

18 hrs.

# MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE

MR. CHAIRMAN : The House will now take up discussion and voting on. Demands Nos 32, 33, 34 and 116 relating to the Ministry of Foreign Trade for which 6 hours have been allotted.

Hon. Members present in the House who are desirous of moving their cut motions may send slips at the Table within 15 minutes indicating the serial numbers of the cut motions they would like to move.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE (Kanpur) : You are aware that more than 2 lakhs of handloom weavers coming under the jurisdiction of this Ministry are going to resort to direct action of the 25th...

MR. CHAIRMAN : This can be raised tomorrow when his party spokesman speaks. He cannot raise any question any time.

## DEMAND NO 32—MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE

MR. CHAIRMAN : Motion moved :

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 4,11,59,000 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, 1973, in respect of 'Ministry of Foreign Trade'."

## DEMAND NO 33—FOREIGN TRADE

MR. CHAIRMAN : Motion moved :

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,05,70,42,000 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, 1973, in respect of 'Foreign Trade'."

## DEMAND NO. 34—EXPORT ORIENTED INDUSTRIES

MR. CHAIRMAN : Motion moved :

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 6,34,19,000 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, 1973, in respect of 'Export Oriented Industries'."

## DEMAND NO. 116—CAPITAL OUTLAY OF THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE

MR. CHAIRMAN : Motion moved :

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 2,74,64,000 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, 1973, in respect of Capital Outlay of the Ministry of Foreign Trade'."

\*SHRI MANORANJAN HAZRA (Arambagh) : My. Chairman, Sir, At the very outset I would like to point out some of the discrepancies in the report of the Ministry that has been circulated to us. At page 19 of the report it has been stated "export of leather and leather manufactures increased during January, August 1971 by Rs 7.8 crores to Rs. 54.5 crores over the corresponding period of 1970. "But surprisingly enough, in a weekly bulletin entitled Economic and Commercial News" brought out by the same Ministry, in its issue dated the 30th October, 1971 at page 23 it has been stated that our trade for this item has gone down by Rs. 93.6 million. In a likewise manner, with regard to handicrafts at page 24 of the report, it has been stated "The value of exports improved from Rs. 26.3 crores in January—August 1970 to Re. 29.1 crores during the period under review, 'But from the Economic and Commercial News Bulletin it is found that during the same period not only that our export did not expand but actually we lost to a tune of Rs. 34.3 millions. In a similar way while at page 24 of the report the Government claims to have increased the export of fish by Rs 50 lakhs during 1971, the Economic and Commercial News says that the export have gone down by Rs. 1.9 million. With regard to unmanufactured tobacco, at page 21 of the report it has been stated "our export of tobacco improved by Rs. 6.4 crores to Rs. 35.2 crores during January-August 1971 while the said weekly bulletin of the Ministry says that our loss of business of this item amounted to Rs.

13.1 millions. Like this many discrepancies can be pointed out, I do not know whether the figures given in the Annual report are correct or those given in Economic and Commercial News are correct. I hope the hon. Minister will clarify the point during the course of his reply.

My main grievance against the Ministry is that the hon. Minister is not able to keep pace with the changing time and moreover his outlook is also outdated. For achieving a better expansion of our foreign trade, a better coordination of the industries which provide exportable goods is the first requisite condition necessary but the hon. Minister does not seem to have paid his attention to this matter as seriously as it deserves.

All over the country more than 3000 industrial units are lying closed and of them 400 are located in West Bengal very often the hon. Minister tries to bypass the problem of mill closure by referring to labour trouble and uneasy political situation prevailing in the State of West Bengal. If it is so, then I ask him why hundreds of mills are lying closed in Mysore, Andhra and Gujarat? Surely these States do not suffer from uneasy political condition nor they suffer from labour trouble either but we find that hundreds of factories are lying closed down in these States also.

I would now like to say something about some items of export. Firstly I will take up cotton textiles. In the report it has been stated that "the exports of cotton textiles during the past two-three years had been showing an upward trend but this trend has suffered a set back during the current year". I ask the hon. Minister why this set back is due to? The report again says "the main reason for this decline has been the high prices of domestic cotton." No doubt this is one of the main reasons for the crisis that is prevailing in the industry today but I feel Sir that if we could maintain a parity in the price of cotton that is grown in the country and those imported from abroad and if we could supply cotton to all the States at the same price, then the crisis would have been averted and we could have kept the closed factories running. In this connection Mr. Chairman Sir I would like to point out that in West Bengal we have to pay an extra sum of Rs. one hundred for purchasing one bale of cotton over the price that is being charged in other States. Why this sort

of discrimination should be allowed to perpetuate? I hope the hon. Minister will explain the position in his reply.

During the last ten years as many as 60,000 cotton textile workers had lost their jobs and in West Bengal as many as 22 cotton textile mills are lying closed down at present. All these mills have been closed down not merely because of labour trouble but mainly because of the high cost of cotton and malpractices of the mill owners. While some steps have been taken by Government to reopen the closed mills yet all of them have not been reopened and I will draw the attention of the Minister to this problem and hope that he will take some urgent steps to tackle the problem.

I would now like to say a few words about the Coir Development Scheme. Many discussions have taken place on the floor of this House and the hon. members are perhaps aware of the fact that the Kerala Government has formulated a scheme for Coir development entailing an expenditure of Rs. 15.59 crores. They had forwarded the scheme to the Central Government and the Central Government in its turn had referred the matter to the Planning Commission and a Study Team was also appointed. In their report the study team suggested in June 1970 for the sanction of Rs. 6.99 crores for the above scheme but nothing has been done to implement the recommendation of the study team. Not only this we also find that upto the Third Five year Plan loans and grants were given by the Central Government to the Government of Kerala for this purpose but from the beginning of the Fourth Plan all these have been stopped. Even though block grants and block loans are being given for centrally sponsored schemes but since the Coir Development Scheme is not a Centrally sponsored one, it is not getting the benefit of Central loans and grants. (Interruptions) Therefore, I would request the hon. Minister that the allocations recommended by the Study Team should be sanctioned by the Centre for implementing the scheme which has been formulated by the State Government.

I will now say something about cashew industry. The Kerala Legislative Assembly passed a resolution on 13.4.71 urging upon the Central Government to give financial assistance to the Kerala State Cashew Development Corporation. The Kerala Government had

[Shri Manoranjan Hazre]

also suggested that at least Rs. 40 lakhs should be given so that 10 units could be opened. They had also suggested that along with these ten units the other 15 units could be taken over with central assistance. But nothing has been done by the Central Government in this regard. The Central Government was further requested that for the period December 1971 to December 1972, for the 15 factories, a supply of 17646 tonnes of raw nut should be effected and for the remaining ten factories a quota of supply of 4400 tonnes of nuts might be fixed. Unfortunately no reply has so far reached the State Government in this regard.

Sir, I might also point out in this connection that a seminar was held in Ernakulam on creation of research facilities for cashew shell liquid and a scheme was also prepared for setting up a research centre at Quilon which entailed an expenditure of Rs. 63 lakhs. The Ministry was requested that they should at least bear the 50% of the expenditure but here too no reply has been given by the Ministry.

Now, I will come to tea industry. During the last year we produced 429 million Kgs of tea and out of this 213 million Kgs were exported the money value of which was Rs 160 crores. Sir, West Bengal and Assam produce 77% of the total tea produced in the country while 23% is grown by the Southern States. The Tea Trading Corporation was set up in Calcutta to facilitate expansion of tea trade. The Corporation started working and efforts were made by the Tea Board to popularise tea through award of prizes also. But soon we found that the organisation became a hot bed of bickerings and the Managing Directors of the Corporation started competing with each other to grab the Chairman's post and as a result, much of the effectiveness of the organisation was lost. Sir, during the last five years sum of Rs 4 88 crores was spent for popularising tea but what is the net outcome of this huge expenditure. The Public Accounts Committee of Parliament has observed "the promotion campaign of the Tea Board had been a dismal failure since the expenditure has largely failed to serve its purpose"

I will now come to jute industry. This industry has made a record profit during the last one year. There are many shortcomings in this industry and in order to remove them the first thing that is necessary is that the

industry should be nationalised. I therefore demand that without any loss of time the industry should be taken over as I am confident that through this nationalisation we can achieve a lot.

श्री हुकमचन्द कछवाय (मुरेना) : सभापति महोदय, मैं आपकी व्यवस्था चाहता हूँ। सदन में गणपूर्ति नहीं है।

MR. CHAIRMAN : The bell is being rung. Now there is quorum. He may continue.

Please conclude in 2 minutes.

SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYYA : 6 minutes were taken in the quorum.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Only 2 minutes more.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJ BAHADUR) : Two hours back, we had a meeting of the whips of Opposition Parties and the Congress whips and we came to a solemn understanding, that the question of quorum will not be raised as a matter of convention between 1 and 2 P.M. i.e. during lunch hour and after 6 P.M. Shri Bade was there and he will bear me out. Now that the question of quorum has again been raised after 6 P.M. I want to bring it on record that this solemn understanding and convention is not being observed only by one hon. member, Mr. Kachwai. I think he should abide by the rules accepted even by his own party at least. I have no grievance, but he should know that we are not here merely for our sake. We are here for the sake of the entire country. We do not want the time of the country to be wasted like that.

SHRI R. V. BADE (Khergaon) : This meeting was at 5 O' Clock. I could not communicate it to my party members. Tomorrow there will be a meeting of our party where we will decide it. So, from Monday we will follow it.

MR CHAIRMAN : When as a party leader he enters into a solemn agreement it is his duty to inform his party members of the agreement he has entered into. Since he as

well as the other member are both present in the House, he should control that hon. Member. If he confirms what the hon. Minister has said, then there should be no challenging of the quorum from now.

**SHRI RAJ BAHADUR :** We shall patiently wait for one more day. Let Shri Kachwai have his day today. Let Shri Bade enforce discipline from tomorrow.

**MR. CHAIRMAN :** So long as the rule is there, I am bound to follow it whenever the question of quorum is challenged. Now the hon. Minister says there is a solemn agreement and Shri Bade confirms it.

**SHRI R. V. BADE :** We have decided in the meeting at 5 O'Clock that the quorum will not be challenged between 1 and 2 and after 6 O'Clock. I will place this before my party tomorrow when we are meeting. Then we will let you know what we have decided.

**SHRI RAJ BAHADUR :** This understanding was arrived at at the Whips' Conference.

One thing more. My hon. friends opposite have also agreed that whenever the quorum is challenged and the requisite number has to be satisfied, the presence of 15 members will be assured on that side namely the opposition and we, on this side, will provide 35 members. This has been decided just now and I want this to go on record.

**MR. CHAIRMAN :** As he has stated that he wants one day more to communicate this to his party, if quorum is challenged today I will have to ring the bell.

**SHRI MANORANJAN HAZRA :** Sir. The hon. Minister is surely aware of the fact that when the question of jute cultivation was raised then the cultivators were assured that for one maund of jute they will get price for three maunds of paddy. Today when the cost of three maunds of paddy is much more than Rs. 100 then I will request the hon. Minister to find out for himself as to how much the poor jute cultivator is getting for his one maund of jute. We also find that Government is giving subsidy to weak productive units. This applies to jute textile and other industries and because of this subsidy the industrial units are making lot of profit but on the other hand we find that the cultivator who actually

grows the jute which in turn brings lot of profit to the mill owners are not getting reasonable price even for his produce.

I will conclude my speech by touching upon two more points. We are producing 93,000 tonnes of coffee. In the International Coffee Organisation meeting held in London it was decided that after meeting domestic requirements, India will export the rest to foreign countries. Out of the 93 thousand tonnes of coffee produced in the country 45% is consumed in the country itself and the rest is exported. But it is a matter of regret that the foreign exchange earned by our country is much less as compared to the foreign exchange earned by the foreign countries to whom we make these exports for these foreign countries are in their own turn are re-exporting coffee and are making huge profits therefrom. It is indeed a very regrettable matter and I hope the hon. Minister will pay his attention to this aspect of the matter.

Sir, I will now refer to the matter which Shri S. M. Banerjee was trying to raise here just now. Nearly two lakh handloom workers of U.P. will be on a strike from tomorrow. The plight of the handloom workers all over the country is too well known to the hon. Minister and the workers of UP are going on strike from tomorrow.

Sir, the Indian Motion Pictures Export Corporation was set up to promote export of films. Just because the authorities of the Corporation do not see eye to eye with the Government directions, efforts are being made to set up another body and the Chairman of the IMPEC has written to the hon. Minister about it. I hope the hon. Minister will apprise the House of this matter also.

Finally Sir, the Union Carbide Company, which is an American concern is repatriating huge sum of money to their country by exploiting our country in respect of marine products. I will hope that the hon. Minister will try to bring an end to this exploitation and with this expectation Sir, I conclude my speech.

**SHRI RAMAVATAR SHASTRI (Patna):**  
I beg to move :

"That the Demand under the Head Ministry of Foreign Trade be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Shri Ramavtar Shastri]

[Need to canalise import of steel sheet cuttings through Government agencies (4)]

"That the Demand under the Head Ministry of Foreign Trade be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Failure to promote LDCs/UDCs of the Ministry of Foreign Trade to the posts of Field investigators specially created for Third Asian Fair in accordance with the instructions of the Department of Personnel O.M. No. 2/43/71-CS(11), dated 23.11.71 (42)]

"That the Demand under the Head Ministry of Foreign Trade be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Failure to reply to the letters received from Central Government Clerks Union, Ministry of Foreign Trade Branch. (43)]

"That the Demand under the Head Ministry of Foreign Trade be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Failure to give requisite reservation to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the Ministry of Foreign Trade for the posts of Investigators and Field Investigators, etc. (44)]

"That the Demand under the Head Ministry of Foreign Trade be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to give opportunity to all the employees borne on the cadre of Ministry of Foreign Trade for posting to exhibitions organised abroad by the Government of India. (45)]

"That the Demand under the Head Ministry of Foreign Trade be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to remove the arbitrary ceiling imposed on overtime allowance by the Ministry of Foreign Trade limiting it to 1/4th of the emoluments of employees as against the 1/3rd ceiling prescribed by the Government of

India orders issued by the Ministry of Finance. (46)]

"That the Demand under the Head Ministry of Foreign Trade be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Failure to revert Accountants on deputation from CAG's Office in the Ministry of Foreign Trade to their parent office and promote Departmental UDGs qualified in the accountancy training in the resultant vacancies (47)]

"That the Demand under the Head Ministry of Foreign Trade be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Failure to supply water-coolers for staff in the Ministry of Foreign Trade. (48)]

"That the Demand under the Head Ministry of Foreign Trade be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Failure to supply room coolers to the staff working in the Ministry of Foreign Trade. (49)]

"That the Demand under the Head Ministry of Foreign Trade be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to give training to Departmental UDGs in Cash and Accountancy so as to make them eligible for handling the posts of Accountants in the Ministry of Foreign Trade and revert the present incumbents in the posts of Accountants to their parent offices which will result in economy in expenditure and provide incentive to the staff. (50)]

"That the Demand under the Head Ministry of Foreign Trade be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to reconsider the policy of bringing officers into the Ministry of Foreign Trade on deputation and thereby marring the promotional chances of Departmental employees. (51)]

"That the Demand under the Head Ministry of Foreign Trade be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Failure to confirm clerical and other class III employees of the Ministry of Foreign Trade in accordance with the instructions of the Department of Personnel (52)]

"That the Demand under the Head Ministry of Foreign Trade be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Failure to promote UDCs of the Ministry of Foreign Trade in accordance with the instructions of the Ministry of Home Affairs No. 10/3/69-CS(II), dated 2nd May 1970, by not sponsoring them to Department of Personnel for redevelopment elsewhere (53)]

"That the Demand under the Head Ministry of Foreign Trade be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Total laxity shown by the Ministry of Foreign Trade in the matter of confirmation of temporary LDCs/UDCs even though they are eligible for such confirmation. (54)]

That the Demand under the Head Ministry of Foreign Trade be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Failure to convert 80 per cent of temporary posts in the Grade of LDCs/UDCs/Assistants as required under the orders of the Government of India. (55)]

"That the Demand under the Head Ministry of Foreign Trade be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Failure to set up Office Council in the Ministry of Foreign Trade as required by Department of Personnel vide their O.M. No. 5/18/71-JCA, dated 28th December, 1971. (56)]

"That the Demand under the Head Ministry of Foreign Trade be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Failure to amend the recruitment Rules for the posts of Investigators etc, as directed by the Government of India vide Department of Personnel O.M. No. 2/43/71-CS(II), dated 23rd November, 1971 (57)]

"That the Demand under the Head Ministry of Foreign Trade be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to adopt policy of ensuring expeditious payment to staff on account of over time allowance. (58)]

"That the Demand under the Head Ministry of Foreign Trade be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Laxity and indifference shown by the authorities in the Ministry of Foreign Trade in the matter of systematically maintaining of GPF account of the employees of class IV (59)]

"That the Demand under the Head Ministry of Foreign Trade be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Failure to supply uniforms to class IV employees in due time and regularly. (60)]

"That the Demand under the Head Ministry of Foreign Trade be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Failure to confirm the class IV employees working in the Ministry for quite a number of years. (61)]

"That the Demand under the Head Ministry of Foreign Trade be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Failure to give due reservation to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the posts of LDCs on daily wages in the Ministry. (62)]

"That the Demand under the Head Ministry of Foreign Trade be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Failure to give reservation to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled

[Shri Ramavatar Shastri]

Tribes in the posts of messengers and watermen on daily wages in the Ministry. (63)]

SHRI D. K. PANDA (Bhanjanagar) : I beg to move :

"That the Demand under the Head Foreign Trade be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to stop granting of licences to big monopolies like Tatas and Birlas to carry on colonial exploitation by setting up ventures in Afro-Asian countries. (7)]

"That the Demand under the Head Foreign Trade be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Failure to explore full possibilities of beneficial trade with socialist countries. (21)]

"That the Demand under the Head Foreign Trade be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Failure to revise the trade agreements entered into with British and American interests in Tea and Coffee in 1930's, so as to suit India's national interest, (22)]

"That the Demand under the Head Foreign Trade be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Failure to revise the trade agreement in respect of sugar exports entered into in 1930's with British and American interests, so as to suit India's national interest. (23)]

"That the Demand under the Head Foreign Trade be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to revise trade agreements relating to all point ventures which have caused losses to India's economy. (24)]

SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPA : (Telicherry) : I beg to move :

"That the Demand under Head Ministry of Foreign Trade be reduced to Re. 1."

[Failure to allocate sufficient funds for stabilising the traditional industries. (9)]

"That the Demand under the Head Ministry of Foreign Trade be reduced to Re. 1."

[Permission granted to Indian monopoly houses to invest capital abroad. (10)]

"That the Demand under the Head Ministry of Foreign Trade be reduced to Re. 1."

[The defective distribution policy of raw cashew nuts by the S. T. C. (11)]

"That the Demand under the Head Ministry of Foreign Trade be reduced to Re. 1."

[Failure to check the Coir Board from giving its advertisements to a private advertising firm. (12)]

"That the Demand under the Head Ministry of Foreign Trade be reduced to Re. 1."

[Failure to appoint a non-official chairman for the Coir Board. (13)]

"That the Demand under the Head Ministry of Foreign Trade be reduced to Re. 1."

[Failure to stop the granting of licences to the exporters of Coir products who are not manufacturers. (14)].

"That the Demand under the Head Ministry of Foreign Trade be reduced to Re. 1."

[Failure to stop the use of foreign cars by the officials of the S. T. C., which are meant for sale. (15)]

"That the Demand under the Head Ministry of Foreign Trade be reduced to Re. 1."

Replantation of the tea gardens owned by Foreign companies. (16)]

"That the Demand under the Head Ministry of Foreign Trade be reduced to Re. 1."

[Failure to stop the import of Copra, while the coconut price is falling in India. (17).]

"That the Demand under the Head Ministry of Foreign Trade be reduced to Re. 1."

[Failure to stop the import of synthetic rubber while our natural rubber is not having enough market. (18)]

"That the Demand under the Head Ministry of Foreign Trade be reduced to Re. 1."

[Failure to improve conditions of the small coffee growers. (19)]

"That the Demand under the Head Ministry of Foreign Trade be reduced to Re. 1."

[Failure in stopping clandestine processing of cashew which ruins the organised industry. (20)]

"That the Demand under the Head Ministry of Foreign Trade be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need for rendering financial assistance for the stabilisation of handloom industry. (25)]

"That the demand under the Head Ministry of Foreign Trade be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need for finding new export market for coir and cashew products. (26)]

"That the Demand under the Head Ministry of Foreign Trade be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to set up an industry to cut diamonds to meet the foreign demand. (27)]

"That the Demand under the Head Ministry of Foreign Trade be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to nationalise the foreign owned tea plantations. (28)]

"That the Demand under the Head Ministry of Foreign Trade be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to enforce replanting in the foreign owned tea gardens which are deliberately neglected by the foreign owners. (29)]

"That the Demand under the Head Ministry of Foreign Trade be reduced by Rs. 100"

[Need for finding market for rubber in India and abroad. (30)]

"That the Demand under the Head Ministry of Foreign Trade be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to stabilise the coir industry by immediately granting Rs. 1.5 crores soft loan as requested by the Kerala Government. (31)]

"That the Demand under the Head Ministry of Foreign Trade be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to give financial assistance to Kerala Cashew Corporation for stabilising it and to save the industry from the grip of the merciless exploitation by the private industrialists. (32)]

"That the Demand under the Head Ministry of Foreign Trade be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need for immediate setting up of a handloom servicing centre in Cannanore, Kerala. (33)]

"That the Demand under the Head Ministry of Foreign Trade be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to set up immediately a handloom design centre in Cannanore, Kerala. (34)]



[Shri C. K. Chandrappan]

"That the Demand under the Head Ministry of Foreign Trade be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to promote the export of handloom products, (35)]

"That the Demand under the Head Ministry of Foreign Trade be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to find out foreign market for handloom products, (36)]

"That the Demand under the Head Ministry of Foreign Trade be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to solve the problems of the employees of the Coir Board, (37)]

"That the Demand under the Head Ministry of Foreign Trade be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to take over the Alagappa Textiles by the National Textile Corporation, (38)]

"That the Demand under the Head Ministry of Foreign Trade be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Performance of the National Textile Corporation, (39)]

"That the Demand under the Head Ministry of Foreign Trade be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Various failures of the State Trading Corporation, (40)]

"That the Demand under the Head Ministry of Foreign Trade be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to enforce strictly the rules regarding the quality control, (41)]

SHRI MANORANJAN HAZRA : I beg to move :

"That the Demand under the Head Foreign Trade be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to organise special teams in consultation with the Consultative Committee for participating in the Industrial Fairs abroad (64)]

"That the Demand under the Head Export Oriented Industries be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to reorganise the Handloom industry in West Bengal, (65)]

"That the Demand under the Head Export Oriented Industries be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to nationalise the Jute industry, (66)]

"That the Demand under the Head Export Oriented Industries be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to organise the Coir Industry on a scientific basis, (67)]

"That the Demand under the Head Export Oriented Industries be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to stop the repatriation of profit by the foreign countries in respect of marine products (68)]

"That the Demand under the Head Export Oriented Industries be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to open the closed and sick textile in the country, (69)]

"That the Demand under the Head Capital Outlay of the Ministry of Foreign Trade be reduced to Re. 1."

[Failure to have equality in price in respect of cotton with other item of raw materials indigenous or foreign, (70)]

"That the Demand under the Head Capital Outlay of the Ministry of Foreign Trade be reduced to Re. 1."

[Failure to start Industrial units at the suitable places, (71)]

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

SHRI M. SUDARSANAM (Narasaraopet) : Mr Chairman, while supporting the Demands for Grants under the control of the Ministry of Foreign Trade, I compliment the Minister and the Ministry for their purposive efforts in shaping the country's foreign trade policy. Especially, the Indo-Soviet Protocol, signed only last week in Moscow, encourages us to believe that an era of profitable conversion deals in a wide range of products like the supplies of steel from the Soviet Union for nut, and bolts, cutlery etc., is soon going to be ushered. But USSR has shown significant accommodation for meeting our essential requirements for the wide variety of products like non-ferrous metals and newsprint, for which we were almost dependent on the USA in the past. All this clearly demonstrates our ability to become self-reliant, even if US aid is not forthcoming.

While pursuing various policies the Ministry is doing excellently well to ensure the growers of agricultural commodities a remunerative and fair price. When tobacco prices in Andhra Pradesh started slumping in a big way this year, the purchase operations of STC had an upward influence on the price of tobacco and at any rate arrested the downward tendencies. Similarly, in the case of cotton, the Cotton Corporation of India opened several branches in cotton-growing areas and purchased sizable quantities and thus very actively arrested the downward tendencies. The Jute Corporation of India however could not do much in view of several bottlenecks etc. It is not well manned : no trained officers are in charge.

I should particularly like to highlight the point made in the report of the Ministry of Foreign Trade that "Adequate attention must be paid to ensure ever increasing surpluses at internationally competitive prices for commodities offering substantial growth potentials."

The above represents a fundamental fact which has to be continuously borne in mind. I would like to offer a few constructive suggestions in this regard.

The Ministry of Foreign Trade must become the pivotal point in the drive to increase export production. On page 44 of

the report, mention is made of some of the efforts being made but it looks to me that these must be energised if a real breakthrough in exports has to be made. In other words, capacity and production constraints must be overcome with utmost speed. Two things are imperative to bring this about. Quick identification of area where production should increase taking into account the fact that the world market can absorb the goods ; a time-bound programme should be evolved, and the working groups set up to identify the area must produce results as has been suggested in the 14th Report of the Estimates Committee on page 20. A statement should be placed as to what concrete measures have been taken to implement the ideas incorporated in the Export Policy Resolution.

Sir, while pressures at the international level through UNCTAD and other forums have to be kept up, we must now fully realise that the developed countries will change their attitude only if we speak from a position of strength. For this purpose we must give special importance to concentrate on tackling the problem of high ocean freight rates. Apart from what is being done in UNCTAD in this matter through adopting a suitable code of conduct for Lines Conferences, the Indian Lines which are in the membership of a Conference should be made to adopt a more aggressive attitude. If necessary, the problem may be tackled even through legislation.

In the field of exports, the continuing problems of delays in grant of compensatory support and import replenishments must be tackled on an emergency basis. I think, this task must be accomplished with a sense of purpose and I, for one, think that the nationalised banks can even now be persuaded to disburse cash assistance without delay.

May I now, Sir, refer to what I consider to be an important point? This is with regard to the organisational machinery for export promotion.

श्री हुकमचन्द कछवाय : मान्यवर, सदन में कोरम नहीं है।

MR. CHAIRMAN : The bell is being rung.

—Now there is quorum. He may continue.

SHRI M. SUDARSANAM : The Fourteenth Report of the Estimates Committee has made some very valuable suggestions.

18.31 hrs.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You may continue tomorrow. The House stands adjourned to meet at 11 A.M. tomorrow.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Friday, May 12, 1972/Vaisakha 22, 1894 (Saka).*

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