies like Sahu Jain and Co. in foreign countries, I wonder what kind of check can be exercised on this company in regard to alleged wide-spread practice of under-invoicing and over-invoicing indulged in by such companies.

On 14.2.1973 in the 'Times of India' there was an article giving details of wrong statistics supplied by the Directorate of Commercial Intelligence and Trade Statistics. Not only for the past two years, but also in 1972-73 this Directorate has given wrong figures about our trade. The Ministry of Commerce says that the exports to Bangla Desh in 1972-73 were of value of Rs. 78 crores, but this Directorate gave the figure at Rs. 29 crores. During the first eight months of last year, the Ministry reported that there was 16% increase in our exports. But according to this Directorate there was an increase of 23%. You will appreciate, Sir that such wrong statistics give a misleading picture of our economy. I feel that this Directorate could as well be wound up.

Before I conclude, I would urge upon the Government that all the export and import trade must be nationalised forthwith if the Government want to put an end to malpractices like under-invoicing and over-invoicing which in consequence lead to the creation of crores of black-market money, if the Government want to put an end to malpractices leading to expropriation of valuable foreign exchange by private traders, if the Government want to sustain the name of Indian goods in foreign countries and if the Government want to boost up our export trade. The Government which do not hesitate to swear by socialism cannot allow the export and import trade in private hands.

The export and import trade must be nationalised forthwith so that the nation's interest is served better.

With these words I conclude.

SHRI DINESH CHANDRA GOSWAMI (Gauhati): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, while taking my stand here to support the Demands for Grants, I will emphasize only one item of this grant, and that is the item of tea, an item which touches every individual in this country, because we cannot think of Indian hospitality without a cup of tea. This is an industry which holds a very important place in the Indian economy, a fact which tends to be ignored by many.

If we look at the specialities of the tea industry we find that today it ranks as the largest employer of labour in the organised sector in this country and more than one million workers are directly employed in this industry. Even in Bengal, which is ridden with acute unemployment, tea industry gets a very high place with 2,50,000 people in the muster rolls whereas in the jute industry which occupies the primary place in the State, the number of workers in the muster roll is only 2,00,000. Secondly, tea today is undoubtedly the second largest foreign exchange earner without adequate export incentives. Thirdly, it is the only land-based industry where agricultural operations are organised with workers on land getting guaranteed wages, allowances, housing and medical benefits etc. as compared to tobacco, sugar, jute and cotton textiles where we find the agriculturists are unprotected and disorganised. Another special feature of this industry is that it has carried modern development to the remote corners of Assam, the hilly areas of Darjeeling and the backward region of Duars. Also we must remember that in yield per hectare Indian tea tops the world whereas in the field of rice or wheat India does not come within the top 35 nations of the world. Furthermore without regular supply of institutional credit, even though tea is a low profit and slow gestation industry, it has remarkably raised output

by 63 per cent from 278 million kgs. in 1950 to 452 million kgs. in 1972.

From the social point of view, we find that tea is a low profit industry. A recent Reserve Bank of India survey shows that while in 1965-66 the gross profit as percentage of total capital employed in tea was 7.7% the corresponding figure for the year 1968-69 was only 5.1 whereas the relevant figures for tobacco for the same period show that there is an increase of more than 2 per cent in 1968-69 from 10% to 112%.

The most unfortunate feature is that in spite of these special and beneficial aspects, the tea industry is facing a big crisis throughout the country. As mentioned by the previous speaker a number of tea gardens in north eastern region are facing closure or many are already closed. In Assam 10 gardens are closed 9 for the last three years and one from January, 1972. In West Bengal 16 gardens were closed and 40 are struggling for survival. In Tripura two gardens are under closure. The attention of Government is urgently necessary in various directions today to remove maladies prevailing in the industry.

As time will not permit me to dwell on all the maladies, I will lay emphasis on only one aspect. I mentioned this aspect even during last year's discussion on the Demands for Grants of this Ministry. To my utter dismay, I have to say that I have not received any reply from the Ministry concerned or the authorities concerned as to what they have done about the serious complaint that I made about this point last year.

The point that I wanted to refer is regarding the inequitable levy of excise. There is inequitable levy of excise duty in different Zones in India today. The levy of excise duty has risen 15 times during the last 12 years from 10 Paise per pound in 1958 to Rs. 1.50 per Kg. in 1970. But, the more important factor is that this disproportionately high rate of excise duty has not been levied uniformly throughout the

[Shri Dinesh Chandra Goswami]
country. But, the country has been divided into 5 Zones and different rates have been fixed for the 5 Zones. In Zone I it is 25 paise; Zone II 50 Paise, Zone III—Darjeeling Rs. 1.50 paise, Zones IV Rs 1.00 and Zone V—export-oriented Assam tea Rs. 1.15 paise. That means, it varies from 25 Paise to Rs. 1.15 paise. Till now, Government has not been able to produce any thing to justify the reasonableness or the rationality of the formation of the Zones or the fixation of the rates. This levy has put the two most export-oriented Zones, namely Zones III and V, at a great disadvantageous position.

Now, in matters of export, tea in some cases gets a rebate of 75 paise per Kg. Thus in Zone I, in those cases of admissible rebate producer is getting back 50 Paise, Zone II—25 paise, But in Darjeeling, they will have to pay to the exchequer 75 Paise and in Upper Assam 40 paise. My main objections against the differences in the levy are that it is un-related to the differences in cost, price or yield. I would have understood some sort of a bigger excise levy if the cost of production of tea either in Darjeeling or in Assam, would have been lower, or in the export market if they have got some price un-related to the cost of production. Statistics do show however that whereas, money wages in tea in the three States together has risen by 126.8%, in Zone V, which has to pay a very high rate of excise duty, it has risen by 209.4 per cent. On the one hand, you are squeezing Zone V with a very high rate of excise duty. On the other hand, the cost of production has gone up. Under these conditions, how can you expect that tea in this Zone will remain export-oriented. The unfortunate part is that the differential excise duty falls mostly on the two export-oriented Zones. Darjeeling and Assam Zones, the two famous for their liquor and flavour.

I will only submit that the rebate as sole incentive lacks leverage—being partial, delatory and linked to wayward prices overseas. We have also seen that the complicated rebate formula and deferred

documentation increases paper work, blocks scarce resources and incurs risks of currency fluctuation. The only assumption on which the Ministry probably wants to stand at this levy or the difference, is that higher duty has an easy escape via export. They want to suggest, probably that because they are export zones, they have the capacities to pay more revenue. But, Sir, if we look to the price fetched in the auction market in London, we find that the situation is entirely otherwise. I have got some statistics. In 1954, in the London Auction market, our tea fetched a price of 63.3 pence per pound which came down to 48 pence in 1966, I do have all the figures but I shall quote only a few. It came down to 44.1 pence in 1969 and then it picked up in 1970 to 49.7 pence. It has come down to 41.6 pence in 1972. It means that our tea is fetching a price today, which is 21.7 pence less per pound. Though in Assam, in 1971, the production of tea increased by 6 per cent than the corresponding figures for 1970, Assam tea was selling at an average of 42 pence in the London market compared to 49.7 pence per Kg. earlier. It has come down further to 41.6 pence in the last year, i.e. 1972. Obviously, on the one hand, the fall in the price in the London market, and on the other hand, rise in the levy, a rise which is inequitable, has put the entire tea industry in a great crisis. Government tries to justify and show that it does not have any effect on the exports, because, exports have risen. They want to rely upon the figure of 1971 and 1972 to prove that exports have risen. But, unfortunately, the officials of the Government take only a cursory view of the statistics. After all, there are three kinds of lies—lies, damn lies and statistics. It is the third kind of lies which is playing its part in the export trade, I will show that from the statistics themselves.

According to the official figures, the total export of Indian tea in 1956 was 237.4 Kg. million. It came down in 1969 to 168.7 million Kg. It picked up to 206.1 million Kg. in 1971 and to

207.4 million Kg. in 1972. Even here in 1972, we have not reached the export figure of 237.4 million Kg. of 1956. The officials try to say that because in 1969, our export was 168.7 million Kg. in 1971, it was 206.1 million Kg. and today it is 207.4 million Kg; there has been a rise in exports. But they have not taken into account the factors due to which suddenly in 1971 there was a momentum of export in the international tea market from India.

What were the factors. One of the factors was that for some reason or other, in 1969, tea price rose in London and it picked up from 44% to 49.7 d. It gave a boost to the producers to put more tea in London market. The fact is that, in 1970, because of the rebate formula, a healthy optimism grew in the tea industry, which subsequently corporated and this opinion led to an increase in exports. But the more important fact which the officials of the Commerce Ministry tend to forget is that in 1971, there was a draught in East Africa and, therefore, tea production was greatly affected there and they could not supply tea adequately to the London market. Then around 1970, there was insurgency in Ceylon due to which there was a telling effect upon the tea production and Ceylon could not supply tea to London market. Again, the officials of the Ministry tend to forget that because of Bangladesh trouble in 1971, tea could not pass from East Pakistan to West Pakistan and whatever production there was in Ceylon was diverted to west Pakistan and therefore, they could not fulfil their commitments to London market. For these reasons, in 1971, our exports showed an increase in 1972. If the statistics show an increase in exports, I say, that increase is misleading. Again because of Bangladesh trouble in 1971 and other things we could not supply all our commitments in 1971, and we fulfilled a part of our commitment in 1972 and that is why, in 1972, the figures have shown an increase in exports. If you compare the entire fact, keeping in view all these aspects, I would submit humbly but with all authority at my command that our

tea export is not as rosy as the officials of the Commerce Ministry want to show.

Let us see the figures of exports to traditional countries. In 1951, we exported to U. K. 136.3 million Kg. of tea. In 1971, it has come down to 71.3 million Kg., that is, a decrease of 65 million Kg. Our only healthy sign today is that we are exporting more to Russia. It has risen from 1 million Kg. to 41.3 million Kg. Other countries which are competing with us will try to increase their exports to Russia and other Socialist countries unless the Ministry gives a face-lift to the tea industry.

On the export of tea, I would request the Ministry to take into account the following factors. Firstly, they should see whether our official trade policy is export-oriented. My own submission that they take tea export too much for granted as "traditional", ignoring world market realities of falling demand and rising supplies and competition from other tea producing countries and alternative beverages. Quality tea as staple of Indian exports is squeezed between rising internal costs and falling international prices. Then, we cannot have more quality crop because of the inequitable excise levy. The tendency has been to substitute quality by quantity in the zone where the levy is too high.

Excise structure leading exported tea with sizeable levies places Indian tea a great disadvantage, in competition with subsidised over-supply of cheap tea in the world market. Therefore, I will put forward before the Government the following suggestions. My first suggestion will be that the zonal excise levy should be restructured. I know that many of the important business houses are playing their part in the Commerce Ministry and are trying to avoid this restructure. For example, one of the most influential houses in the tea market today, namely, Duncan Brothers have got their total production of 21 lac kg. in Assam, whereas their pro-

[Shri Dinesh Chandra Goswami]

duction in other areas is 192 lac kg., Precisely because of this that Duncan Brothers find that the tea excise levy is more in Assam and is less in other areas and it is profitable for them as such to compete with Assam growers at the present rate of excise and they have used all their influence to prevent rationalisation of the duty. Then, we have also the Birla Brothers. I can name some more, but the time at my disposal does not permit me. These are the business houses which are trying to scuttle, destroy, the Commerce Ministry's efforts to restructure the excise levy. I would, therefore humbly submit that, today, a fresh thinking should be made.

Promotion of demand for our tea is an urgent need. Efforts should be made to explore new markets like Japan, and in that context, I will read out one paragraph from the *Hindustan Standard*, Calcutta, of 15th February 1973 :

"With the main promotional avenues such as the cinema, television and radio shut out, the media available for propaganda are limited. Sri Lank Tea Bureau works through merchandising, road-advertising and public relations. Releases about Sri Lanka and her tea industry are made occasionally in the local papers. Its two large hoardings always confront the traveller on the Jeddah/Mecca and Jeddah/Medina roads..."

This is about Saudi Arabia.

"India, in comparison, is suffering from lack of any good campaign" An intensified campaign for tea abroad should be made.

Large scale replantation and replacement should take place. According to a recent survey, more than 56 per cent of our tea-bushes are 26-60 years old. I am happy, the Ministry has constituted a task force to look after this matter.

I would submit that the Tea Board should be reconstituted and its function reviewed. I have, with me, a letter from a small company which has lamented about the Tea Board. The Garden, the proprietor of which Shri J. K. Baruah, who is a personal friend of mine, has written this:

"The Tea Board is concerned only with technicalities more cumbersome and time-consuming and surpasses the Government machinery in its usefulness.

"Some loopholes in the application will be dug out to defeat the claims of smaller concerns.

"Only big producers who have got their offices in Calcutta and have connections with the Tea Board offices can get the benefit."

This type of feeling in the minds of small producers is extremely dangerous, and detrimental to the growth of the industry.

Before I conclude, I want to lay emphasis on another aspect that is, about the prospect of export of silk to other areas. I would request the Ministry to consider granting permission to export raw silk yarn or spun silk yarn to other countries. Also, the Ministry should take into account the possibility of increasing the export market in a yarn which is produced in Assam known as "Muga". This golden coloured yarn, which has no parallel in the world, has a tremendous export potential. I would request the Ministry to start a project known as project Muga. When an Assamese lady with Muga travels outside invariably all ladies enquire, 'how have you coloured this?' And they find it hard to believe that this a natural colour. The production of Muga clothes today is primarily located in a place called Swalkuchi in my own constituency. I can say with emphasis that, if a project for proper export of this yarn is taken up, this place will occupy a very important place in the

economy of the country. Many unemployed educated persons are interested in taking up this project. I would request the hon. Minister to take this project in hand.

I would particularly request this Ministry to see that we are not given an impression that we merely raise certain subjects here and they are not to be replied by the Ministry. I raised the question of inequitable levy of excise duty last year, but it has not been replied till now. I hope that reasonable and rational replies to the points that I have raised will follow.

डा० लक्ष्मी नारायण पाण्डेय (मंसौर) :
उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, प्रतिवर्ष सरकार द्वारा व्यापार नीति लागू की जाती है और कहा जाता है कि उम नीति के कारण आयात में कमी होगी और निर्यात में वृद्धि होगी और इन दोनों के बीच का जो गैप है वह घटेगा और इसमें विदेशी मुद्रा की भी कमी बचत होगी। लेकिन सरकार द्वारा दिये गये आंकड़ों से और उसके द्वारा दी गई रिपोर्टों से ऐसा भालूम पड़ता है कि सरकार द्वारा कही नयी ये बातें सरासर असत्य सिद्ध होती हैं। मैं उदाहरण देना चाहता हूँ। सरकार द्वारा कुछ अनुमानित आंकड़े तय किये गये थे और तय किया गया था कि हमें कितना आयात और कितना निर्यात करना है। आपकी अपनी जो 1972-73 की रिपोर्ट है उसके पेज 13 पर आप कहते हैं :

“With 1968-69 as the base year for the current Fourth Five Year Plan, exports increased by 4.1 per cent during 1969-70, by 8.6 per cent in 1970-71, and by 4.6 per cent in 1971-72. This amounts to an average compound growth rate of 5.8 per cent per annum. The targetted rate of growth for the Fourth Plan was 7 per cent.”

सात प्रतिशत आपका अनुमानित लक्ष्य था लेकिन आपको प्राप्त केवल पांच के कुछ ऊपर हुई। एक्सपोर्ट के बारे में इसको आपने स्वयं स्वीकार किया है। दूसरी तरफ आपने कहा है कि एक्सपोर्ट में आप और वृद्धि करेंगे। लेकिन वृद्धि तो हुई नहीं। बहुत सी चीजों से बहुत ज्यादा फारेन एक्म-चेंज प्राप्त किया जा सकता था और उनको निर्यात करके विदेशों में काफी साख जमाई जा सकती थी, लेकिन उनके अन्दर भी बहुत भारी गिरावट आई है। पेज 14 पर आप कहते हैं :

“The export of the following commodities during this year declined noticeably as compared with the 1970-71 figures : iron and steel, iron ore, ferromanganese, oilcakes and engineering goods. Shortage of steel in the country was responsible for the sharp decline in the exports of iron and steel....”

आपने इसके कुछ कारण दिये हैं लेकिन मैं समझता हूँ कि ये कोई विशेष कारण नहीं है कि इनसे बुरा असर पड़ता। मैं समझता हूँ कि एक्सपोर्ट्स के बारे में जिस प्रकार की आपको दृष्टि रखनी चाहिये थी, जिस प्रकार से उसकी कार्यान्विति होनी चाहिये थी, नहीं हुई है। इसके विपरीत जो इम्पोर्ट की फिगरें हैं वे काफी ऊंची गई हैं। वे घटी नहीं हैं। इन तरह से जो ट्रेड का गैप था जो कि घटना चाहिये था वह घटा नहीं। यह भी आपकी रिपोर्ट बताती है। आपने कहा तो है कि गैप घटा है लेकिन मुझे लगता नहीं है कि वह घटा है। आपने नौ महीने के आंकड़ों के आधार पर बातें कही हैं। लेकिन पूरे वर्ष के बाद आप देखेंगे तो आपको पता चलेगा कि गैप 265 करोड़ का जो था वह

[डा० लक्ष्मी नारायण पाण्डेय]

उतना ही है, उसमें कोई कमी नहीं आयी है। इसमें आप स्वयं इम्पोर्ट्स के बारे में कहते हैं :

"During 1971-72 the total imports were of the order of Rs. 1812 crores, which meant an increase of 11 per cent over the 1970-71 figure."

इससे साफ जाहिर होता है कि आप कही गई बात से पीछे हटते हैं। आप आर्थिक समीक्षा को देखें तो उसके पेज 77 पर आपने स्वयं इसको स्वीकार किया है। आप कहते हैं कि :

"कुल मिलाकर 1971-72 में, अपरम्परागत वस्तुओं का निर्यात निराशाजनक रहा। देश के अन्दर कुछ प्रतिकूल घटनाएँ घट जाने के कारण इंजीनियरी वस्तुओं के निर्यात से, जिनका निर्यात अभी हाल के वर्षों में काफी तेजी से बढ़ रहा था, केवल 118.4 करोड़ रुपयों की प्राप्ति हुई।"

निर्यात नीति के सम्बन्ध में भी आप भागे चल कर पेज 83 पर कहते हैं :

"उत्पादन की तुलना में निर्यात से होने वाली आय के अनुपात में भी कोई महत्वपूर्ण वृद्धि नहीं हुई। इस प्रकार निर्यात में वृद्धि करने के लिये जोरदार प्रयत्न किये जाने तथा व्यापार में काफी विविधता लाने के बावजूद निर्यात में उसी गति से वृद्धि हुई जिस गति से कुल उत्पादन में हुई थी।"

इससे साफ हो जाता है कि उतनी वृद्धि नहीं हुई जितनी की आप अपेक्षा करते थे।"

फिर भागे चल कर आप कहते हैं :

"1971-72 से समाप्त होने वाले दशक में जूट की बनी हुई वस्तुओं, चाय और काजू की गिरी जैसी महत्वपूर्ण वस्तुओं के निर्यात के अनुपात में लगभग बराबर गिरावट आयी रही।"

ये आपके वॉडिग हैं रिपोर्ट में। आज मायका के बारे में स्थिति भी चिन्तनीय है।

दूसरी तरफ भारत के निर्यात और अन्य देशों के निर्यात में किस प्रकार की असमानता रही है, उसकी भी तुलना करके आप देखें तो आपको पता चलेगा कि 1960 में हमारे निर्यात का जो प्रतिशत था वह 1.3 था जो कि 1971 में घट कर 0.9 रह गया और 1972 में 0.7 रह गया। यह निरन्तर घटता रहा है। अन्य देशों के निर्यात की तुलना में हम देखें तो पता चलेगा कि उनका 343.2 था। इससे साफ पता चलता है कि अन्य देशों का निर्यात निरन्तर बढ़ा है और हमारा निरन्तर घटा है।

मैं निवेदन करना चाहता हूँ कि निर्यात के बारे में आपने जिस प्रकार की नीति बनाई है और उस पर चल कर जो आपने आया की थी कि निर्यात बढ़ेगा, वह बढ़ा नहीं है इस बाबत आपको उस नीति पर फिर से विचार करना चाहिये। निर्यातकों के मन से जो क्षारणमें बनी हुई हैं, जो शंकायें बनी हुई हैं उसको आपको दूर करना होगा। उनको पता नहीं कि किस चीज की आप सब अपने हाथ में ले लें, सब को निर्यात करने वाले

है, किस संकेत पर किस किस चीज को आप उद्योग को सप्लाय करोगे, करोगे भी या नहीं करोगे, किने रेट्स पर करोगे, इस सबके बारे में उनके मन में जो धारणाएँ हैं, जो धारणाएँ हैं, उनको यदि आप दूर करने का प्रयत्न करेंगे तो मैं समझता हूँ कि निर्यात में वृद्धि होने की सम्भावना बढ़ सकती है अन्यथा निर्यात में वृद्धि नहीं होगी। आज स्थिति यह है कि निर्यात आपका घटा है और जिस गति से वह बढ़ना चाहिए था, नहीं बढ़ा है।

मैं सभी विषयों में जाना नहीं चाहता और न ही ऐसा करना थोड़े से समय में सम्भव है। टैक्सटाइल के बारे में भी आपने नीति बनाई है। काटन कारपोरेशन भी रुई के वास्ते बनाया है। उसके द्वारा आप कहते हैं कि आप काटन की सप्लाय करेंगे। कुछ सिक मिल्स को भी आपने अपने हाथ में लिया है, माडरनाइजेशन के नाम पर करोड़ों रुपया आपने उनको दिया है। पता नहीं कब माडरनाइजेशन होगा, किस तरह से ये सुधरेगी। यह दूसरी बात है और इसको मैं उठाना नहीं चाहता हूँ। लेकिन काटन का जहाँ तक सम्बन्ध है, काटन कारपोरेशन ने जब से काटन को अपने हाथ में लिया है इसकी कीमतों में निरन्तर गिरावट आई है और दूसरी तरफ मिल वाले चिल्लाते रहे हैं कि हमें रा मैटीरियल नहीं मिल रहा है, किसानों को कीमतें कम मिल रही हैं और मिल वालों को रा मैटीरियल ठीक ढंग से और समय पर नहीं मिल रहा है। यह स्थिति सरकार की नीति को कारण पैदा हुई है। सरकार ने अभी घोषणा की है कि सूत का सारा कारोबार वह अपने हाथ में लेगी और उसने इसको

से भी लिया है। जब से ऐसा हुआ है तब से तमिलनाडू में ही नहीं जिसकी चर्चा अभी माननीय सदस्य कर रहे थे, महाराष्ट्र, में, मध्य प्रदेश में, उत्तर प्रदेश में, सभी जगह सूत का एक प्रकार से संकट पैदा हो गया है। मैं अखबार को उद्धृत करना चाहता हूँ। इन्दौर से निकलने वाला यह नई दुनिया अखबार है। इसके 2-4-73 के अंक में यह छपा है, समाचार बरहानपुर से है :-

“नगर के साइजिंग मिल्स एसोसिएशन के एक प्रवक्ता ने पत्रकारों को बताया कि सूत व्यापार के राष्ट्रीयकरण एवं शासन की सूत वितरण प्रणाली के परिणामस्वरूप नगर के दस साइजिंग मिले आगामी 10—15 दिन में बन्द होने की स्थिति में आ गई हैं। प्रवक्ता ने बताया कि लगभग एक हजार मजदूर बेकार हो जायेंगे। नगर की साइजिंग मिलें लगभग 70 प्रतिशत बिजली करबों की बीम की पूर्ति करती रही हैं। यदि इन मिलों को सूत नहीं मिला तो बीम बनने बन्द हो जायेंगे।”

यह एक स्थान की बात नहीं है। अनेक स्थानों पर ऐसी स्थिति है। चाहे हथकरघे हों या पावर लूम्स हों, उनके सामने भयकर संकट आकर खड़ा हो गया है। जिस प्रकार से सूत का उत्पादन बढ़ना चाहिये था और उत्पादन बढ़ाने की ओर हमारा ध्यान जाना चाहिये था वह भी नहीं गया। इसका उत्पादन भी घटा है। इस कारण भी आज भयंकर स्थिति आ कर खड़ी हो गई है। हजारों बीबर्ब के सामने जीवन नरण का प्रश्न

[डा० लक्ष्मी नारायण पाण्डेय]

पैदा हो गया है। कहां से सूत लायें और हथकरघा कैसे चलायें, कहां से सूत प्राप्त करें, किसके द्वारा प्राप्त करें? आप कोई वितरण प्रणाली अभी तक स्थापित नहीं कर पाये हैं। किन के जरिये आप सप्लाई करवायेंगे, वितरण करावेंगे और किन प्राइजिज पर इसका कुछ पता नहीं है। वितरण कब प्रारम्भ होगा और किस राज्य में कौन सी एजेंसी काम करेगी, इस बारे में कोई निश्चय नहीं किया गया है। इसका परिणाम यह है कि सूत के दाम बढ़ रहे हैं। 1972-73 के पहले छ महीनों में सूत का उत्पादन तो बट गया और उसके दाम दो डेढ़ गुना बढ़ गये हैं। आपका मंत्रालय इस दिशा में अक्षम सिद्ध हुआ है।

साडी बूल की सप्लाई और रेंज स्कैडल के बारे में इस सदन में काफी चर्चा हुई है। खास तौर से पंजाब में ऊन के वस्त्रों का उत्पादन करने वाले लघु उद्योग पर कच्चा माल न मिलने के कारण भयकर सकट आया है। मैं आशा करता हू कि इस सम्बन्ध में अमृतसर के हेडलूम साडी वीवर्स एंड प्रोसेजर्स एसोसिएशन लिमिटेड की ओर से मंत्री महोदय को जो मेमोरेडम दिया गया है, वह उस पर ध्यान देंगे और इस उद्योग की कठिनाइयों को दूर करने का प्रयत्न करेंगे।

रंग के बारे में जो कुछ हुआ, वह किसी से छिपा नहीं है। करोड़ों रुपये का माल आया और सीधे सीधे बाजार में बिका। बूझे आशा है कि सी० बी० आई० ने इस बारे में जो एनक्वायरी की है, उससे कुछ

निष्कर्ष निकलेंगे। लेकिन इससे इन्कार नहीं किया जा सकता है कि उसमें भारी गोलमाल हुआ है और इस बात से भी इन्कार नहीं किया जा सकता है कि उस गोलमाल में बड़े अधिकारी भी सम्मिलित हुए होंगे।

एस० टी० सी० बहुत सी चीजों का बाहर से आयात करता है और अपने देश में उनका वितरण करता है। इस सदन में यह प्रश्न कई बार उठाया गया है कि एस० टी० सी० द्वारा किसी चीज पर कितना मुनाफा कमाया जाये और उस चीज को किस दाम पर बेचा जाये। एस० टी० सी० किसी चीज पर 10 प्रतिशत मुनाफा कमाता है, किसी चीज पर 20 प्रतिशत मुनाफा कमाता है और किसी चीज पर 70 प्रतिशत तक मुनाफा कमाता है। 70 प्रतिशत मुनाफा कमा कर जब वह उस चीज को किसी उद्योग को देता है, तो उसका परिणाम यह होता है कि उस उद्योग द्वारा बनाई गई चीज बहुत महंगी बिकती है। हम निरन्तर इस बात का प्रयत्न करते हैं कि हमारे देश में चरलू इस्तेमाल की चीजों का उत्पादन बढ़े और वे उपभोक्ता को उचित दाम पर मिलें। लेकिन जब एस० टी० सी० 70 प्रतिशत मुनाफा कमा कर किसी चीज को उद्योग को देता है, तो उससे बनाई जाने वाली वस्तुयें भी बाजार में महंगी बिकती हैं। मैं चाहता हू कि संघी महोदय इस बारे में स्थिति स्पष्ट करें। स्टेनलेस स्टील के बारे में भी छोटे उद्योग वालों को माल मिलने के बारे में शिकायत है, इसे आप दूर करें।

घाँफड़ों को देखने से पता चलता है कि एस० टी० सी० सल्फर पर हाइड्रेट मुनाफा कमा रहा है। कुछ कैमिकल्स के बारे में सरकार ने यह व्यवस्था कर रखी है कि जूके देश में उनका उत्पादन भारी मात्रा में होता है, इसलिये विदेशों में उनके आयात पर प्रतिबन्ध लगा हुआ है। इम्पोर्ट ट्रेड कंट्रोल पालिसी 1972-73, के बाल्यूम 1, पेज 199 पर "कैमिकल्स, दि इम्पोर्ट आफ विच बिल नाट बी एलाउड" के अन्तर्गत एल्युमिनियम फास-फाइड भी आता है। लेकिन "कैमिकल इंडस्ट्री न्यूज" नामक पत्रिका के एपेंडिक्स के पेज 6 पर बताया गया है कि कितना एल्युमिनियम फासफाइड बाहर में मगाया गया। उस में क्वार्टिटी 40.0 एम० टन और उसकी कीमत 411 हजार रुपये दी गई है। यद्यपि देश में एल्युमिनियम फासफाइड का उत्पादन भारी मात्रा में होना है, लेकिन फिर भी किमी कम्पनी विशेष के प्रति सहानुभूति प्रकट करने के लिये सरकार द्वारा उसको निर्यात क्रिया जाता रहा है। मैं उम कम्पनी का नाम बना सकता हूँ। उस कम्पनी का नाम डेलिगिया (आई) लिमिटेड है और उसको जी० डी० आर० से 9950 किनोग्राम एल्युमिनियम फासफाइड जिनकी कीमत लगभग एक लाख रुपये है, मगाने की अनुमति दी गई। यह कैमिकल हमारे देश में काफी पैदा हो रहा है और उसको बाहर भेजा जा सकता है। लेकिन यहाँ पर भाल डम्प हो रहा है फिर भी किसी फर्म को लाभ पहुँचाने के लिये उसको बाहर से मगाया जा रहा है। मंत्री महोदय, उत्तर देने समय बतायें कि इस प्रकार की घाँघली में किन लोगों का हाथ है।

बंगाल में फाइबर रोप इंडस्ट्री को उसका रा मैटीरियल-सिस्ल एंड मैमिला फाइबर नहीं मिल रहा है, जिसके कारण वह इंडस्ट्री सफर कर रही है। इसका परिणाम यह है कि उसमें काम करने वाले हजारों मजदूरों के सामने बेरोजगारी का संकट बढ़ा हो गया है।

काटन, चमड़ा और फाइबर रोप आदि उद्योगों के लिये रा मैटीरियल की शॉर्टेज के कारण आन्तरिक व्यापार से सम्बन्धित उन छोटी छोटी इंडस्ट्रीज में गिरावट आई है। मैं आशा करता हूँ कि मंत्री महोदय इस तरफ ध्यान देंगे।

अभी एक माननीय सदस्य ने टी इंडस्ट्री के बारे में चर्चा की है। मैं उसमें विस्तार से नहीं जाना चाहता हूँ। लेकिन पब्लिक एकाउन्ट्स कमेटी, 1971-72 की 28वीं रिपोर्ट में बनाया गया है कि चाय बागान में फारेनर्स द्वारा जो एनक्रोचमेंट की गई है, सरकार उसको समाप्त करने में अग्रफल रही है। सरकार चाय बागान के सम्बन्ध में कोई सुनिश्चित नीति निर्धारित नहीं कर पाई है। मीलिंग के बारे में कोई स्पष्ट नीति या विचार-धारा न होने के कारण चाय-बागान के मालिकों ने चालीस पचास बरस पुरानी टी बुशिंग के स्थान पर नया प्लान्टेशन नहीं किया गया है। इसका परिणाम यह है कि हमारे इतने बड़े उद्योग को हानि पहुँच रही है और उसमें काफी गिरावट आई है। हमारी चाय की क्वालिटी गिरी है। मैं चाहता हूँ कि मंत्री महोदय इस उद्योग की ओर ध्यान देने की कृपा करें।

[डा० बलबी नारायण पाण्डेय]

खादी प्रामोद्योग के कर्मचारियों को ठीक वेतनमान नहीं दिये जा रहे हैं। मेरा निवेदन है कि उन लोगों की न्यूनतम भागों की पूर्ति की जाये और उन्हें ठीक वेतन दिये जायें, ताकि खादी तथा अन्य लघु उद्योगों का विलेज इंडस्ट्री के रूप में उत्थान हो। वहाँ काम करने वाले कर्मचारियों का शोषण बन्द हो।

एक्सपोर्ट्स में हमारे असफल रहने का एक कारण यह है कि कई बार हमारे देश में क्वालिटी की तरफ पूरा ध्यान नहीं दिया जाता है और हम क्वालिटी में पिछड़ जाते हैं। इसी कारण श्रीलंका और बर्मा को हमारे देश में मसालो और चिल्लीज व मोनिचम का निर्यात घट गया है। हमारे निर्यात में लाखों रुपये की कमी हुई है। हम अपने देश से छोटी छोटी किन्तु कई वस्तुएं निर्यात कर सकते हैं, उदाहरण के लिये राफास्केट, पापीहस्क को भी निर्यात किया जा सकता है। इनसे भी करोड़ों रुपयों की विदेशी मुद्रा अर्जित की जा सकती है।

हमारी ठीक क्वालिटी हो और हम ठीक क्वांटिटी में समय पर सामान दे सकें। इसका बिचार जरूरी है। इस के साथ साथ हमारा जो शिपमेंट में बहुत ज्यादा टाइम लगता है वह कम हो। काठला जो व्यापार क्षेत्र है वहाँ हमारे व्यापारी आ कर के व्यापार करने में हिचक अनुभव करते हैं। उस की तरफ माननीय मन्त्री जी देखें कि उन की क्या कठिनाई है? हमारा निर्यात व्यापार बढ़े और आयात और निर्यात में एक सन्तुलन पैदा हो जिस से हम अपनी पूँजी बढ़ा सकें।

निर्यात अधिकतम हो और आन्तरिक आवश्यकता की वस्तुएं जो है हम अधिक से अधिक अपने यहां उत्पादन कर के उन की पूर्ति करें। देश के अन्दर जो आवश्यक वस्तुएं हैं जिन के कारण हमें आयात करना पड़ता है उन की पूर्ति हम अपने यहां करें जिस से आयात से कमी हो। अपने यहां जो इस प्रकार के काम करने वाले लोग हैं उन के मन में किसी प्रकार की हिचक न हो और वह देश के व्यापार को सक्षम बनाने में तत्पर हों। इन तमाम बातों की ओर मन्त्री महोदय ध्यान दे, यही मुझे निवेदन करना है। मैं चाहूंगा कि अधिक स्वायत्तता या स्वावलम्बन के लिए व्यापार मन्त्रालय अधिक प्रभावी ठोस कदम उठावे जिससे कि हमारा अर्थतन्त्र सुदृढ़ हो सके।

श्री माधोराम शर्मा (करनाल) उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं मिनिस्ट्री आफ कामर्स की डिमांड्स को सपोर्ट करने के लिए खड़ा हुआ हूँ। अभी पिछले दिनों इसी मार्च की 9 तारीख को सूत के बारे में एक कन्ट्रोल आर्डर जारी किया गया था और उस की वजह से जो खड़ी के काम करने वाले हैं उन को बहुत बड़ी तकलीफ हुई है।

15 hrs.

[Shri K N Tiwary in the Chair.]

मैं हरियाने के पानीपत क्षेत्र से आता हूँ जहाँ पर कि 16 और 18 हजार के बीच में खड़िया है और उन खड़ियों पर काम करने वालों को एकदम इस सूत के कन्ट्रोल के बाद जो तकलीफ हुई और सूत मिलना बन्द हो गया, सूत पर ब्लॉक हो गया, उस से उस इण्डस्ट्री को आज बड़ी भारी मुसीबत का सामना करना पड़

रहा है। काकी बर्कर उस से बेकार हो गए हैं। हम से पहले सूत मिलता था। महंगाई उस की जरूर थी। लेकिन हर खड़ी वाला सूत बाजार से खरीदकर अपना काम चला लेता था। दूसरी जगहों की तरह पानीपत में खड़ी का काम बहुत ज्यादा बड़े भादमियों के हाथ में नहीं है। बल्कि बहुत से लोगों की एक एक दो दो चारचार खड़ियां हैं जो रोजाना या दूसरे तीसरे दिन बाजार से सूत ले कर और बुनाई का काम कर के गुजारा करते हैं। उस काम से वह अपना जीवन-निर्वाह करते हैं। लेकिन एकदम सूत के महंगा होने से और इस कण्ट्रोल के बाद उन पर जो मुश्किल आई, अभी एक महीना हो गया उस का हल नहीं निकला और वह बेकार हुए चले जा रहे हैं। इसलिए मैं गवर्नमेंट से कहना चाहूंगा कि वह उन को सूत दिलाने के लिए कोई उपाय करे। मुश्किल की कोई बात नहीं है। पानीपत का जो खड़ी का काम है वहां पर चढ़ें खेस और टपेस्ट्री वगैरह हम किम्म की चीजे बनती हैं। बरोक काउण्ट का सूत पानीपत वालों को नहीं चाहिए और न ही उन्हें बम्बई या मद्रास से बारीक सूत मंगा कर देने की जरूरत है। वह सूत हरयाने के अन्दर, दिल्ली के अन्दर और पंजाब की मिलों में ही बनता है। वही से वह सूत उन को मिल सकता है। लेकिन एक महीने के अन्दर जब तक एक किनो सूत को उन को सप्लाई नहीं हो सका। जो डिमाण्ड टैक्सटाइल कॉमिश्नर को भेजी भी है वहां से बहुत काम एलाटमेंट हुआ है और वह सूत भी अभी तक नहीं पहुंचा। यह कितनी दिक्कत की बात है।

उसी स्टेट के अन्दर मिलने वाला था दिल्ली जो हरयाने के नजदीक है, उस की मिलों से मिलने वाला सूत और उस का इन्तजाम करने में एक महीने से भी ज्यादा समय लग जाय और इण्डस्ट्री के गरीब मजदूर परेशान हों, यह एक बड़े ताज्जुब की बात है कि इस इन्तजाम करने के अन्दर कितनी खामी और कितनी लापरवाही इस्तेमाल में लाई जा रही है और किस तरीके से उन्हें परेशान किया जा रहा है। मैं मन्त्री महोदय से कहूंगा कि वह इस चीज को अपने ध्यान में लाए और जल्दी से जल्दी उम इण्डस्ट्री में जो लोग तबाह हो रहे हैं जिन की खड़िया बन्द होती चली जा रही हैं उन को सूत देने का बन्दोबस्त करे ताकि वह उस का पूरा फायदा उठा सके और अपने रोजगार को पूरे तरीके से चला सके। यह चीज जो मुझे सूत के बारे में कहनी थी।

दूसरी चीज एक और कहना चाहता हू। अभी इण्डस्ट्री की बात हुई। मैं इण्डस्ट्री के बारे से बहुत कुछ तो नहीं जानता। लेकिन एक बात मेरी समझ में कमी नहीं आई। छोटी सी चीज है। मैं एक मिसाल के तौर पर बताता हू। बहुत से लोगों को शहरों से स्टील का कोटा एलाट होता है। मामूली चढ़ें होती हैं और उन चढ़ों से वह बाल्टी और ट्रक वगैरह बनाते हैं। कण्ट्रोल से उस का एलाटमेंट किया जाता है। जिस भादमी को वह कण्ट्रोल के धान पर मिलता है बहुत कम लोग हैं उन में से जो उसे बनाते हैं। ज्यादातर वह उसे ब्लैक में बेचते हैं और मजदूर ब्लैक में खरीद कर उस से बाल्टी या ट्रक बनाते हैं। वह भी उसे बाजार

[श्री बाबोराल खन्ना]

में बेचते हैं और जिस को हम कन्ट्रोल के भाव चढ़ें देते हैं वह भी मजदूरों से ही बनवा कर बाजार में बेचते हैं। खरीदार को उसी महंगे भाव पर वह चीजें मिलती हैं जिस भाव पर कि उस को ब्लैंक में चढ़ कर खरीद कर उस से बाल्टियां या ट्रंक तैयार करने वालों से मिलती हैं। तो कन्ज्यूमर को तो उस का कोई फायदा नहीं है। फिर मेरी समझ में नहीं आता कि हम इस तरह से राम्पटीरियल कुछ लोगों को ज्यादा मोटा होने के लिए, ज्यादा पैसा उन के पास जमा करवाने के लिए क्लॉस एलाटमेंट करते हैं? हम अगर गरीब आदमी को नहीं दे सकते और कन्ज्यूमर को उस का फायदा नहीं मिलता है तो गवर्नमेंट खुद उसे महंगे भाव पर बेचे और बजाय टैक्स लेने के बीच का जो फायदा है उसे अपने पास रखे। कन्ज्यूमर को उस का फायदा न हो और कुछ लोग बीच में ब्लैंक का पैसा उस में से खाय, यह बात कुछ मेरी समझ में नहीं आती।

उन के बारे में भी मैं कहना चाहता हूँ। आडी यार्न जो आस्ट्रेलिया से इम्पोर्ट होता है लूधियाने के बड़े बड़े कारखानेदार उस का यही फायदा उठाते हैं कि अपने लम्बे लम्बे कोटे उन्होंने दिए हुए हैं जिस में से बहुत थोड़ा माल अपने कारखानों में वह इस्तेमाल करते हैं और बहुतों ने तो बिलकुल फर्जी कारखाने का पास रखा हुआ है, कोटा प्राया और उन्होंने उसे ब्लैंक में बेच दिया। तो जो उन का माल तैयार करने वाले हैं वह उस से माल खरीद कर बाहर एक्सपोर्ट भी करते हैं और यहाँ पर भी वह उस माल को बेचते हैं। उस का नतीजा यह है

कि वे लोग जिन के बड़े बड़े कोटे बंधे हुए हैं बीच में ब्लैंक का पैसा खाते हैं और आराम से बैठ कर मौज उड़ाते हैं लेकिन वह गरीब आदमी जो छड़ी पर उस माल को बनाता है और कन्ज्यूमर को बेचता है उस को ब्लैंक में खरीदना पड़ता है और ब्लैंक में खरीदने के बाद जब वह उस से माल तैयार कर के बेचता है तो कन्ज्यूमर को वह महंगे भाव पर मिलता है। तो यह इस तरह से जो कोटे बांधने का काम है काम से काम मेरी समझ में नहीं आया कि हम में क्या फायदा है? जो आप कोटा देने हैं अगर उस से कन्ज्यूमर को समझे भाव पर चीज न मिले तो बड़े-बड़े मिल वालों को यह कोटा बाध कर देना और उन के पास ब्लैंक का पैसा जमा करवाना, इस में क्या फायदा है? हम पार्लिमी में कोई तवदीनी आना चाहिये ताकि आम आदमी उन चीजों को मरने दामो पर खरीद सके। मैं जानता हूँ लागा ने एक एक नहीं कई बड़े फर्में बना रखी हैं। बहुत से लोगों ने इम्पोर्टराने मिलकर के फर्मों के नाम रखे हैं। गारखाने उनके आठ-आठ माल में नहीं लगे और आठ-आठ साल में वे उन्हीं गारखाना के नाम से कौंटा लेकर हर साल उसे टैक में बेच रहे हैं। ऐसी एक नहीं सैकड़ों मिमाने मिल सकती हैं। अगर यह हाल ही तो आप गरीब आदमी को किम तरह में मस्ती चीजें दे सकते हैं? आब यह जो सोचने है कि कीमतें कम आये, वह कीमते किस तरह से कम आ सकती हैं? कीमते कम तभी होंगी कि जो कोटा गवर्नमेंट उनको समझे दामो पर देती है उसका जो माल बनता है, वह

भी मुनासिब कीमतों पर मात्र इस्तेमाल करने वालों को मिलें—बरना इसका कोई फायदा नहीं है।

भाष आपने सूत पर कन्ट्रोल किया है— ठीक है। कीमत बढ़ रही थीं, कन्ट्रोल होना चाहिए था और मुनासिब तरीके पर होना चाहिए था और मैं समझता हूँ कि उस पर मुनासिब तरीके से अमल भी होगा। लेकिन अगर ठीक तरीके से अमल नहीं हुआ तो क्या नतीजा निकलेगा। जब लोग देखेंगे कि सूत पर ब्लैक-मार्केट है, लोग अफसरान को पैसा देकर फर्जी कोटा बनवा लेंगे और उसका इस्तेमाल खुद नहीं करेंगे। हर महीने कोटे की गांठों को लेकर ब्लैक में छोटे छोटे लोगों को, जिनके पास एक या दो खड्डियां हैं, ब्लैक में बेच देंगे। इस तरह से बिना माल बनाये फायदा उठा लेंगे। इसलिये जब तक आप डिस्ट्रीब्यूशन पर ठीक तरह से अमल नहीं करायेंगे, ईमानदारी से लोगों के अन्दर कोटा डिस्ट्रीब्यूट नहीं होगा, तब तक हम कन्ट्रोल के फायदे के बजाय नुकसान होगा। . . .

श्री नरेश कुमार साल्बे (बेतूल) : जब तक चट्टोपाध्याय साहब मिलो को नहीं लेंगे, डिस्ट्रीब्यूशन ठीक नहीं होगा।

श्री भाषी राम शर्मा : इसलिये मैं कह रहा हूँ कि आपने सूत पर कन्ट्रोल कमी की वजह से किया है—अच्छा किया है, लेकिन उसके भिन्न में जो देरी हो रही है वह दूर होनी चाहिए। हरियाणा दिल्ली से दूर नहीं है, वहां पर सूत की मिलें भी हैं। पानीपत के अन्दर जो 16 हजार खड्डियां हैं,

उन्होंने कभी भी बम्बई या मद्रास से सूत नहीं मंगाया, वहां के सूत से उनका काम चलता रहा है। अब अगर उन्हें एक महीना भी सूत नहीं मिला तो वे अपनी खड्डियों को बन्द करने पर मजबूर हो जायेंगे। ऐसी हालत में मेरी समझ से नहीं आता कि हम किस तरह से इसके कन्ट्रोल को चला सकेंगे, किस तरह से इसका डिस्ट्रीब्यूशन चल सकेगा।

मुझे ये दिक्कत आपके सामने रखनी थी। मैं उम्मीद करता हूँ कि मिनिस्टर साहब इन पर ध्यान देंगे और जल्द से जल्द इस मुसीबत को दूर करने की कोशिश करेंगे।

श्री आरलखण्ड राय (घोसी) : मान्यवर, मैं आपका आभारी हूँ, आपने मुझे इस विषय पर बोलने के लिये थोड़ा समय दिया। मैं इस समय केवल एक विषय की तरफ आप का, इस माननीय सदन का तथा सरकार का ध्यान आकृष्ट करना चाहता हूँ। देश का जो सब से प्राचीन लघु उद्योग है, जिसे हैडलूम के नाम से पुकारा जाता है, तथा अब जिसमें पावर लूम भी जोड़ दिया गया है—यह कितना विशाल है, इसकी कल्पना आप इस बात से कर सकते हैं—“कृपि मे लगे हुए, व्यक्तियों के बाद हमारे देश की सब से बड़ी जनसंख्या इस उद्योग में लगी हुई है।” आज लगभग दो करोड़ व्यक्ति इससे रोटी कमाते हैं। उत्तर प्रदेश के 40 लाख आदमी इससे अपनी आजीविका अर्जित करते हैं। यह एक ऐसा उद्योग है जो करोड़ रुपये की विदेशी मुद्रा अर्जित करता है, लाखों आदमियों को रोजगार देता है—ऐसे उद्योग के प्रति अब तक के पिछले 25 वर्षों में हमारी सरकार की नीति बिल्कुल उपेक्षापूर्ण और सैतिली या जैसी

[श्री आरखंडे राव] :

रही है। केवल उत्तर प्रदेश के पूर्वांचल के आजमगढ़ जिले में, जो उत्तर प्रदेश के 16 पिछड़े हुए जिलों में से एक है, इस समय 40 हजार हैंडलूम हैं, जिनमें से 30 हजार बन्द पड़ी हुई हैं। 4 हजार पावर-लूम हैं, जिनमें से 3200 बन्द हो गई है। डेढ़ लाख आदमी भुबनरी के कागार पर खड़े हैं। यह स्थिति क्यों पैदा हुई ?

माननीय कट्टोपाध्याय जी ने 9 मार्च को इस बात की घोषणा की थी कि सूत का पूरा कंट्रोल सरकार अपने हाथ में लेगी और उसका वितरण करेगी। तीन-चार दिन के बाद यानी 12-13 तारीख तक मिलो से सूत निकलना बन्द हो गया, लेकिन जो सूत मार्केट में जा चुका है, उस से 10-12 दिनों तक हिन्दुस्तान में—हमारे उत्तर प्रदेश के पूर्वांचल में, अन्य भागों में, काम चलता रहा, लेकिन जब 27-28 तारीख को स्थानीय अधिकारियों ने लोकल-स्टॉक भी अपने हाथ में ले लिया तो छोटी-छोटी खदियों को भी सूत मिलना बन्द हो गया। अब तक इस सब में इस बात की आवाज उठाई जाती रही थी कि सूत का वाम बेहद बढ़ता जा रहा है, विसम्बर, 1971 के बाद सूत के दामों में जो बढ़ीतरी हुई है, वह दुगुनी से भी ज्यादा हुई है, इस पर कंट्रोल किया जाय। लेकिन अब इस बात का हाहाकार मचा हुआ है कि सूत मिलता ही नहीं है, किसी भी दाम पर सूत नहीं मिल रहा है। सूत के बढ़ते हुए दामों का अब सवाल नहीं है, अब तो सूत के मिलने या न मिलने का प्रश्न है। उत्तर प्रदेश के वीरखपुर, बस्ती, आजमगढ़, फैजाबाद जैसी जगहों पर किसी दाम पर सूत नहीं

मिल रहा है, नतीजा यह है कि अगर यही स्थिति रही तो आप विश्वास मानिये, 10 दिनों के अन्दर सारे पावरलूम, हैंडलूम बन्द हो जायेंगे, लाखों आदमी भुबनरी के शिकार होंगे और वह बेकारी जो पहले ही भयावह रूप धारण किये खड़ी है और अब तक उसका कोई समाधान नहीं मिल पा रहा है, उस में और ज्यादा इजाफा हो जायेगा और वह स्थिति कितनी विस्फोटक होगी, आप उसकी कल्पना कर सकते हैं।

सरकार ने वितरण प्रणाली बनाये बिना सूत पर कंट्रोल कर लिया है—कंट्रोल करना जरूरी था, हम तो राष्ट्रीयकरण के पक्ष वाले हैं, लेकिन वितरण प्रणाली बना कर सूत पर कंट्रोल करना चाहिये था। जो पुराना डिस्ट्रीब्यूशन सिस्टम था, वह भी भंग हो गया और नया बना नहीं, नतीजा यह हुआ कि सूत का मिलना ही बन्द हो गया। मैं आपके सामने एक नज़ीर देना चाहता हूँ—उत्तर भारत में सब से बड़ा पावरलूम का केंद्र मऊनाथ भजन है जो आजमगढ़ जिले में है। वहां पर 82 व्यापारी सूत का व्यापार करते थे, मिलों से सूत लेते थे और सब को दिया करते थे। अब उन की जगह सरकार ने 12 लाइसेंसीज एम्पाइन्ट किये हैं। कहा 82 और कहा 12—यह समाजवाद हो रहा है, यह तो मोनोपोलाइजेशन है। अगर 82 लोगों को दिया जाता तो थोड़ी-थोड़ी दाल-रोटी सब को मिलती, लेकिन उनकी जगह सारा व्यापार 12 आदमियों के हाथ में चला गया। इसके अलावा इसमें एक बात यह भी गई है कि जिसकी 24 हजार रुपये से ज्यादा की बिक्री साल में होगी उस को लाइसेंसी बनायेंगे।

समाजवाद की बात और पूंजीवाद को बढ़ावा, समाजवाद की चर्चा के आवरण में पूंजीवादियों को बढ़ावा, हर जगह जो पूंजीपति हैं उन को तरजीह और जो छोटे हैं उनको दबाया जा रहा है—यह समाजवाद की बात नहीं है, यह तो सामूहिक पूंजीवादी सिस्टम की नहीं है ।

दाम की बात को लीजिये—प्राज सरकार ने 1972 में जो दाम थे उनको स्टग्डैंड माना है । 1971 में बगला देश के स्वाधीनता संग्राम के बाद जो मन्माने दाम बढ़े, हिन्दुस्तान के मगरमच्छ सूत के व्यापारियों ने उस एक सान में जो दाम बढ़ाये, उन बड़े हुए दामों को आप ने स्टग्डैंड माना है । यह घोर अन्ध्याय है । पूरे उतर भारत से बुनकरों की माग थी कि 1971 के दिसम्बर में जो दाम थे, उन को स्टग्डैंड प्राइस माना जाये और उसी हिमाव से सूत मिले—वही स्टेन हो या रेशम हो, लेकिन सरकार ने 1972 वाले को माना, जो बहुत बड़े हुए दाम हैं । पूंजीवादियों ने लूट कर पैसे से अपने घर को भर लिया और सरकार ने उनको मान दिया—यह अन्ध्याय है ।

इतना ही नहीं—प्राज देश में बिजली का संकट है, जिसकी वजह से भी दामों में इजाज़ा हुआ है, यातायात के खर्चों का भी दामों पर अमर पड़ा है, इन सब को जोड़ कर पावरफूम और हेडलूम को सूत मिलेगा । ऐसी स्थिति में मैं समझता हूँ कि इस कुटीर उद्योग ने, जिसने अमेरिका का मुकाबला किया, ब्रिटिश साम्राज्यवाद का डटकर मुकाबला किया, बंगाल और पूंजीवादी भारत में, वह उद्योग आज विश्वव्यापी स्तर के अन्दर पर खड़ा है ।

आखिर में मैं यह कहना चाहता हूँ सुझाव के रूप में कि कंट्रोल तो हो गया अब वितरण की व्यवस्था बहुत जल्दी वॉर-कुॉर्टिंग पर की जाये । दूकानें ऐसी हों जहाँ पर काम का सूत मिले । सारी चीजें देखकर जिस स्थान पर जिस तरह के सूत की जरूरत है—वह रिकार्ड मौजूद है—उसी तरह का सूत उस स्थान पर मिलना चाहिए । यह न हो कि जहाँ पर 40 नम्बर का सूत चाहिए वहाँ पर 60 नम्बर का सूत दिया जाये और जहाँ पर 60 नम्बर का सूत चाहिए वहाँ पर 40 नम्बर का सूत दिया जाये—इससे दोनों जगह के कारोबार बन्द हो जायेंगे । इसलिए जिस काउन्ट का सूत जहाँ पर चाहिए उसी काउन्ट का सूत वहाँ पर मिले—ऐसी व्यवस्था होनी चाहिए ताकि जनता का यह कारोबार मरने से बचे ।

अन्य में एक आग्रह और करना चाहता हूँ । मैं यू० पी० असेम्बली में 16 साल तक कहना रहा हूँ और यहाँ भी जब कभी मौका मिला है तब कहा है और आज फिर कहना चाहता हूँ कि अगर हैडलूम को बचाना है, अगर पावरफूम को बचाना है, बड़े-बड़े पूंजीवादियों की चोट से, अगर इस उद्योग को बचाना है तो कुछ कर्गों का रिजर्वेशन हैडलूम के लिए होगा चाहिए और कुछ कर्गों का रिजर्वेशन पावरफूम के लिए होगा चाहिए । यदि यह नहीं होता तो सूती बन्द उद्योग इन कारोबारों को खा जायेंगे जैसे कि बाब भेड़िया भी खाता है और मेनेरा भी खा जाता है । इसलिए मेरा आग्रह है कि सरकार बुनियादी तौर पर इस बात को माने कि कुछ कर्गों का रिजर्वेशन हैडलूम के लिए और कुछ

[श्री नारायण राव]

का रिजर्वेशन पावरलूम के लिए होना चाहिए ताकि कम्पटीशन में यह जिन्दा रह सकें और उनके बाल बच्चों की भी दाल रोटी चल सके । धन्यवाद ।

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE): I propose only a very short intervention, to clarify a few points that have been raised by the hon. friends. All the Members who spoke earlier, had been very kind to the Commerce Ministry by and large and I am happy to note that there are quite a few complimentary remarks.

Only Dr. Pandeya was saying that the export performance shown during the past ten months of the financial year 1972-73, may not be kept up and ultimately, we may not achieve the target. Some points raised by him are not factually correct. It is only in that context that I would like to make a few corrections. It is true that during the first year of the Fourth Plan, though we have targetted for a rate of growth of 7%, we were able to achieve only 5.8% on the average compounded growth. But, in 1972-73, if you take the first ten months, April to January, our export performance is to the tune of Rs. 1557 crores, which over the comparable period of 1971-72 is more than 22% increase. We would never like to give an impression that for the financial year 1972-73, we are going to achieve a rate of growth of 22%. After all, the target was 7%. There is a compound rate deficit to the level of 1.2% and this rate of increase of 22%, we hope, will compensate for the 5.8%. Ultimately, we will be able to perform to the level of 7% when we take the first four years of the Fourth Plan. We do not make a tall claim that this 2% increase will be maintained all through. There are certain limiting factors and the rate of growth may not be to the extent of 22%.

When this note of pessimism was made by a few hon. Members, there was a ten-

dency on their part to forget some of the remarkable progress made in many of the important fields. In the case of jute, 1971-72 was an unusual year. We never expected that in 1972-73 we will be achieving the target and we never expected that we will be keeping to that level. We are not very unhappy over what has happened. Even when we mention the figure of Rs. 1557 crores that has been achieved in the first 10 months or we are hopeful to mention that we are confident that the figure of Rs. 1760 crores target will be achieved, it is not done with any sense of complacency. We are, every day, trying to improve upon what is prevailing and export progress is a constant exercise going on in the Ministry of Commerce.

It may be true that in the engineering goods, our performance is not up to the market. Whenever there are any constructive criticisms, we are quite prepared to take them and take corrective measures also.

डा० लक्ष्मी नारायण पांडेय मैंने जो कुछ भी कहा है आकड़ों के आधार पर कहा है । सरकार की जो रिपोर्ट है उसी को पढ़कर मैंने कहा है, अपनी तरफ से कुछ भी नहीं कहा है । आप अपनी रिपोर्ट देखें ।

SHRI A. C. GEORGE: I will make only a short intervention and I am not yet through it.

I hope, the hon. Members will agree that during the first part of 1972, we were functioning under great strains and, naturally, these limiting factors are showing in the performance of 1972-73 also. In the case of engineering goods which are non-traditional items, it will be the endeavour of the Ministry, of the Government of India, to see that more and more of non-traditional items are exported. For quite a long time, our exports were based on agricultural commodities or primary raw materials. It is only if we are able to have more of value added to our exports that the situation will improve. That is the

ideal situation we are trying to achieve. But that does not mean that we should ignore our traditional items also. One of our traditional items is jute which will not be to the level of 1971-72 but it is better than that of 1970-71.

In the case of tea, there were quite a few criticisms about it. Tea is a beverage. In international market, tea exports, have reached a point of saturation. The trend among younger generation is to switch over from tea to other modern and different beverages. (Interruptions) Some say, it is soft drinks; there may be tendency for hard drinks also. All the same, the fact remains that the consumption of tea is not showing a steep rise, if not already stagnant. But in that stagnant export market, the Indian tea has really picked up. We have never suffered because of other strains that remain on the international field.

In 1972, our export was one of the highest during the past 5 years. We are trying hard to hold on to the international market. In the last FAO Conference on Tea, our delegates were able to persuade other participants to see that Indian tea keeps the supremacy or dominant position in the international market.

I do agree with the hon. Members when they mentioned a few points about modernisation. It is true that quite a few planters are not giving due attention to the modernisation or re-plantation. We are attending to this problem and soon we will be able to show some good results, specially in the case of sick tea estates.

Coming to coffee, in 1971-72, our export was only to the tune of Rs. 22 crores. In 1972-73, we have already achieved the target of Rs. 33 crores. A few friends were asking us how the internal price of coffee has gone up. It is obvious that when we make a hectic attempt to improve our exports, naturally, it will have reflection on the international market also. In this particular period of gap when there are certain developments in the International Coffee Council, Indian Coffee is making a really

good effort to see that we have a hold in the market. Our position has improved.

I would like to mention two important items. I am not sure whether I will be able to agree with Dr. Laxminarain Pandeya about cashew. In cashew, in 1970-71 our export was only to the tune of Rs. 55 crores. In 1971-72, it went up to Rs. 61.3 crores which was a good record. In 1972-73, we have not only exceeded the previous record but have also established a very high level, Rs. 65 crores. I do not know how Dr. Laxminarain Pandeya was giving that figure. I am prepared to check up. But this is a fact. Even if something has gone wrong in the Report, I stand by my figures....

DR. LAXMINARAIN PANDEYA: I referred to the Economic Survey.

SHRI A. C. GEORGE: This fact remains. If a correction is to be made, it may not be in what I said but in the Report that was printed.

In regard to marine export also, it has to be mentioned that, in 1961, this was almost a new venture. It was only Rs. 4 crores and in 1971-72 we had increased it 11-fold; it went up to Rs. 44.5 crores. In 1972-73, I am happy to inform this August House, we have gone beyond Rs. 58 crores and, quite hopefully, during the next two or three years, we may be crossing even the Rs. 100 crore mark. This is a field where we have earned hard currency and given employment and higher prosperity to the poor fishermen on the coasts of our country.

There is a Cut Motion from the hon. Member, Shri Janardhanan, about the alleged import of rubber. He was mentioning that in his speech also. I take this opportunity to mention a few words about rubber. By the normal standards, we may not call natural rubber as an export item, but it has to be remembered that, three years back, we were importing rubber. This year, our production is 1,13,000 tonnes. Because the production of natural rubber increased and the consumption of

[Shri A.C. GEORGE]

natural rubber did not come up to the expectation, there was a glut in the market. Three or four years back, as I said, we were importing natural rubber, but now we have surplus in natural rubber. Last year, we took measures, because of the glut in the market, to see that import of natural rubber was banned. But there was a small lacuna or discrepancy in that. Some of our tyre manufacturers were exporting tyres and as an import entitlement they were getting natural rubber which was considered as a raw material for tyre manufacturers. When this lacuna was noticed, we took measures to see that it was completely banned. Recently a notification has been issued, and I can assure the hon. Member that, from now on, until we have a situation where we have deficit in natural rubber, import of natural rubber will be completely banned.

SHRI C. JANARDHANAN: What about synthetic rubber ?

SHRI A. C. GEORGE: There is a plant in Rai Bareli which is producing more than 30,000 tonnes per year. This has been in existence for so many years, and our requirements are being met. Synthetic rubber of the type we are producing in Rai Bareli is not imported. There is a special type of synthetic rubber which is not a replacement for natural rubber and which is used by tyre units; the tyre units cannot function without that type of synthetic rubber. This type of special synthetic rubber which is imported is not a replacement for natural rubber. It will never affect the natural rubber market in the country. This comes to only 4,000 or 5,000 tonnes. (*Interruptions*)

About purchase, the hon. Member knows it very well that the STC is making its best effort to see that the quota is removed. Over and above that, we have given a loan of Rs. 2.5 crores to the Kerala Government so that the Kerala Government machinery can also be geared up for purchase of natural rubber. I hope it is functioning well.

Some criticisms were made by the hon. Member. It is about leather. Our main competitors in this field were Brazil and Argentina. Because these countries took measures to ban the export of semi-finished leather goods, we had an unusually booming export market. In the beginning it was found to be rather encouraging, but, later we found that this unusual export of semi-finished leather is ultimately doing harm to the cobblers and the shoe-makers and the foot-wear industry. When this unhealthy trend was noticed, as early as 14th December, 1972 the semi-finished leather export was canalised through STC. This was a mere regulatory and disciplining measures. I do not make out the point that just by canalisation, all the problems will be solved. This was to institute regulation and discipline in its particular operation. As mentioned earlier in this House, it is our intention to reduce the export of semi-finished leather as much as possible because the value added from semi-finished to finished is 2 : 3. Last year we had in export of Rs. 84 crores and this year we are having an export of Rs. 164 crores. Our intention is not to have this unusual rise in exports. We would like to have more of finished leather exports and in fact, leather goods, to go as exports. We are taking all necessary measures like incentives for finished goods exports and disincentives for semi-finished exports and these measures are being taken promptly and without any delay.

I will conclude by saying that our traditional items especially the agro-based commodities have performed well and to that extent, our farmers and ryots deserve congratulations. But, we are not going to be complacent by that fact alone because more and more of non-traditional items and more and more of finished goods exports and more and more of value added is the aim of the country as well as the Ministry of Commerce.

SHRI DHAMANKAR (Bhiwandi): I rise to support the Demands for Grants of the Commerce Ministry.

I compliment the new energetic Minister, Prof. Chatropadhyaya and his able colleague who are striving hard to increase the exports and minimise the imports as far as possible, because, that is the only way of increasing the national wealth.

The Commerce Ministry, if it goes hand in hand with the Industrial Development Ministry, I feel, sure, that the commerce and trade in this country will be augmented to a very great extent.

One hon. friend suggested that the import and export business should be nationalised. I feel that it is as good as nationalised. Most of the exports are channelised through Export Promotion Councils for different commodities and imports are canalised through STC and MMTC.

I find that the import of certain chemicals has to be reviewed again. If you look to the list of the articles allowed to be imported, item No. 55 is Dodocyl Benzene. It is required for detergent manufacture. They are importing this to the tune of lakhs of tonnes every year. It can be manufactured in India in the refineries. A project of the Government of India is lying, I think, for the last three years with the Ministry of Petroleum & Chemicals. This material is required for the manufacture of detergents. Every year the detergent production is increasing as the Government's policy is to reduce the use of edible oils for manufacture of soap. So, I request the Minister concerned to see that this Dodocyl Benzene scheme is immediately implemented and the imports of this raw material are reduced as far as possible. There are certain items which are not entirely canalised by STC but which are arranged through the STC. For example, there is the items OTS—Orthotonylene Sulphanamide. There are units which are capable of meeting the needs of this country. In spite of it the import of OTS is allowed. I don't understand why this import should be allowed.

Cinopyridine is a chemical for the manufacture of A vitamins and certain other vitamins. The import was banned for more

than a year. STC is thinking to buy 100 metric tonnes of Cinopyridine from America or other countries. It is necessary to import this. Of course, so far as distribution is concerned, it is distributed to monopolists who are in this trade for years together. It is my request that this should be given to small-scale units. Small-scale units should be encouraged. In respect of newcomers, the plea that is advanced is: What is your performance? We will give you according to performance. Since there is no performance, they don't get. Performance cannot be given unless they get the raw material and therefore, I request that this position may kindly be reviewed and necessary steps taken in this direction. There are small-scale units which have invested lakhs of rupees. If they are denied the supply of Cinopyridine it is impossible for them to develop their industry. This is something which should be reviewed. I therefore request the hon. Minister of Commerce to do the needful in the matter.

About polyethelene powder the small-scale manufacturers do not get this and their factories are closed. It is because it is given to largescale people. Smallscale industries deserve consideration at the hands of the hon. Minister, both hon. Minister of Commerce and the Minister of Industrial Development.

When the Prime Minister visited U.P. a deputation met her and she promised them that she will give sympathetic consideration to the needs of the small scale industries. I would urge upon the hon. Minister to do the needful in the matter.

So far as yarn is concerned many people have expressed their anxiety in regard to the supply of yarn. There are three sectors handloom, powerloom and cotton mills. It is the handloom which deserve the maximum of consideration from our hands. It gives employment to thousands of villagers. There are so many agriculturists who are without work and in their off-season they weave cloth. They should be given all encouragement. Preferential supply of yarn should be given to these people and

[Shri Dharmendra]

the handloom sector should be given all consideration. Also equal consideration may be given to the powerlooms also. Powerloom is not a big industry. Several State Governments have encouraged handloom weavers to convert them into powerlooms to increase production. There are two lakhs of powerlooms in the country. Some of them are lying idle since the last one month due to shortage of yarn. There were assurances given in the House that all yarn will be taken over by the Government and distribution will be entirely in the hands of Government. For three weeks no action was taken. The result was, the merchants hoarded lakhs of bales of this yarn and it is sold now at exorbitant prices. Fictitious names of weavers are entered and these bales issued to them. The sale of this unauthorised yarn should be stopped immediately. The cooperative spinning mills are manufacturing yarn for the consumer members. They should be treated as a sort of composite mills. The yarn produced by the cooperative spinning mills should be given to the members only and should not be taken over into the pool system. This is my request.

I think the figures in the Textile Commissioner's office regarding the production of yarn will have to be reviewed. They say that only 3 per cent of fine counts of yarn 60s and above is manufactured in the country. This is not correct. If you look to the figures of 1972, you will find that 9 per cent of fine counts of 60s is produced in the country. It is true that Tamil Nadu was producing the maximum quantity of fine counts. But along with Tamil Nadu, Ahmedabad and Bombay textile mills are also producing some percentage of fine counts of yarn. This yarn has altogether disappeared from the market. What have the merchants in the trade done? They have issued fictitious bills in different names to different powerloom and handloom factories. The bales are lying in the godown. Some State Governments have taken steps to confiscate and seize the yarn. But still lakhs of bales are lying with the merchants in some hidden godowns. This yarn is

not going to come under the pool system. It may be sold in the black market.

The shortage of yarn cannot be cleared in a very short time. I know it will take some time. But what are the powerlooms and handlooms going to do? On the powerloom there is a restriction that where they are licensed to use cotton yarn, they are not allowed to use nylon, viscose or rayon yarn, I would request Government to review this and see if diversification can be allowed for three months, so that if they cannot get cotton yarn, at least they should be allowed to use nylon, viscose or rayon yarn, that is man-made yarn. The Prices of this yarn have also gone up. The spinners have entered into a voluntary agreement with the actual users, but they do not implement it. When it suits them they implement it: When the bazar prices are down, they dump the quota on the actual users; when the prices are up, they sell their quota of 50 percent elsewhere.

The Tariff Commission had submitted a report in 1970 under which the prices of nylon and viscose yarn were to be fixed. I do not know why Government have still not implemented that report, Weavers feel that it is the pressure put on the Government that is preventing Government from accepting and implementing this report about the price structure of nylon and viscose yarn, I urge upon the Minister to review this position and implement the price structure recommended by the Tariff Commission.

With these words, I support the Demands. I would request the Minister to see that the distribution system of cotton yarn to weavers, handloom and powerloom, is implemented as immediately as possible and their grievances minimised as far as possible.

*SHRI R. P. DAS (Krishnagar): Mr Chairman, Sir while speaking on the Demands of the ministry of Commerce I will confine myself to the problems of the Handloom and other village/cottage industries. Many of the previous speakers have highlighted

* The original speech was delivered in Bengali.

the shortage of yarn in the handloom industry and as such I will not dwell upon it in detail excepting to stress how it affects the poor weavers.

Sir, as has already been pointed out, there is an acute shortage of yarn that is supplied to the handloom weavers and there is also a great disparity in the price of yarn in different zones in the country. I submit that an all India price should be fixed for cotton yarn so that the weavers in one part may not be handicapped in competing with the weavers in another part due to higher prices of yarn. The handloom weavers of West Bengal have sometimes to pay as much as Rs. 100 more for cotton yarn as compared to their counterparts in Bombay. This is very unjust. As in the case of coal and steel, Government should fix an all India price for yarn also as otherwise some States will enjoy the advantage of the location of production. The weavers in West Bengal should get yarn at the same price at which it is available in Bombay, Punjab or Haryana. Only then they will be able to enter upon a fair and equal competition with the weavers of other States.

Now, Sir, I will draw the attention of the Government to the problems of the village and cottage industries with particular emphasis on the Brass and Bell-metal industry. These industries are facing serious problems in matters of finance, production techniques, marketing, organisation and competition from the large scale organised sector of the industry. These old established village industries are in a serious financial crisis. There were at one time 72 Brass and Bell-metal industries in Bengal but I do not know how many of them have survived to this day. There have been a rapid fall in their number. Moreover, their technique of production is antiquated and the machinery used by them is very old and obsolete. They need modernisation. The Government should come to their rescue with well formulated plans and schemes to help them survive. Otherwise they will soon become

extinct. The few industries that have managed to survive to this day have done so due to some initiative and efforts of their own. The Government has done precious little to help them. The cost of their production is going up steadily. The price of the raw material used by these industries have gone sky high. The price of brass has gone up to Rs. 15 to 16 per kg. The price of copper has gone up much higher. These industries just does not have the necessary capital to survive against such heavy odds. Sir, as you are aware, the village brass and bell-metal industry has a very close connection with the local village life. Their business prospers at the time of village festivities and fairs. In the non-festive season their business slumps and there is terrible depression. For about six months in a year they have to close down production and the artisans face starvation. At this point the big business men step in and exploit them. They purchase their ware at extremely low prices and sell them elsewhere at a high price thereby making huge profits at the cost of the poor village artisan who is deprived of his rightful gains.

The Nationalised Banks and the STC can play an important role in helping these small producers. The banks should grant loans to them, and their products should also be purchased by such Government agencies during the slack season at just prices. This will help them to continue in production without fear of exploitation and starvation. The Government can also encourage the forming of village cooperatives. These cooperative societies can be advanced loans to promote production and marketing. The various Government emporia should come forward to buy the products of these village artisans so that during the time of depression they may survive.

Today this old established village industry is facing a stiff competition from other large scale industries like the aluminium, steel, glass and pottery. So, a proper plan

[Shri R. P. Das]

on the part of the Government is needed to ameliorate the various difficulties and problems faced by this industry, so that they may stand up to the challenge. I do not know whether the Government has any such comprehensive scheme or plan to help this decaying industry to survive. The STC has an important role to play in the marketing of their products. If the STC buys their products, then the trade can hope to have an assured market. The STC should endeavour to export these artistic products of the small sector to our neighbouring countries like Bangladesh, Nepal, Ceylon etc. where they are likely to have a favourable market. Lastly, Sir, I will urge upon the Government to reduce the sales tax and Railway Freight on the goods of this industry. The Sales tax structure should be rationalised. At present the Sales tax is so fixed that the price of the finished product goes up 3 to 4 times. There is multiple sales tax. The raw materials like brass, copper, zinc etc. are taxed every time they are sold. When these reach the small manufacturer, the price becomes considerably higher due to the repeated taxes. Then the finished products are again taxed. This results in rendering the cost of the small manufacturer too uneconomical to compete. I submit, Sir, that sales tax may be charged on the raw material used by these industries only once. There should not be any further tax on the finished product. This will make the cost of the finished product attractive and competitive. Government should also supply the raw materials like copper, zinc, brass etc. to these industries at a fixed price and on preferential basis. The railway freight on the movement of the products of these industries should also be reduced considerably.

Sir, I am sure, if the Government implements the above suggestions it will go a long way in rehabilitating and revitalising this age old village industry which is facing extinction today.

SHRI B. K. DASCHOWDHURY (Cooch-Bihar): Just now I have heard the views of the hon. Deputy Minister who

intervened in the debate and I am really pleased that he tried to explain the position of some commodities so far as his Ministry is concerned. While intervening the Deputy Minister very pleasantly skipped over to say a few words on the largest export earner, jute. It is not my concern who will be replying on which subject but at least it was expected that jute being 20 per cent of the total foreign exchange earned by our country, it was expected the hon. Minister will deal adequately with this aspect of the situation. After jute next comes tea. Both jute and tea industries, two industries in the hands of the Ministry of Commerce, Department of Commerce of the Government of India have a sad tale to tell. I must say that both these industries have all the melancholy that Greek tragedies have.

16 hrs.

Firstly, the annual export in the Jute industry, as I said, is of the value of more than Rs. 300 crores. It is as nearly as 20% or a little more than the total exports made in all items and in all commodities. But, actually, the growers of jute do not get a fair price. It was discussed and raised on a number of occasions in this august House that the growers—the producers must be given certain incentives. They must be given a fair price for the jute which they produce so that they can produce more and more jute and the Government of India, in return, may earn more foreign exchanges. Hardly there is any mechanism by which even this minimum price is given to the jute growers in this country. Jute is grown in huge quantity in the areas beginning from Andhra, Orissa, Bihar, West Bengal, Assam, Tripura and Manipur—all these eastern States—and jute-growers, the poor people, are giving the greatest value just like gold in this country. And these people are not being considered even to have the minimum support price for jute. They are not even being considered to have the benefit of what they are giving to the Government in return.

Sir, in 1971, in this House, I raised a discussion that at least a minimum support

price of jute should be declared by Government and it should be nothing less than Rs. 200 a quintal. But, with the price hike in the corresponding commodity, it should be nothing less than Rs. 250 a quintal. But, ultimately, the price was fixed up round about Rs. 123, 124 or 125 a quintal.

Sir, without going through much about this history I want to state clearly the parity for jute with the rice or paddy. It has been declared by the various committees and commissions and experts that one maund of jute's value should be equal to three maunds of paddy or two maunds of rice. We know what is the price of rice which is nearly Rs. 140, 150 or 160 or even more if we go in for the finer quality of rice. Nevertheless, the minimum is Rs 150 or 160 a quintal. If, according to this ratio, one quintal of jute is equal to two quintals of rice, then for jute, it should not be anything less than Rs. 300. Even this price has not been given correspondingly for jute. Government has taken measures to give incentives to the cotton growers and also to the textile industry. I appreciate it. For the poor cotton growers, for the export of nearly Rs. 100 crores or even a little more than on an average for the past some years, are we not also importing even more than 100 crores, for dye, machines cotton, long staple cotton—Egyptian cotton—to feed the industry? Will the hon. Minister consider as to what extent this Egyptian long staple variety of cotton is being allowed to be imported in each and every year? The figure is about Rs. 70 to 75 crores annually. If this is the figure according to the hon. Minister, then, to what extent, we are exporting these finished products, manufactured from this finest quality of cotton? I think it is nothing, magnificently nothing.

Now we are importing to the extent of Rs. 70 to 75 crores worth of long staple Egyptian cotton. I understand that it is for the benefit of the textile industry. But, to what extent are we exporting the finished products, the finer quality or finest variety of clothes in various forms? The Minis-

try of Commerce should make it compulsory or obligatory that at least 50% of our finished products from this imported cotton must be exported to earn more foreign exchange. Otherwise, the entire textile industry is a liability in the hands of the Commerce and Industries Ministry.

Whereas a good amount of profit is being made by the jute industry, we do not find any incentives being given to the poor jute growers. Only day before yesterday the Minister, while presiding over a function of the Indian Jute Mills' Association has already given certain hints that some consideration will be shown in the matter of export of finished jute products. I do not know for whose benefits these incentives will be given. I appreciate that certain incentives must be given to increase the volume of production of the jute industry, which in its turn will purchase more and more raw jute from the producers. But to whom should the real benefit be given? Should the incentives be given only to the big industrialists or a fair price should be given to the poor producers, who should be the real beneficiaries? I would expect the minister to clarify whether he will go to the extent of declaring that jute prices would be reviewed and a minimum support price of not less than Rs. 200 per quintal or even more as he finds suitable will be announced here and now.

Coming to the tea industry, we find that over the last few years, about Rs. 2700 crores of foreign exchange have accumulated in the hands of Government from this industry. And, the Government's net revenue by way of export duty is nothing less than Rs. 1500 crores. My hon. friend said, this industry employs nearly 1 million workers throughout the country. My figure is $1\frac{1}{2}$ million workers. So, it is an industry which is giving substantial foreign exchange to the government. It is the industry which gives substantial export duty to the Government, It is the industry employing nearly $1\frac{1}{2}$ million workers. It is the industry which is giving scope to a number of subsidiary employments. But

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the affairs of this industry have not been looked into. Earlier speakers have referred to this illogical division of tea zones into five zones, the excise duty varying from 25 paise to 150 paise, the highest being in the case of Darjeeling tea—150 paise per kg. The Central Board recommended that the yield of Darjeeling tea being lesser per hectare or per acre compared to the other areas, the labour should get 38 paise per day less. Kindly look at this anomaly. On the one side one agency of the Government declares that Darjeeling tea yield being lesser than other plantation areas, the labour should get 38 paise less. On the other side, accepting that, Government increased the excise duty to 150 paise. i.e. to the extent of 200 per cent or even a little more than that. What a wonderful logic! Production is lesser comparatively than other areas. So, excise duty must be made more and the labourers should be paid less. So, the basic question is whether this sort of irrational and illogical basis of dividing the different plantation areas is congenial to the ultimate interest of the industry and whether it is going to be an incentive to bigger industrial development in respect of tea. What was the fault of the Darjeeling tea? It is the best-priced tea in the world. It must be taxed more. On the labourers' side, because the yield is less so the labourers should be paid less. May I request the hon. Minister to consider this aspect seriously, as it has also been referred to by other members of this hon. House?

The second aspect is incentive. It is very good that incentive is being given to the tea industry. What is the form of the incentive? It is 75 paise for each kilogram of tea exported. To whom is this rebate going? It is going to a few exporters, may be three or four. To whom should this incentive be given? This incentive ought to have been given to the growers, to the labourers who are really producing it, those who are responsible for giving a sizable amount of revenue in the hands of the government. But this rebate of 75 paise per kilogram of export

is given to the exporters, whose number is not more than three or four.

My hon. friend has referred to the auction price in London, which is another peculiar feature of the tea industry. There is tea auction in London. What happens there? The whole consignment of tea is shipped and dumped there. The London local buyers and the buyers of other countries who are assembled there know the quantity and quality. Considering the volume and the quantity, the prices go up or down. My friend has explained it in a better way. When from the South African and other countries the supplies are less in a particular year, the prices are higher by 45 to 49 paise. So, it all depends on the extent of dumping of tea for the London auction.

If we really want to give proper incentives for the growth of the tea industry, the very system of auction has to be changed. Instead of having the London auction by dumping the tea there, is it not possible to have direct auction, sealed tender auction? There is another pattern known as the Dutch system. There the buyer does not know what is the quantity that is dumped in stock and the auction is being done by sealed tenders on the basis of the quality of the tea itself. It will give us a better price. To give some figures, during the last few years our country exported tea to the extent of 5,340 million kg. If we assume that under the present system of London auctions we are getting 10 paise less for each kilogram, our country is the loser to the extent of Rs. 53.40 crores. According to some other calculation it may be up to Rs. 100 crores. The tea industry is being made to lose Rs. 100 crores only because we are following the London auction system. So, let us have the closed tender system which will be most helpful to the tea industry.

The hon. Minister stated that the tea industry is picking up. Is it not a fact that our sale of tea to UK has come down from 49 per cent to 12 per cent? If this is a fact, how does the hon. Minister stand on his argument that it is picking up? Why has it come down from 49 to 12 per

cent ? What is the Tea Board doing ? My hon. friend said that the affairs of the Tea Board are not satisfactory and suggested that it should be reconstituted.

I fully endorse that view. I know many things, being a Member of the Tea Board, which I would not like to disclose here. I have referred to this on a number of occasions to the hon. Minister. What they have done so far ? According to the total demand in the world, in each and every year on an average, the demand for tea in the world is going up to the extent of 4.5%. But, our export sales, is not only not proportionate, but, it is far far below and it is to the extent of 56%. Is this the sort of development that we are having ? Is this the sort of new market that we are developing with the help of this Tea Board ? While the world demand is to the extent of 4.5%.....

MR. CHAIRMAN : You have taken 15 minutes.

SHRI B. K. DASCHOWDHURY : Give me some more time. There are not many speakers.

What I was saying was that, while the world demand is picking up to the extent of 4.5%, and other countries are exporting their commodities to the extent of 11%, 15% and 20% higher, our country is exporting only 56% and not even 1%.

With regard to coffee, the hon. Minister said that exports are going up. I have not collected statistics about coffee. My hon. friend requested me to prefer to this. I can appreciate that the Coffee Board is doing something. But, I cannot appreciate and I cannot say the same thing with regard to Tea Board.

The third point, that I would like to refer is this. What are the functions of the Tea Board ? Sick tea gardens are not really being looked after. The Tea Board is meeting with grave failure in every step. In the matter of sick tea gardens, or even the poorer gardens or the small gardens,

within certain official norms and formulae, these garden-owners are not entitled to get some of the benefits from the Tea Board. But, the sterling garden-owners, the foreign garden-owners, or the garden-owners who have lakhs and lakhs and crores and crores of rupees worth of property, and who we crores of rupees to the Government in various ways are being given free distribution of financial assistance. I would like to ask only one question here. Are we also going to allow these sterling garden-owners, these foreign garden-owners, these big garden-owners and the big tea planters, particularly those who are repatriating huge profits to foreign countries, to have more and more financial assistance from our financial institutions, either through the Tea Board or any other institution ? Are we going to allow them to plunder the booty of this country ? How long we are going to allow this ? Sir, these are various aspects that should be considered.

So also is the case with regard to the brokers in auctions. In short,...

MR. CHAIRMAN : The hon. Member's time is up.

SHRI B. K. DASCHOWDHURY : You are ringing the Bell. I would request the hon. Minister that, so far as the tea industry is concerned, he must have a serious look into this matter. He should also consider as to whether it is possible to take control of full export of this industry, to fully canalise them and also to consider as to what extent, we can take it over, particularly, the sick tea gardens and the small tea gardens.

The sick tea gardens in West Bengal, about 47 of them, are in a very sad state. Some of them are already closing. I would request the hon. Minister to tell us as to what is the policy of the Government, whether the Government will make out a fresh policy with regard to this matter. West Bengal Government had a mind to take over these gardens and to have a new management for this industry, but, because of certain administrative or legal laws, it was not possible on the part of the Go-

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vast part of West Bengal to do so. Here, the Government of India should come forward—the Ministry of Commerce should come forward—to give relief to it so that we may have a chance to revive this industry as well.

One last point. This is about the price of cotton. This is being very much talked about. We all know about the serious and acute problems that are being faced by the cotton industry, particularly, these cottage industries, hand-loom industries and power-loom industries. I am sure the hon. Minister will consider this aspect. But, what about the price of cotton? If the price of some other commodities, can be rationalised in such a way that these are very much vital to the development of the entire country, cotton is also very much vital. Millions and millions of people are depending on this industry, to go for their own home-made industries, hand-loom industries and power-loom industries. So, the price of cotton must be rationalised or the theory of the process of equalisation must have to be accepted, so that in all parts of the country, people can get cotton at the same price; because it is very vital.

SHRI DINESH JOARDER (Malda) :
Mr. Chairman, Sir, I want to raise only two or three important questions.

¶ Regarding silk industry in India, the silk is produced mainly in the State of West Bengal and, particularly, in the district of Malda. The raw silk is produced there in bulk. In the world market now the demand for silk has increased. But in our country, the silk cultivation and development of silk industry is neglected like anything. The silk growers are bounded by big merchants who give loans to them. These silk growers have no other alternative to market their produce anywhere in India of their own choice. They are bound to surrender their raw silk, their produce, to these big merchants who procure

silk at a very cheap rate and they earn huge profits, 100 times, 200 times, 300 times, according to the prevailing market rate.

Apart from that, the silk dyeing and printing process is also being controlled by certain privileged businessmen and big houses. The dyeing plants are imported from outside the country and they import colours for dyeing silk from foreign countries. This is being controlled by a few big businessmen and the silk weavers of the country are suffering to a great extent. They are not getting the facilities of silk printing and dyeing and its marketing in the wide market of our country and abroad. So, the silk industry is facing a crisis nowadays. I want that the hon. Minister should pay proper attention to this industry.

Then, the wig industry is also another industry of our country. There is a very large demand for wigs outside the country. Now, Japan has become the top-most country in the wig industry. The State Trading Corporation has established a wig industry in Madras. Previously, the manufacturers of wigs were in West Bengal. Some small businessmen manufacture wigs and export them to other countries. But the State Trading Corporation has now taken over the wig industry and they have created a mess out of it. Actually, the wig industry is facing a great crisis today and it is at a point of closure. In West Bengal, about 4000 families who were depending previously on wig industry have become totally unemployed now. This also required proper attention by the Ministry.

Lastly, very recently, the Jute Corporation of India has taken on lease one flat on the Theatre Road in Calcutta at Rs. 11 lakhs. Its floor space could hardly be valued at Rs. 1 lakh or so. That building has been taken on lease by the Jute Corporation of India at Rs. 11 lakhs. That building is being owned by the Rampuria group of businessmen belonging to the Rampura family. Previously, in

this House, it was also discussed, when some other flats in the same building was taken on lease by the Indian Oil Corporation, at a fantastic value of Rs. 22 lakhs. Now, in the same building some other flat, at the same fantastic rate has been taken on lease by the Jute Corporation of India. Apart from that, the family members of Rampuria have been given contract for interior decoration of the same flat which has been taken on lease by the Jute Corporation of India.

In this Jute Corporation of India, there was ample opportunity for new employment that was created by the previous Minister, as I have been able to gather. Now that employment opportunity has been sealed by the present administration, and we do not know for what reason and that too in the context of the unemployment crisis that we are facing today. When there was ample scope for employment in the Jute Corporation, we do not know for what reason that has been closed now. I want the hon. Minister to enlighten us on this.

As my friend, Shri Priya Ranjan Das Munsii, mentions, regarding mango, Malda district is very rich in producing mango. Recently we have learnt that in U.P. one plant is going to be installed for manufacturing mango juice to export to Soviet Russia and other countries. Why not install one in Malda? Malda district belongs to north Bengal which is a very under-developed region. I, therefore, request that a mango-juice-producing plant be installed in Malda so that the acute unemployment problem in North Bengal may be removed.

श्री दासोदर पांडे (हजारीबाग) :
समाप्ति जो, यों तो बहुत सी बातों का जिक्र किया जा है लेकिन मैं खासकर अन्नक उद्योग को तरफ आयेके माध्यम से मंत्री जी का ध्यान आकृष्ट करना चाहता हूँ। अन्नक एक परंपरागत वस्तु रही है जो हम हथेला निर्यात करते रहे हैं और हमेशा इस पर निर्भरता

रही है कामर्स विनिस्ट्री की लेकिन अभी जितनी दुर्बलस्था है उतनी शायद पहले कभी नहीं थी। पिछले साल भी हम लोगों ने कहा था कि अन्नक उद्योग की तरफ थोड़ा ध्यान जाये, उनके लिए कुछ करना चाहिए तो पहले के मंत्री महोदय ने कहा था कि हम पब्लिक सेक्टर से इसको कैनेलाइज कर देंगे। इस उद्योग में लगे छोटे छोटे लोग जिनके उद्योगपति तो नहीं कहा जा सकता क्योंकि बिल्कुल काटेज इंडस्ट्री की तरह हजारीबाग के इलाके में, राजस्थान और आंध्र प्रदेश में इसको एक्सपोर्ट के लायक बनाया जाता है तो उन छोटे-छोटे काटेज इंडस्ट्रीज में लगे लोगों को राहत पहुंचाने के लिए यह तय किया गया था कि इसको कैनेलाइज किया जायेगा एम०एम०टी०सी० की मार्केट किन्तु बद-किस्मती की बात यह है कि हम जो कुछ भी घोषणा करते हैं उसके प्रति सीरियस नहीं होते और उन पर गम्भीरतापूर्वक विचार करके कुछ काम नहीं करते। जिनका नतीजा यह होता है कि हमारी घोषणा जो कुछ भी होती है, इस मामले में खास कर मेरा कहना है कि हम बिल्कुल इसमें अपकृत हुए हैं और यह इसी से साबित होता है कि साल भर के अन्दर ही दोस्ताना व्यवहार करने वाले देश ने, सोवियट यूनियन और पोर्तूगैज जैसे देशों ने यह कहना शुरू कर दिया है कि हम पब्लिक सेक्टर से अन्नक नहीं लेंगे। आखिर क्या कारण है कि पब्लिक सेक्टर से हम अन्नक नहीं भेज सकते? इस पर गम्भीरतापूर्वक विचार करना चाहिए। पिछले साल जब यह तय किया गया था कि एम०एम०टी०सी० के जरिये अन्नक का कैनेलाइजेशन होगा तो हुआ क्या कि बड़े-बड़े उद्योगपति जो थे उन्को

[श्री दामोदर पांडे]

पूरी आजादी दी गयी कि वह सप्लाई आर्डर और वेटेन करें विदेशों से ? और कनेलाइजेशन इतना ही हुआ कि जब सप्लाई आर्डर बाहर से मंगा लें तो उन को एम०एम०टी०सी० में एक क्वीयरेंस सर्टिफिकेट लेना पड़ेगा और उनको एक परसेंट कमीशन देना पड़ेगा । तो सिर्फ कमीशन खाने के लिए ही क्या वह कनेलाइजेशन हुआ था ? हम समझते हैं कि इससे गलत बात और कोई हो नहीं सकती । कनेलाइजेशन करने का मकसद यही था कि छोटे-छोटे उद्योगपति जो काम करते हैं उनको कुछ राहत पहुंचायें, हम उनका माल खरीदें । और वही माल जो बड़े-बड़े पूंजीपति विदेशों में जा कर अन्डर इन्फ्रास्ट्रक्चर करके ऊंचे दाम पर बेचते हैं, फोरेन एक्सचेंज को चोरी करते हैं, उसको रोकें और हम उचित दाम पर उन माल को बेचें, जो उचित दाम होता है वह उद्योग-धंधे में लगे लोगों को दे सकें । लेकिन कुछ नहीं हुआ । बदकिस्मती की बात है कि गिरीडीह और कोडरमा में काम करने वाले करीब 20,000 लोग बेकार बैठे हुए हैं, उन के माल को खत नहीं होती, और बड़े उद्योगपतियों ने फिर कामर्स मिनिस्ट्री पर हावी हो कर के या विदेशों के मार्केट पर हावी हो कर के फिर अपना उल्लू सीधा करना शुरू कर दिया है और विदेशों से कहलवाने लगे कि पब्लिक सैक्टर से माल नहीं खरीदेंगे, बल्कि पूंजीपतियों से खरीदेंगे । आखिर छोटे-छोटे काम करने वाले लोग ही तो बड़े पूंजीपतियों के यहां वह माल बेचते हैं । एक फ्लोर प्राइस फिक्स होती है वह भी साल भर बाद बड़े उद्योगपति उन को देते हैं; और वही माल बाहर भेज कर

वह चैम्पियन बनते हैं; और बोलते हैं कि बढ़िया माल हम दे रहे हैं । तो यही माल एम० एम० टी० सी० में से क्यों नहीं भेज सकते ? मंत्री जी बतायें कि उद्योग-धंधे में लगे छोटे लोगों की राहत के लिये वह क्या उपाय करने वाले हैं ? जिस तरह से पहले चलता था, और अभी भी जिस तरह से चल रहा है अगर वैसे ही इस को छोड़ दिया गया हो तो अश्रक उद्योग, एक समय था जब हमारी वर्ल्ड मोनोपली थी, फिर घट कर के 80 प्रतिशत पर आ गये, और आज उस से भी बहुत नीचे उतर गये हैं, धीरे-धीरे यह उद्योग भी हमारे हाथ से निकल जायगा । जिस तरह से मैंगनीज का व्यापार खो दिया, शायद उसी तरह अश्रक का व्यापार भी हम खो देंगे । इस पर गम्भीरतापूर्वक विचार किया जाय और एक ठोस निर्णय लिया जाय, और जो भी निर्णय लिया जाय उस पर गम्भीरतापूर्वक चलने की प्रतिज्ञा की जाये, उस को अमल में लाने का उपाय किया जाय । सिर्फ फैसला सुना देने से कि पब्लिक सैक्टर से कनेलाइज कर देंगे, और असल माने में कनेलाइजेशन करें नहीं, इस से काम बनने वाला नहीं है । इसी की वजह से यह सारी कुराफात पैदा हुई है और जो छोटे-छोटे लोग धंधे में लगे हुए हैं, उन के जीवन मरण का प्रश्न सामने खड़ा हो गया है ।

एक और महत्वपूर्ण पहलू की तरफ मंत्री महोदय का ध्यान आकर्षित करना चाहता हूं । समूचे देश में आयरन और बेचने के लिये एम० एम० टी० सी० की मार्केट एक रास्ता निकला है कि पूरे देश में जो भी कच्चा लोहा मिलेगा वह एम० एम० टी० सी० के जरिये बेचेगे । लेकिन गोआ के कुछ लोग

क्या हिन्दुस्तान के बाहर रहते हैं जो उन को बिल्कुल आजादी है कि वह अपना माल डायरेक्ट विदेशों में भेजें । और भेजे ही नहीं बल्कि एम० एम० टी० सी० को जो पैसा मिलता है आयरन और वेचने के लिये उस से ज्यादा उन को पैसा मिलता है । तो क्या राज है, यह मेरी समझ में नहीं आता । गोआ में जो खदानों में काम करने वाले मजदूर हैं उन की बहुत खराब हालत है । अभी हाल में माइन्स कमेटी गोआ गयी थी, उन में उष भ्रम-मन्त्री श्री बालगोविन्द वर्मा जी थे, वह स्वयं देख चुके हैं कि कितनी दर्दनाक हालत वहां के मजदूरों की है । और दूसरी दर्दनाक हालत यह है कि 50 प्रतिशत से कम और कटौत वाला कच्चा लोहा फेंक दिया जाता है । उस से खेती की जमीन भी बर्बाद होती है और राष्ट्रीय सम्पत्ति का भी नुकसान होता है । इसलिये मेरा सुझाव है कि गोआ से जो कुछ भी मात्र इस तरह से डायरेक्ट भेजा जाता है निजी पूंजीपतियों के द्वारा, जब आप ने निर्णय किया है कि पूरे देश में मिशने वाला कच्चा लोहा एम० एम० टी० सी० की मार्फत जाय, तो उन का लोहा भी उस के जरिये जाना चाहिये । और इस के साथ ही साथ मेरा सुझाव है कि इस तरह से लो ग्रेड और जिसे आप कहते हैं, हालांकि वह लो ग्रेड और नहीं है, विदेशों में 35 परसेंट और कंटेनर का यूटिलाइजेशन होता है, फिर हम जो 50 प्रतिशत तक और कटौत वाले लोहे को जो समुद्र में केंक देते हैं, उस के बारे में भी कुछ उपाय करना चाहिये जिस से उस का उपयोग हो सके । या तो आप क्रेनेटाइजेशन प्लान्ट लगायें, या जो कुछ भी करिये, कुछ उद्योग धंधे खड़े कर के उस और को इस्तेमाल करना चाहिये । क्योंकि और कोई

मैनुफैक्चरिंग आइटम नहीं है कि जन्म जन्मान्तर मिलता रहेगा । और दुनिया में खत्म होने वाला है और अच्छे से अच्छा और विदेशों को ही भेजते रहेंगे तो हम को अपने घर में स्टील प्लान्ट के लिये अच्छा और नहीं मिल सकेगा । अच्छा और आप विदेशों को भेजें और विदेशी मुद्रा कमायें, लेकिन जो लो ग्रेड और है, जिस को आप बर्बाद कर देते हैं उस के उपयोग के लिये भी कोमर्स मिनिस्ट्री को कुछ उपाय करना चाहिये जिस से कि उस और का उपयोग हम कर सके ।

तीसरी बात यह कहनी है कि जैसा अभी माननीय जोरदार ने कहा कि मालदा में बहुत आग होता है उस को एक्सपोर्ट किया जाय । लेकिन मैं उन को बताना चाहता हूँ कि नाम तो मालदा जरूर है, लेकिन वह बिहार में ही ज्यादा होता है, और उस की हालत यह है कि बहुत जल्दी पकने के बाद वह ज्यादा दिन तक नहीं टिकता है इसलिये एक्सपोर्ट आइटम में जायद उस को जगह नहीं मिलती है । मैं जब विदेश गया था तो देखा कि विदेश में अगर किसी विदेशी को सुबह-सुबह एक गिलास दूधो जूस मिल जाय तो भगवान को याद करता है । तो जब इतनी अच्छी चीज हमारे पास है और उस का सदुपयोग कर सकते हैं, फौरेन एक्सचेंज कमा सकते हैं, तो क्या कारण है कि इस तरह कोमर्स मिनिस्ट्री का ध्यान नहीं जाता ? इसलिये मेरा सुझाव है कि उत्तर बिहार के इलाके में जो मालदा आम होता है, जो ज्यादातर बर्बाद हो जाता है, जिस को अपने देश के मार्केट में ही खपत नहीं कर पाते, उस के लिये वहां एक कारखाना स्थापित करना चाहिये जिस से

[श्री रामेश्वर पांडे]

मैंगो जूस बना कर के विदेशों में उस को भेज सके। मैं प्रार्थना करता हूँ कि इस को एक्सपोर्ट करने की दिशा में आप कदम उठावें और अगर आप यह समझते हैं कि इस का टिकाउपन बाधक है तो उस का जूस बना करके यहाँ से आप एक्सपोर्ट करें तो कोई हर्ज नहीं है। उस से भी आप को फारेन एक्सचेंज मिल सकता है।

उत्तर बिहार में केला भी बहुत अच्छा होता है। समूचे हिन्दुस्तान से आप केला बाहर भेजते हैं। बिहार ने क्या कसूर किया है कि वहाँ का केला नहीं भेजा जाता है। लस और भी आप ध्यान दें।

वहाँ के तेल को भी आप एक्सपोर्ट प्रॉफिट में जोड़ दें ताकि वहाँ के केला पैदा करने वाले लोगों को कुछ राहत मिल सके।

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (PROF. D. P. CHATTOPADHYAYA): I must first thank the hon. members who have participated in the debate pertaining to this Ministry. Some of the members have made friendly criticism and others have made criticism not so friendly; we are grateful alike to all of them. Many issues have been raised and questions have been asked. Since they are many, I hope hon. members would not mind if I cannot cover the whole of them, but within the timelimit I will try to cover or at least touched upon as many as I can.

Many hon. members have asked what is the policy of this Ministry, the Ministry of Commerce, I would like to say initially that the name of this Ministry has recently been changed from Ministry of Foreign Trade to Ministry of Commerce. The change, as rightly understood, is more nominal; it is real and substantial. It means some added responsibility has been given to this Ministry. Accordingly, some policy matters have also been reviewed

and some new different approaches are being made and necessary exercises are in hand.

We have been asked what are the main parameters of the policy. First, I would like to say that it has already been pointed out by the Prime Minister that in the changed context of the world, the developing countries should, not only at the political level but also at the trade and commerce level come close to each other. This is one of the main aspects of the new commercial policy. This is particularly important in the context of the fact that the developed countries are also trying to come close to each other and arrive at a sort of agreement to their mutual advantage. The EEC America and Japan through different sorts of negotiations and agreements, arrangements or understandings are trying to strengthen their position *vis. a vis* the economy of the developing countries.

In this changed and very important context India which is among the developing countries has in view of its size and also the sort of development we have achieved in the last two decades, has a special role to play.

So the two main aspects of our commerce and trade policy are, first, forging closer relations with the developing countries like the Latin American countries, African countries and other Asian countries and second, strengthening our position as far as possible in relation to the developed countries or the different groups often between the developed countries. These are two main aspects.

The other aspect that I would like to mention is in the fifth Plan approach paper it has been envisaged that around the year 1979, foreign assistance for the development of our national economy would be very meagre if not nil. As you will appreciate the task of augmenting the production base and strengthening the production base will still be there and necessitate a lot of foreign exchange till then. So, one of our approaches and endeavours is to seek and arm ourselves,

with more and more foreign exchange which we will not get otherwise. So we are devising modalities and means and mechanism machinery so that export earnings goes up in the coming years.

Together with this I would also like to mention another aspect that is the fourth aspect, which is a growing positive and, whenever necessary, an expansive role of the public undertakings in the export-import trade. As a corollary to this fourth point, I would like to mention that one of the endeavours of our Ministry would be to see that small scale exporters are benefited and public undertakings are taking a larger interest and more positive steps so that the small scale industries and the exporters who, in relation to the big houses and larger houses are as at present at a sort of disadvantage are better placed and are in a better position with the aid and assistance of the Government undertakings like the STC, MMTC or the proposed Mica Trading Corporation, for example. These are the four main aspects of our commercial policy. If I may add, I would like to mention a fifth one which is quite consistent with the other aspects, namely our endeavour to develop close relations with the developing countries in general and our neighbouring countries in particular.

As hon. Members are aware, our Foreign Minister in the recent past had been to the Gulf areas and he has gone to Burma. The Prime Minister had been to Nepal and she is going to Sri Lanka. That is a new thing. Commercial diplomacy and policy follows closely political policy and diplomacy. So, we will be trying to get close to our immediate neighbours in terms of trade and commerce and we will be trying more and more to see how better relations and more positive relations grow up between our countries on the one hand and some other countries who are our immediate neighbours and who are looking forward to our performance in the field of development, etc. with increasing interest and expectations. I think these are some basic aspects.

Another thing also which I may mention in this context is the getting closer of the Polynesian countries to the Asian trade and commerce. After Australia and New Zealand develop new interests in the trade and commerce of the Asian world, I think we have also to reciprocate it and see that they are drawn in the trade and commerce of the Asian world, so that we are mutually benefited. This problem will be taken up, as you know, in the ECAFE meeting at Tokyo where I have the privilege to represent India.

In this context I may also mention that we are trying to develop close relations with Bangla Desh. Our trade agreement with Bangla Desh expired on 27 March and with mutual consent we have extended it by three months. This time will be utilised by us in studying and surveying and identifying areas and commodities where we can expand and increase our trade and commerce and we hope after these studies in depth we may arrive at an agreement which will be more positive and more beneficial ourselves and to Bangla Desh.

It has been said that in the matter of bilateral trade our performance has not been what some of the hon. Members expected of us. If you like I shall quote some figures which will speak for the fact that bilateral trade has not been as satisfactory as made out by some hon. Members. With Latin American countries for example, our balance of trade has moved from a deficit of Rs. 595 lakhs to an overall surplus of Rs. 684 lakhs over the past two years. During 1972-73, statistics are available for April to August, our imports were Rs. 182 lakhs as against our exports of Rs. 461 lakhs. Thus there has been a surplus in our favour to the tune of Rs. 279 lakhs. Our trade with Latin American countries followed our Prime Minister's visit to those countries. When some senior leader visits a particular country, we come closer to each other politically, and trade and commerce also respond to this close poli-

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tical relationship in a significant way. It has also happened in the case of trade and commerce relations with Africa.

After the Lusaka Conference, for example, there was a significant development of the contacts between our country and the African countries. When I am speaking of Indo-African trade, I mean all countries of the African continent. In 1969-70 we exported goods and commodities worth Rs. 2916 lakhs and imported Rs. 8937 lakhs. In 1970-71 our exports stood at 3981 lakhs as against our imports of 10,092 lakhs. In 1971-72 the exports were of the order of Rs. 5261 lakhs and imports, Rs. 8233 lakhs. These figures speak unmistakably for the fact that our bilateral trade with Latin American countries as well as the African countries has not declined; on the contrary they have shown a remarkable increase. The same can be borne out by the statistics of our trade and commerce relations with West European countries.

In 1969-70, I am expressing the figures in crores, our exports were nearly Rs. 300 crores and imports Rs. 306 crores; in 1970-71, our exports was nearly Rs. 300 crores and 29 lakhs and our imports were Rs. 350 crores; in 1971-72, our exports were Rs. 326 crores worth and our imports were Rs. 500 crores worth. These may sometimes show a surplus and sometimes a deficit in our favour because, there cannot be a steady trend in this. But, one fact is that when we started, there was a huge deficit and because of the tariff and other qualitative and quantitative restrictions, there were some difficulties. I shall come to them in a moment. The point is that in our trade and commerce with all components, we are going ahead and the volume of trade and our total turnover are increasing.

It has been said that E.E.C. perhaps may do something about it because as I told you, the developed countries have their own interests which are not same some times or which are not similar at times. And naturally, they may come

together and they want to protect their own interests mainly. In a bid to protect their own interests, what happens is this. There are certain avenues and in between the protective view, in their own economy G.S.P. possibility is there. This possibility we are trying to exploit as far as possible. It is on record. Perhaps we could not exploit it as far as possible. Now, we are endeavouring to see how much we can exploit it.

Due to our bargaining and other high-level talks, now, the E.E.C. has realised that they also have to come to some sort of terms or understanding with our country. So, some guidelines were submitted by the Committee of the programme representatives of the Council of Ministers of E.E.C. on 3rd April, 1973. They unanimously authorised the Commission of E.E.C. to enter into negotiations with the community with a view to concluding trade cooperation agreement. The proposed agreement includes all the various tariffs granted by the community periodically and incorporation of the existing sectorial agreements pertaining to textiles and other products. I may also mention in this context the sugar export quota. From their point of view, the import quota has also remained unaffected. Because of this sort of bilateral negotiation, by taking the E.E.C. as a whole as one party and ourselves the other party, our endeavour is to seek closer relation with the developing countries in relation to the developed countries. We are also trying to explore it as much as we can. A suggestion has been made as to why should we not nationalise the export and import trade? The question is: rationalisation is not for the sake of nationalisation; nationalisation is a means for a particular end in view. With necessary expertise and experience, if we lower the export or import trade, then instead of reaching nearer to our goal, we may be a loser of somewhat avoidable score.

17 hrs.

I believe socialism does not mean nationalisation, nationalisation and rationalisation; socialism means nationalisation.

consolidation, nationalisation, consolidation and nationalisation.

Those who think that socialism means nationalisation, nationalisation and nationalisation do not know socialism. In 1968-69 only 11 items were canalised. But in 1973-74 202 items have been canalised. So, the fact that we are giving bigger and bigger and constructive and more positive role to the public sector undertakings in the foreign trade is unmistakable from all available data. It is an open question ; everybody knows it. It is a fact that now the import trade in the public sector is as high as 70 per cent. I do not go by the cliché of nationalisation ; I believe in nationalisation. When consolidation, experience and expertise are good enough for taking a bold step forward, we will take a bold step forward.

In this context, I might perhaps mention the problem of sick and closed tea estates. I am aware of the problem faced by the jute, tea and many other industries. As hon. members have pointed out, there are many big houses rightly or wrongly, fortunately or unfortunately, very much in the field. These houses have interests in different fields—textiles, engineering, jute, tea etc. Like the general rule of the ordinary consumer—what we call 'liquidity preference', these big houses have a policy, what may be called 'profitability preference'. when in a particular sector there is high profitability, there is a natural economic propensity for them to take money from one industry to another industry. The modes and mechanisms of doing this are all known to the knowledgeable people, particularly the lawyers. But it is a fact that some big business houses and some which are not so big have indulged in some trade practices which are questionable. I said in very clear and categorical terms day before yesterday in Calcutta : "You are going to be ethically and economically myopic" because they are not investing in a sector or industry where the profit return is not high. So, everybody knows it and Government is quite aware of it.

Several steps have been taken by Government to discourage this bad business practice and the propensity for profitability preference. But it is a question of priority. We are not a rich country. Our total resources are limited. In the matter of allocation of resources we must draw up a schedule of priority and invest our investible capital resources accordingly. So we must be sure that before we nationalise an industry and invest our capital in that sector, capital drawn from the poor man's resources, it is good enough and productive enough for the national economy taken as a whole.

So, I do not believe in nationalisation just for the sake of nationalisation. At the same time, the plight of the poor workers and employees of the sick units, particularly of these closed down, is very much there. The West Bengal and Assam Governments have written to us and pressed us to do something about these closed tea estates. We are seized of the matter. We are thinking of taking certain steps which will benefit the unfortunate employees who have been thrown out of their job. But, as you will appreciate, there are some problems, legal and administrative which this Ministry of its own cannot sort out. For that we are in consultation and in touch with some other concerned Ministries so that appropriate steps and ultimate measures can be taken to the relief and advantage of the employees and workers of the closed tea estates.

DR. RANEN SEN (Barasat) : The steps which you are going to take will take some time. The gardens are closing. What happens in the mean time ?

PROF. D. P. CHATTOPADHYAYA : Nearly 15 days back in Calcutta there was a particular meeting attended by different sectors of industries, both strong and not so strong and weak, all trade unions belonging to all parties, including the party of the hon. Member intervening, where this problem was discussed. I went deep into the matter and I had set up a task force which is going into the issues.

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It is true that this problem had been studied before, once by the Reserve Bank and again by the Barua Committee. I had the privilege of looking into these things. But the problem had taken a different shape and urgency. So, while I will not say anything against the findings of these two committees, I think some more steps, perhaps I may say bold steps, are called for to meet the problem or situation. It is not as if we are sitting idle or sleeping over the issue. We are taking active steps, and these steps are contemplated primarily in the interests of the workers and employees who have been thrown out of job already when the factories were closed.

Closed industries are not so easy to define because there are legal and other difficulties which you will find in defining sick industries. About that matter, as I said before, certain study has to be made and, at a latter stage, certain administrative and legal measures have to be taken. Some positive steps will be taken in respect of closed and sick industries, whatever might be the definition ultimately we arrive at about sick industry. But about the industry as a whole I would like to say very clearly that no decision of nationalisation or taking over is being contemplated.

AN HON. MEMBER : Why ?

PROF. D. P. CHATTOPADHYAYA
The answer is very simple. I can only say that an unstudied decision may better the pleadings or the craziness of the Minister but not the wisdom of the Ministry.

DR. RANEN SEN : I said that some policy steps are being taken. We want to have an inkling of the positive steps.

PROF. D. P. CHATTOPADHYAYA : The hon. Members are well-versed in English language. I have said it very clearly and not in a very ambiguous way. They can understand what I mean.

SHRI B. K. DASCHOWDHURY :
When will be done ?

PROF. D. P. CHATTOPADHYAYA : I cannot say when. The task force is going into

the Affairs. It is asked to submit its report within three months when I can take a decision this way or the other way. Before studying the question I do not intend to create unnecessary, unavoidable, an economical fear psychosis which is absolutely unwarranted. So, I do not like to do it, I do not propose to do it. My immediate question is closed and sick industries, whatever might be the definition of "sick" that we may ultimately arrive at.

Now, some hon. Members have suggested that some fiscal relief may be provided at least to some zones. As I have said before on the floor of this House and also there and I repeat it, I find that the demand for fiscal relief at least for one or two zones is justified indeed. I will try to see that that relief is provided. But, as you will appreciate, the fiscal relief-giving question is an integral part of a larger question of fiscal discipline of the Government as a whole. Subject to the fiscal discipline of the Government as a whole, my endeavour will be to see that the zones which badly need some fiscal relief in the larger interest of the industry itself get the relief.

SHRIDINESH CHANDRA GOSWAMI :
Can you give some time in relation of that ?

PROF. D. P. CHATTOPADHYAYA : I might say three months' time-limit is there. By three months, I will be able to take a decision. Sometimes, as I did in the case of yarn, when I said that I will give a decision within 7 days, I declared it within 4 days. When I say, three months, I mean, the outer limit. I might declare something before that.

SHRI B. K. DASCHOWDHURY : May be within two months.

PROF. D. P. CHATTOPADHYAYA :
I do not know.

Then, the matter has been raised about yarn. As you know, it is a very big problem to enter into a trade which is traditionally in the private sector and to handle it to the entire satisfaction of all sections concerned. We find that that yarn trade is

going in a very bad shape. The weavers are suffering due to a very drastic power cut although unevenly throughout the country and the yarn production has gone down by about 30 per cent. The poor weaver in unorganised sector was suffering most acutely. So, we thought we should take certain steps. We have ~~not~~ taken certain steps. We have taken certain decisions. But the decisions have come into force only on the 13th March.

The figures which are being quoted sometimes show that the Government have not given the full entitled quota to the States and that it is really the half of the total entitled quota. For the whole of March, we are not supposed to give quota because this scheme came into operation only in the latter half of the month. So, the question of giving a figure which is very disproportionately low in relation to the entitled quota is due to the fact that while they are expecting the whole month's quota we are actually giving only half month's quota that is, when the scheme came into operation.

Secondly, there is a point that some sectors are not getting their supply State-wise e.g. the hosiery federation. They are not getting their State quota but they are drawing their quota from the Textile Commissioner and they are supposed to distribute it between different State units. While I give this explanation, I do not minimise in the least the plight and suffering of weavers. I am very much alive with their suffering. In order to remove their sufferings we have taken certain steps. One of the steps taken I have already indicated. On the day when I made the announcement, on the 9th March, I suggested that every State Government should set up a watch-dog Committee, consisting of MPs, MLAs, weavers and other persons concerned because I could anticipate that, when I tread on the toes of the traders or those who are well-entrenched in the field for years together, they will not take it lying down and they would hoard. In many cases they have hoarded and they do hoard. Without the help of the different sectors

of the industry and particularly the political leaders, it is not possible only for the administrative machinery, for the State Government, to unearth this huge hoarded quantity. I have no doubt, and knowledgeable people know it very well, that a huge quantity has been cornered by the traders who have been badly hit by our policy. So, in anticipation of this contingency, I had suggested to them; I am yet to be told that any State Government has set up such watch dog Committee....

SHRI DHAMANKAR : It has been set up, but MPs have not been associated.

PROF. D. P. CHATTOPADHYAYA : Secondly, I have sent my officers to various States. We have not waited for the State Governments to tell us their problems. It is true, many MPs, Ministers and Chief Ministers have informed us of the very sad situation. We, on our own, have already sent our officers, to different States to study, on our own, the nature of the problems. The problems of all the States are not alike. Sitting in Delhi or Bombay we cannot prescribe a general solution to the problem which is not general and which has its peculiar contours in different States. We have sent our officers to U.P., West Bengal, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu and all other places wherever necessary, and it will be followed up by a meeting to be called tomorrow or the day after tomorrow, after the return of these officers and after the submission of their reports, where the State Governments, representatives, Director or Secretary who-soever is the representative, will be there. We are thinking of slightly modifying our original policy and scheme in the light of the new experience that we gather ourselves or by the States conveying to us, and one of the contemplated changes.....

श्री झारखण्ड राय : इस बीच में क्या होगा ! आफिसर आयेगे, प्रभुम के बाद मीटिंग होगी, फैसला होगा, मीडिकेशन होगा, लेकिन इस बीच में मरने वाला मर जायेगा, फिर आने से क्या होगा ?

PROF. D. P. CHATTOPADHYAYA :

It is to help those people that we are taking steps. We have said to the State Governments, first, that they may raid the hoarded quantity and whatever they get by raiding those godowns of different traders, that amount they will get in addition to their entitled quota. This is one thing that we have suggested to the States. Every State will get, in addition to its entitled quota, the unearthed hoarded element. Secondly we have suggested this. Different States had some quota, declared quota, within their States on the 31st March. All States will be entitled to retain the quota which they had till 31st March, because some of the States like Gujarat, West Bengal and Maharashtra had suggested this and we agreed to it.

Thirdly, we have suggested that, if by reducing power cut one spinning mill, they can produce more yarn, that extra production of yarn will go to the State quota, and this will be in addition to their entitled quota.

We have also made this scheme rather flexible. If two or three States adjoining can re-distribute their power problem and increase their yarn production, then that extra production they can retain within their own State or group of States who come to this sort of power allocation between themselves.

These are some of the modifications.

SHRIDHAMANKAR : One point of clarification, Sir. Will you please review the allocation to the different States? Arithmetically it is from 1 to 80 counts that is allotted to different States. But Haryana does not want fine yarn as the Minister himself said. The Textile Commissioner's office knows the whole requirements of different States fine or coarse. Will you please review it?

MR. CHAIRMAN : It is a suggestion for action.

PROF. D.P. CHATTOPADHYAYA : The only submission I would like to make is that we have our own figures about authorised looms—powerlooms and handlooms and it

is a fact that in certain States there are unauthorised powerlooms. So, now, since there is an overall shortage, naturally, our first attempt should be to meet the requirements of the authorised ones. The question of the unauthorised loom looms comes next, if it comes at all. So regarding the question of reviewing, of course, it will be made and it is being made. On the 11th April we are having that meeting as I referred to just a minute ago. So, all these things will be taken into account, but we cannot take a decision *a priori* without knowing the facts and figures and the difficulties. So, we have sent our own officers to States. They are coming back and we have also asked every State to send its own officer and we will take a decision. We have acted as expeditiously as possible and we will continue to act as expeditiously as possible. The poor weaver's cause is as much close to our hearts as it is to theirs.

Something has been said about jute prices....

SHRI B. K. DASCHOWDHURY : What about price equalisation of cotton yarn?

PROF. D. P. CHATTOPADHYAYA : I have already submitted that. I have to speak under this time constraint. So, all questions that have been raised, while I do not deny their importance, but for obvious considerations, it is not possible for me to go into all those questions. But the major ones I am referring to.

Now, about jute, it is very pertinent to expect that the poor jute grower gets a fair price. The question of now guaranteeing a minimum floor price for the jute-grower is now more academic because the reigning price is higher than the support price accepted by the Government. While I appreciate it very much, finally, in this matter we will be guided by the findings of the Agricultural Prices Commission.

Something has been asked as to what we are doing as a sort of incentive or encouragement to the small-scale exporters

or those who make exports and have small scale industries as their production base. In our new import-export policy we have said that the process of assessment of capacity of small scale industries in the private sector will continue.

Secondly, for non-priority sectors, an increased allocation of imported raw materials has been provided in the case of industries reserved for the small scale sector.

Thirdly, for new-comers, the basis of import licensing has been liberalised.

Fourthly, exporting units in the small scale sector will receive better encouragement.

Fifthly, the basis of import licensing for small scale industries to be set up in the backward areas by qualified engineers and ex-Service personnel has been liberalised.

Sixthly, the procedures for issue of licences for capital equipment have also been considerably simplified.

Seventhly, the existing facilities for setting up small scale industries in the country by Indian nationals returning from or residing abroad have been continued.

Lastly, more districts have been added in the list of backward areas.

These steps are intended to give more and more governmental assistance to the small scale industries so that their share and capacity in the export trade *vis-a-vis* the big competitors increases.

So our policy is to help the weaker sections in the industry or the medium sector etc. about Mica. I had already said something the other day and the MMTC is quite seized of the problem. We are proposing to set up a Mica Trading Corporation. So, this problem, of which we are seized of, will, we hope be looked after by Mica Trading Corporation. After the entry of MMTC in the field there is lot of improvement. I will not say that difficulties have been totally removed, but we are seized of the problems at issue.

I have referred to many points. I have touched upon many problems. But I am sorry to find that there are many points as I see from the notes which I have myself taken down, with a view to answer them, or at least to respond to them. But I could not do so. I wish to inform hon. Members through you that even the points which I could not answer will be borne in mind by me while I take decisions in those and other related matters. Thank you.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I will now put the Cut Motions that had been moved to the Demands relating to the Ministry of Commerce, to the vote of the House.

All the Cut Motions were put and negatived.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is:

"That the respective sums not exceeding the amounts on Revenue Account and Capital Account shown in the fourth column of the order paper be granted to the President to complete the sums necessary to defray the charges that will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1974, in respect of the heads of demands entered in the second column thereof against Demands Nos. 10 to 13 relating to the Ministry of Commerce."

The motion was adopted.

17.28 hrs.

MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER

MR. CHAIRMAN : The House will now take up discussion and voting on Demand Nos. 63 to 65 relating to the Ministry of Irrigation and Power for which 7 hours have been allotted.

Hon. Members present in the House who are desirous of moving their Cut Motions may send slips to the Table indicating the serial numbers of the Cut Motions they would like to move.