

Mr. Deputy-Speaker : We have heard about it already. Let the hon. Member kindly co-operate. Let us go on with the business before the House.

14.12 hrs.

DEMANDS* FOR GRANTS—*contd.*

MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE—*contd.*

Shri S. M. Krishna (Mandya) : The approbations that the Ministry has received in the course of the debate from the ruling party, I am afraid, should not lead the Ministry to fall into a state of complacency. No doubt, we have made some progress in our international trade, but certainly it is not commensurate with the phenomenal rise in the world trade today, and our own contribution towards that phenomenal increase could be said to be only marginal and limping. With a little more imagination and with a little more dynamism, I am sure that we could have registered a greater progress. Some of our traditional export items like coffee, jute, tea, cashewnuts, coir etc. have registered a slight decline. When we look into the performance of this Ministry over a period of 12 months, we find that in these areas, the decline or shortfall is not adequately explained in the report which has been placed before us for consideration.

But the only progress of importance has been made in the area of silk. I shall primarily devote my speech towards the development of silk and the export of silk. As the House is well aware, 80 per cent of the silk that is produced in this country comes from the State of Mysore, and we are justified in taking pride in this achievement. But with a little more encouragement by the Central Government and with a little more forward-looking outlook and policies I feel that we could have done much better. In 1958, we exported silk worth Rs.30 lakhs. Today, in a little more than 10 years, we have reached the figure of Rs.15 crores, and in 1970, in the first two months, the exports have reached Rs.3.11 crores as compared to the corresponding period in 1969 when it was only Rs.1.18 crores. So far so good. But we certainly could have reached probably the 20-crore mark if the Central

Government had taken certain initiatives in this field. We face stiff competition in the international market with Japan, and the shattered economy of Jafar after the Second world war was to a very large extent recuperated by the great strides that Japan made in the field of exporting silk. Now, we find South Korea is becoming a very keen competitor with India even though we hold the fourth place in the world.

One significant omission is in the field of research. Just imagine a country like Japan which spends every year an equivalent of six crores of rupees towards the research aspects of silk. What is our allotment or the money that has been earmarked in the fourth Five Year Plan? For a full period of five years, we have made a very pedestrian allocation of Rs.11 crores. The report takes great satisfaction in mentioning that there is a research and training institute sponsored by the Central Government in Mysore city. What has been its contribution? Do they have enough buildings there? Do they have a staff worth the name?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker : Your time is up.

Shri S. M. Krishna : I will just hop from point to point hereafter. Let me tell the Minister that this institute which has been functioning has not had a director in the last eight years. Only now a director has been nominated but his appointment is being questioned by the high court there. They have constructed a huge building in Chennapatna which comes under the silk belt. Unfortunately they spent lakhs of rupees also on that building. But our young scientists thought that that was not a congenial place for their research work and they wanted to move nearer the city, and the whole thing was shifted to Mysore city. They do not have a place. They have been moving to three or four places from Mysore city because they do not have a building worth the name to accommodate the silk research and training institute.

The Silk Marketing Society in Mysore had made an application for loan of Rs.20 lakhs from the Central Government in 1957 and they got a loan of Rs.10 lakhs which was repaid promptly as per schedule.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker : You have exceeded your time.

* Moved with the recommendation of the President.

Shri S. M. Krishna : May I remind the Minister that the creditworthiness of this small society in Mysore is much better than the creditworthiness of this Government which is functioning in this country, because we know how often we ask our international aid-givers to reschedule our debts. We have been making a very sincere plea to move the headquarters of the Central Silk Board from Bombay to Mysore, because Mysore is situated in the silk belt. The Government have been keeping mum on it, and they say that silk is export-oriented and most of our exporters are in Bombay: so we have to satisfy the exporters and hence the office is being located in Bombay.

One word about the growers of silk. They are being exploited day in and day out by the middlemen and by the exporters. There is no price stabilisation at all, so far as those who grow silk in Mysore and in other parts of the country are concerned. So, I would like to make a very strong plea that there has to be a certain price stabilisation, and the unheeded exploitation which has gone on for quite a number of years has to be checked in order to safeguard the basic interests of the silk producers.

One word more about the powerlooms. In Bangalore city itself, there are 2,000 unlicensed powerlooms. They are being given raw silk to the detriment of those powerlooms which are licensed in Bangalore city. They have made repeated requests to the Textile Commissioner in Bombay and to the Minister concerned, but their appeal has fallen on the deaf ears of the Government.

Only one word about the Motion Picture Export Corporation. They have established this Corporation and it has made a profit of about Rs.8 or 9 crores last year. The point is, all our pictures which go abroad have to be canalised through this Corporation. So much so last year, very recently, a truck load of films which were being smuggled to be shown in South Africa was caught by the Bombay police. We do not know whether prosecutions were launched and whether action was taken against those culprits who are acting against our national policy. Our national policy is, in keeping with the U. N. Resolution, we should not have any trade connection with South Africa so long as they practise segregation. But when our motion pictures are being smuggled

into South Africa, is it not for the Government of India to check these loopholes from where these motion pictures are being smuggled.

There are three shoddy pulling units in our country. The foreign exchange earmarked for them is rather meagre. I make a strong plea that in the coming year, they must make a greater provision for foreign exchange facilities to the shoddy pulling units.

In conclusion, may I humbly request the Minister that he should devote more attention towards the silk area and silk belt, for there is a gold mine for us to dig. I am sure in the next 4 or 5 years, we can reach the Rs.50 crore target if we can bring in certain dynamism, initiative and dedication. I am sure the Minister will do it.

Shri R. K. Birla (Jhunjhunu) : Sir, last time when I spoke on the demands for grants of this Ministry, I had stated about the qualifications of the Ministers. This time, before I come to the main subject, I would like to state the types of Ministers we have got in the Centre as well as in the States. According to me there are four types of Ministers. One type is those who believe in the philosophy "I shall enjoy and will allow others to enjoy". In Hindi we say,

मैं भी खाऊंगा और दूसरे को भी खाने दूंगा ।

The other type is, "I shall enjoy but will not allow others to enjoy". The third type is, "I shall not enjoy but will allow others to enjoy." The fourth type is "Neither I shall enjoy nor will I allow others to enjoy." मैं भी नहीं खाऊंगा और दूसरे को भी नहीं खाने दूंगा । Sir, we need the type of Ministers as quoted by me under item 4, with devotion to do good to the masses, with determination to increase agricultural, industrial and consumer goods production, with a dedication to establish all types of industries, whether it is in public sector or private sector or core sector, whatever be the name of the sector, it does not matter, and lastly with devotion to boost exports.

The present name of this Ministry is "Ministry of Foreign Trade." It is a deceptive name. We know very well that this

Ministry not only deals with foreign trade but with vital and important industries like jute, cotton, silk, man-made fibre, etc. What a strange thing, Sir, that not only the name of this Ministry is deceptive, but the names of the hon. Minister and his officers are more deceptive than the name of the Ministry.

There is one Mr. Innocent working as Joint Textile Commissioner in the T. C.'s office in Bombay. I know he is fully qualified and he knows his job pretty well. Why call him innocent? Then, there is one Mr. Small. He may be sitting here in the gallery. He is working as Joint Secretary in this Ministry.

He is not a small man, according to me, he is a big man. When he was in the Petroleum Ministry he saved several crores of rupees by finalising a deal for crude oil. It shows how big he is.

Then comes the Additional Secretary, Shri Ramchandran, I.C.S. In Hindi we say Ramachandrane. The meaning of *ne* is no. Therefore, according to this word, he is not like Maryada Purshottam Ramchandran. But I know it very well that on account of his noble thoughts and deeds he is like Maryada Purshottam Ramchandran. I would remind him that Maryada Purshottam Ramchandran had to part with his beloved wife Sita for what? Because, he wanted to do justice to a *dhobi*. Here the *dhobi* is a small man. So, I would request Shri Ramchandran to do justice to the smaller units also in meeting their requirements.

Then comes the name of Shri K. B. Lal, I.C.S., Secretary. His name is very deceptive. They say he is red. But I know that he is not red, he is anti-red.

Lastly, before I come to the main subject, I would like to say something about our hon. Minister, Shri Bhagat. I am sure that he is not *bagula* Bhagat; he is real Bhagat because his name starts with Bali, which means sacrifice, which is a basic qualification for a conscientious worker, to which group Shri Bhagat belongs to.

The name of the Ministry has changed from time to time, for reasons best known to the government. At one time it was

called Commerce Ministry, then Commerce and Industry Ministry, then International Trade, then Foreign Trade and Supply and today it remains only Foreign Trade; everything else has been taken out. I do not understand how these changes are going to help the Ministry. Are they going to increase our production, increase our exports or decrease our imports? No, not at all. On the other hand, we people are totally confused as to which type of industry or trade this Ministry is dealing with internally and in the case of foreign trade.

I welcome the new Import Policy recently announced according to which 38 more items have been added to be canalised through S. T. C. and M. M. T. C. Here I would like to quote Shri P. L. Tandon, Chairman of the S. T. C., who stated the other day :

"India has reached the take-off stage in the world. But for the success it will have to act as a shrewd operator both in import and export markets."

I would remind Shri Tandon that charity begins at home. Let S. T. C. start operating as a shrewd operator and set an example for others. It has been stated on the floor of the House for quite a number of times that S. T. C. is making a profit of 100 to 200 per cent in some items. I do not know how far it is true. But I know that there are some items in the case of which S. T. C. is making 25 per cent profit, which does not behave of a government-owned business organisation which believes in socialism. It is just profiteering which should not be allowed.

I am glad that the Government has taken a decision to open a bank for keeping imported raw materials to be given to the industry. This is a move in the right direction. But I would suggest that the small scale industries should also be allowed to be benefited by this bank by buying raw materials well in time and at reasonable prices. Let this bank not turn out to be a tottering bank of raw materials.

Now the Import and Export Policy is being announced for one year. I would suggest that it should be for at least three years so that we know where we stand. A

[Shri R. K. Birla]

change in policy every year is not good, according to me.

I must congratulate the Government and the Minister that this time—and it is only this time—they have reserved 50 per cent of the imports of raw materials for the small-scale sector. Up till now they were reserving only 33 per cent. I hope, they will be sincere in doing that and will also reserve 50 per cent of the foreign exchange meant for importing machinery for the small sector people and not all for the big sector people.

Now I come to the woollen industry. That is my pet subject. We all know very well and the Government has agreed in a reply given to my starred question—I do not remember the number—that the woollen industry is an export-oriented and defence-oriented industry. Therefore it needs all the recognition that this industry deserves. It must have full raw materials and modern machines. The Government of India have replied to me that they allotted Rs.52.56 lakhs for importing modern machines from abroad. But these people do not know that the countries from which we have got to import those machines against these licences do not make those machines at all. Therefore they should be more careful in duping the people by telling them that they have allowed so many rupees worth of foreign exchange for importing machinery.

Only 25 per cent of the woollen industry is modernised and the rest 75 per cent is outdated and obsolete. It is a defence-oriented and export-oriented industry. Therefore I would request the hon. Minister, Shri Bhagat, to make a special note of this that foreign exchange worth at least Rs.40 crores, according to the Planning Commission, should be kept at the disposal of the industry so that they can import the right type of machinery.

This is the best time for purchasing wool tops. Last year the price of wool tops was 107 pence. As you know very well, wool tops come from Australia; we do not manufacture the wool tops we need for the industry. Today the price of wool tops is only 93 pence. I would request the hon. Minister to take advantage of this falling market so that we can import greater quantity

of raw material against the foreign exchange allotted.

Now I come to the tufted carpets industry. I have to say with a heavy heart that the Government of India is not paying any heed to what I have suggested. We export raw wool to countries abroad. They turn that raw wool into yarn and the yarn into tufted carpets. We have all the necessary raw materials—carpet backing, raw wool etc. which we export from here. Why should we not make our own tufted carpets?

I have been advocating this since Shri Manubhai Shah was the Minister but I do not know what has happened to this. If the private sector is not prepared to go in for this industry, let a beginning be made with the public sector, particularly in the Kandla zone where, I think, this industry could be a success.

We all know that today woollen cloth prices are very high in this country. They are perhaps the highest in the international market. I suggest—give a trial to this suggestion for one year and I can assure you that prices will fall—allow the maximum import of wool, to the extent of at least Rs.20 crores, and there will be a fall in price by 40 per cent and the consumer will be benefited.

Now I come to the cotton mills. We have heard that 80 cotton mills have gone sick on account of the increased price of cotton—an increase of about 35 per cent over last year as the hon. Minister might be knowing—and the price of cloth has not gone up. I am not in favour of prices of cloth going up because the consumer suffers. My suggestion is that to avoid the closure of further units, Government should try to allow the maximum production of manmade fibres, whether in the public sector or in the private sector—that does not matter. That would solve the problem to a very great extent and the land on which we grow cotton can be safely used for growing more cereals. That is my practical suggestion. I am sure the hon. Minister, Dr. Tiguna Sen is agreeing with me by nodding his head, I think, Shri Baji Ram Bhagat would also agree with me.

About the jute industry, we are losing in the export of sacking and hessian. The jute industry was making a little profit in carpet backing but as my hon. friend, Shri Tapuriah, said yesterday, there has been a fall in carpet backing also on account of the fact that prices are high. The only solution for this is the removal of export duty.

Before I conclude, I would like to say that India has been participating actively in the various international exhibitions. I had the occasion myself to see two world-renowned exhibitions, one in Moscow which took place in 1963 and another in New York. What happened there is a very sorrowful affair. Some of our products sent there remained in tact in their original packing and, perhaps, they were sent back here. I would suggest that some responsible man should be sent there to see that all our products sent to various international exhibitions are displayed there.

Then, our pavilions are never ready in time. Take, for example, Expo '70 at Osaka. Our Indian newspapers and some of the foreign newspapers commented that the Indian pavilion was not ready at the time of the opening of the exhibition. Why was it not ready?

The Minister of Foreign Trade (Shri B. R. Bhagat) : It was ready.

Shri R. K. Birla : I can show the hon. Minister the cuttings from the newspapers saying that it was not ready when the exhibition opened.

Anyway, what is the biggest attraction in our pavilion at Osaka is the white tigress sent from here. Is it a circus or an exhibition of animals? I think, it is an industrial exhibition. I understand that most of the foreigners are flying to Osaka just to see the white tigress. I would suggest that instead of going to Osaka, these people should have been invited to India, to New Delhi, to see the white tigress at I, Safdarjung Road, New Delhi, I mean, the Madam Prime Minister, Mrs. Indira Gandhi, who will pounce upon anyone, who will tear anyone to pieces, if somebody comes in the way of the progress of the country and for the betterment of the have-nots.

Shri Liladhar Kotoki (Nowgong) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the demands of the Ministry of Foreign Trade.

Sir, the time at my disposal will not permit me to go into details. But I must submit that despite the disparaging criticism from the hon. Members from the Opposition, an impartial observer who cares to study the figures during the last 9 years and also keeps in mind the basic test of the success or otherwise of our foreign trade will have to admit that, the Ministry has turned the corner and, particularly, during the last 2 years, there has been a significant improvement in our balance of trade. If the balance of trade is the test of the success of foreign trade, we must at least be fair and generous enough to appreciate this.

Nevertheless, I do agree that the Ministry or the Government cannot remain complacent in that also. We have the assurance from the press-note on the latest import policy about the various steps that Government have already taken and propose to take. I only wish that not only our balance of trade will be made up but will go ahead with these measures so that our balance will become favourable.

I would deal with only one special problem, that is, the problem of tea industry. Tea is one of the largest foreign exchange earner and, apart from that, it is very vital for the economy of the areas where tea is grown. Our exports, both in quantity and value, have gone down because of keen competition in the world tea market.

The Government have already taken certain measures and an Indo-Ceylonese Tea Consortium has already been formed and we hope they will succeed in getting our tea trade out of the present difficulties. Apart from that, the Consultative Committee under F. A. O. has also studied the whole problem and we are sure that our tea also will get certain advantages out of that.

Now, there is one very significant step, the Government has taken in removing the export duty on tea. At the same time, I must draw the attention of the hon. Minister and the Government to the method

[Shri Liladhar Kotoki]

of excise duty levy. Here, I will not go into the details but I will request the Government to examine as to whether it has not been somewhat discriminatory and as to whether the low quality tea gardens and small gardens in Assam, particularly, in Zone 5, are not going to face a great deal of difficulties because of this excise duty. I will refer to a very significant paragraph in an article written by no less a person than Shri K. P. Tripathi—'Assam needs a larger Plan' published in the issue of the States of April 4, 1970. I am quoting :

"The income of the State Government from tea has gone on declining ever since the Government of India levied the discriminatory Excise Duty on Assam tea on zonal basis from 1958. The Assam Government has been urging the Government of India to restore the uniform flat rate of Excise Duty as before 1958. But the Government of India has extended the discrimination further in the new Budget by levying extra 50 paise per kilogram, on Zone 5, which produces 80 per cent of Assam tea as against only 10' paise for North Bengal, 45 paise for Nilgiris and nil for Cachar. The Government of India in imposing this levy obviously did not take into consideration the higher cost of production and transport of Assam tea. This discriminatory levy is likely to strangle the medium quality gardens of Assam and may even lead to their closure."

Therefore, I am closing my speech with a request to the hon. Minister to kindly look into this matter and see whatever redress the question deserves is given. With these words, I support the demands of the Foreign Trade Ministry.

Shri P. M. Mehta (Bhavnagar) : Sir, I rise to point out one big shortcoming in the matter of cotton textile industry regarding the utilisation of the idle capacity. It may be observed from the performance of last two years that the utilisation of idle capacity of this industry is very poor. At the end of the year 1968, 68 mills remained closed inclusive of 12 closed units fit to be scrapped and at the end of Nov. 1968, it

was 68 mills—the same number—that remained closed including 16 mills considered fit to be scrapped. This shows that the huge idle capacity of the industry has not been properly utilised. No society can afford to have this amount of production remain idle. In terms of spindles and looms it is like this. At the end of December, 1968, 15.15 lakhs spindles remained idle inclusive of those units worth scrapping. At the end of 1969 it was 15.35 lakhs spindles that remained idle inclusive of those closed units worth scrapping. In the same way at the end of December 1968, 17,602 looms remained idle inclusive of those closed units worth scrapping. By the end of November 1969, 8460 looms remained idle inclusive of those closed units worth scrapping.

This comparative figures show that there is no improvement at all. So, I will like to draw the attention of the Minister to this aspect that in this matter the Government should promptly act and take over all the mills which are economically viable units. I will give the example of my own home town, the head-quarters of my constituency. There is one cotton textile mill, namely Mahalakshmi Mills, Bhavnagar. It has closed since long. An investigation Committee was appointed. The Committee held that the Mills is an economically viable unit. Somehow or other it was not taken over. And now I have come to know that the Mill is at the verge of closure or it has been closed. Therefore I request the Minister to agree to take over the Mahalakshmi Mills, Bhavnagar without the delay of even one day. With this, I close, thanking you for giving me the time.

श्री रमेश चन्द्र व्यास (भीलवाड़ा) : उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, श्री मेहता जी ने जो बेकार मिलों की बात रखी है, मेरे यहाँ भी बेकार मिल पड़ी हुई हैं और एक मिल सरकार चला रही है। सरकार द्वारा चलाने के बाद भी दो साल से वह बहुत घाटे में जा रही है और उसकी व्यवस्था इतनी बुरी है जितनी बुरी कि मालिकों के यहाँ भी नहीं बी। तो सरकार उस सम्बन्ध में क्या कर रही है?

दूसरे—राजस्थान में ऊन का काफी उत्पादन होता है और ऊन की इन्डस्ट्री लगाने के लिए राज्य सरकार ने आपके यहाँ माँग कर रखी है तो उसके बारे में मन्त्रालय क्या कर रहा है?

तीसरे-राजस्थान में सूत काफी पैदा होता है, नयी नयी मिल्स लग रही हैं और पावरलूम की राज्य सरकार ने मांग कर रखी है जोकि एक लम्बे समय से मन्त्रालय में पड़ी हुई है तो क्या उसके ऊपर भी आप जल्दी से जल्दी ध्यान देकर फैसला करेंगे ?

श्री रामावतार शास्त्री (पटना) : उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, हमारे पटना में एक बिहार काटन मिल है। वहाँ के मालिकों ने स्पिंडिल्स ज्यादा बढ़ाने के लिए बहुत दिनों से लिखा-पढ़ी चला रखी है लेकिन उस दिशा में अभी तक कोई संतोषजनक उत्तर नहीं दिया जा रहा है। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि इस सिलसिले में क्या आपको कोई जानकारी है ? हमारे सूबे में वही एकमात्र काटन मिल रह गई है तो अगर वहाँ पर विस्तार करने की कोशिश है और वे आपसे लाइसेंस मांग रहे हैं तो फिर आपके सामने क्या कठिनाई है ? आप लाइसेंस क्यों नहीं दे रहे हैं ? मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि लाइसेंस देने के सिलसिले में क्या आपने कोई विचार किया है और क्या आपने कोई जवाब दिया है यह नहीं ?

The Minister of Foreign Trade (Shri B. R. Bhagat) : Mr. Deputy - Speaker, Sir, I thank all the hon. Members who have participated in the debate on this Ministry's Demands for Grants and for the very valuable contributions that they have made. I see hon. Members who have participated present in the House and I have been very much touched by the two Members who could not be present—Mr. Kamalnayan Bajaj and Mr. Vasudevan Nair—who wrote to me about their inability to be present for very compelling reasons.

I appreciate that and I think the House will appreciate them for setting up this correct Parliamentary practice. And I think this is a good form of our functioning. This debate, as I said, has been very useful. I cannot help feeling that the lively discussion which has taken place shows the growing interest of the country in the important task of increasing exports as the chief instrument of accelerating the economic growth of the country without precarious dependence on foreign aid.

I was also happy to notice that there were a few criticisms which were of a constructive nature designed to improve the working of the Ministry and provided some

valuable guidance. I am very grateful to the hon. Members for their kind suggestions. I shall try to deal with some of them in the course of my speech.

We have completed the first year of the Fourth Plan. Speaking for exports, I may confess at the very outset that this year has not been a year of unmixed blessings. Dispite the pull of the home demand, the industry has shown resilience and an upward trend was maintained in the export fields, particularly, the exports of industrial goods. Inadequacies of production at home and inelasticity of demand abroad have hampered the export earnings in some of our traditional goods. In the balance of trade, we have achieved a gratifying success. At least in three months, we have had a surplus and the heaviest trade deficit we have had in any month was of the order of Rs. 29.4 crores. That was in July, 1969. It was, of course, impossible to maintain a high rate of growth on the performance of the previous year in which exports increased by 13.5 per cent. Moreover, deceleration in our export growth caused us worry in the middle of the year. Fortunately exports responded to the measures which we have taken to accelerate the pace of growth with the result that in the month of January, we touched a record figure of Rs. 145 crores.

Some hon. Members, particularly, my friends Shri Tapuria and Shri Kamalnayan Bajaj have compared the performance of the Indian economy with that of the industrialised nations and also some developing nations I would like to place the comparison both in the historical and also in the global perspective. As the House knows, the accent of development of planning during the first three Five Year Plans was rightly on the building up of the industrial base of the economy and its diversification. This had the effect of the development of the indigenous production of import substitutes which was significantly responsible for the recent fall in imports. It has also now built up our production and export capability for the non-traditional items of industrial exports.

The relatively small proportion of India's exports to her national income and of her

[Shri B. R. Bhagat]

trade to total world trade are attributable directly to this process, which has enabled us to engineer a fall in imports but has yet to express itself in the form of a steady and rapid rise in exports. It is also due to another reason which is not widely appreciated and that is that unlike some other smaller countries, we in this country have been concerned with raising the abysmally low standards of consumption of the masses. You will agree that to-day, thanks to the long and steady industrialization of the country, the consumption standards are growing.

Some hon. Members have pointed out that world imports are going up at a brisk pace in recent years, but our share in the world exports is declining. While this emphasises the need to do all that we can do to step up our exports, to some extent, this merely underlines the fact that we still belong to the class of developing countries which, as a group, excluding the very fortunate oil rich countries became a point to them because they discovered a jack-pot of oil—these countries have, as a group, steadily lost ground in world trade.

Their combined share in the world exports has fallen from as much as 24.4 per cent in 1950 to only 12.5 per cent in 1967. This is also due to another factor in the international trade and that is that the dynamism in the industrial products growth is much larger than in the primary commodities which most of the developing countries export. Between 1960 and 1968, while the value of world exports of primary products which are predominantly the exports of the developing countries, rose only by 47 per cent, that of the exports of manufactures which are the predominant exports of the developed countries rose by 117 per cent.

Shri Jyotirmoy Basu : That is due to increased number of foreign owned production bases in other countries.

15 hrs.

Shri B. R. Bhagat : That may be one of the methodologies of achieving it. But I am only stating the trend.

Some developing countries, even excluding oil-exporting countries, have done well, and their examples were also pointed

out by hon. Members. If you take the countries, whose examples have been mentioned, you will find that they have special situations. Firstly, they do not have a large home market crying for a rise in the low consumption levels of the local people. Many of them may not have a democracy of the type where you cannot do without meeting the demands of the people. Then, the socio-economic policies are not as progressive as we would like them to be. Their *per capita* receipts of foreign aid are incomparably higher, and their attitudes towards both foreign aid and foreign investments are different from ours. At least the attitude is not relevant to our situation, and if I may say so, impracticable in our setting.

It should nevertheless be our objective that through our own methods and through the socio-economic objectives that we are pursuing and our own techniques, we must achieve a high rate of growth in the exports of our industrial products

Shri Jyotirmoy Basu : Let him please tell us whether he is going to nationalise foreign trade.

Shri B. R. Bhagat : We can do so provided we attach overriding importance to efficient production because exports can only be realised through efficient production. Exports can only be a function of the national production. There is an expanding list of our products for which the world demand is rising at a rapid rate, and in the course of my speech, I would like to deal with some of these products, and incidentally, many hon. Members have made a reference to them. So, I propose to concentrate on increasing the output of these products in the coming year. And what are those products? The first is the group of industrial products and engineering goods which have emerged as the biggest growth leaders in our exports. In 1968-69, the export of this group of products doubled. In spite of the various difficulties in 1969-70, in the teeth of raw material shortages and rising home demands, there was a rise of 25 per cent in the exports of these goods. The major problem in 1970-71 would be the shortage of steel. The House is already aware of this, and hon. Members have raised questions about this.

Shri R. K. Birla : Shortage of steel is the creation of Government.

Shri B. R. Bhagat : We have to convert the shortage into a surplus, if we want to maintain the high rate of exports. That is the point that I am emphasising. I am not laying blame at the doors of anyone at the moment. My purpose is to emphasise this point.

Shri P. G. Sen (Purnea) : Why have they stopped the exports of engineering goods ?

An Hon. Members : Because there is no steel.

Shri B. R. Bhagat : Therefore, the major problem will be, as I said, the shortage of steel in the coming year. We shall, of course, strive to step up our production of steel, first, by fuller utilisation of the existing capacity and next by expanding the capacity itself. However, pending the expansion of capacity, Government shall try to meet the full foreign exchange requirements of production for exports, especially in respect of iron and steel. The growth of the exports of fabricated goods shall not be allowed to suffer for want of raw materials.

Shri Narendra Singh Mahida (Anand) : What about aluminium ?

Shri B. R. Bhagat : Those are specific cases. We shall try to follow the same policy with regard to that also.

There are other sectors of our exports in which opportunities for growth have been identified in a somewhat precise form, such as chemicals and allied products. That is another promising line. The growth points of our exports have been identified and policies have been evolved to give them special encouragement. Our administrative and technical and financial resources are limited, and, therefore, it is imperative to make the utmost use of them by not succumbing to the temptation of promoting all items of exports, and providing everything to everybody but by applying our scanty resources at the point of maximum return. We have identified these products based on our experience, in five groups. One is the industrial products: engineering goods, chemicals and allied products, plastics, leather and

leather goods; they are the growth points. The second is the agricultural products; they are fish and fish products, fruits, vegetable, flowers and cashew kernels. They are the growth points.

Shri Jyotirmoy Basu : Our country is starving for lack of protein supply and still the hon. Minister wants more exports of these things.

Shri B. R. Bhagat : Meeting the protein requirements of our people is our first charge. The third group is mineral products where we have iron ore and other minor ores. Then the fourth group consists of textiles: cotton yarn and apparel handlooms, carpet-backing cloth and silk to which the hon. Member Shri S. M. Krishna referred,—I agree with most of what he had said—are the growth points here. The last is the miscellaneous group where handicrafts is another big growth sector. In the following year, we want to concentrate our energies on increasing exports in these products.

The basic principle of such identification is the labour-intensity of the industry concerned, as in respect of such industries, we enjoy a comparative advantage on account of our plentiful supply of skilled labour. Some hon. Members, particularly, Shri Beni Shanker Sharma, referred to this and said that we must provide more employment through our exports. Here is a method in which by identifying such products which are labour-intensive, we will not only increase our exports but provide more employment to our needy people.

Shri Jyotirmoy Basu : Not the Herman Abs method. Do not bring in war criminals here.

Shri B. R. Bhagat : Coming to some of the major products that we have identified, take the example of the leather group. Exports of leather and leather goods which are estimated to have increased from Rs. 60 crores in 1968-69 to Rs. 90 crores in 1969-70 that is, by nearly 50 per cent; have a very vast potential. In order to realise the potential of this growth, we have to evolve some integrated plans. The rearing of the livestock is being planned scientifically. That is the starting point. The methods for the collection of carcasses are being improved, and indigenous tanning and pro-

[Shri B. R. Bhagat]

cessing capacity is being built up rapidly and we are planning to have export of processed leather to have higher unit realisation; and we propose to concentrate on securing further increases in the small, medium and large-scale sectors.

Shri R. K. Birla : The establishment of a fellow-mongering industry will help the export effort.

Shri B. R. Bhagat : All suggestions are welcome.

Coming to marine products, which have a very high export potential, I can assure the hon. member that we are not depriving the people here of their protein; all the needs of the people here will be met and when we develop the export potential of this industry, care will be taken to see that it is not at the cost of the consumer here.

Shri Jyotirmoy Basu : Never. Let him read what a C. S. I. R. Director has said.

Shri B. R. Bhagat : It is proposed to set up shortly a Marine Products Developmental Authority with the objective of providing for central organisation, development and regulation of the production, processing and export of marine products from India. The agency will concern itself with resolving the difficulties of this industry and will try to secure improvement in the quality offered for export.

Fruits, vegetables and flowers are another highly promising line of export. Recently we had a useful survey by U. S. A. I. D. which have spelt out the possibilities of these—exports. We are examining it and will try to streamline the procedure.

Some hon. members referred to cashew. A fear was expressed that we are giving up the policy of canalisation under pressure from some friends in Kerala. The main problem in the case of cashew is that domestic production is almost static. Increase in exports can only be possible through increased imports of raw nuts. At the same time, we have to guard against diversion of the kernels produced from the imported nuts to domestic consumption. We are considering how best we can organise imports of raw nuts from other countries in order to serve efficiently the interest of the export industry.

We have decided that these imports will be canalised through a public sector agency. There is no going back on this decision. I can assure the hon. members that we are currently engaged perfecting our plans and the O. G. L. will be suitably amended as soon as we are ready to enter the market.

श्री कानेश्वर सिंह : (सगरिया) आप इतना तो बतलाइये कि आप काजू के बारे में यह स्टेप कब तक लेने जा रहे हैं?

Shri B. R. Bhagat : I have already said that we are currently examining it. We must perfect our plans before we enter the market. We must know how to swim before we jump into the water.

Coming to the minerals sector, our iron ore export has touched or rather overshot the 100-crore mark this year. The House is aware that there are possibilities of a high-growth point in our iron ore exports and also some of the minor minerals. The M. M. T. C. has entered into a long term contract with Japanese steel mills for export of 71.7 million tonnes of iron ore valued at Rs. 54.2 crores over the next 9 years. I do not want to go into details as there is a question coming up next week when I will be able to deal with it in better detail.

Then the textile sector, to which reference was made by many hon. members. Let me dispose of the question of spindlage raised by the hon. member for Patna. Our policy at the moment is that any addition to spindlage capacity is banned because of the shortage of cotton. Even this year, there is a rise in cotton prices. But we recognise that our population is growing and so is the demand for cloth. At the moment, we are in discussion with the Planning Commission for an increase in the spindlage capacity and as soon as that question is settled, the expansion of the capacity of the 1500 spindlage capacity mills will also be considered. The House will be glad to know that the textile industry had responded to the steps taken by us to secure increased export earnings. The export of cotton yarn has increased from Rs. 12.9 crores in 1968-69 to Rs. 29.4 crores in 1969-70. Similarly, the export of ready made garments which made a beginning has gone up from Rs. 3.3 crores to Rs. 5.3 crores during this period. This is a promising line, and

we expect in the coming years the contribution of the garments industry will be much larger. The steps taken to increase exports of handloom products have also yielded some results inasmuch they have gone up from Rs.8 to over Rs.10 crores.

Hon. Members have drawn my attention to the need for modernisation of the textile industry. I can only say that my Ministry is aware of this need, and is in the process of concerting measures for progressive units to build up their capacity to withstand international competition. We are alive to the situation.

Reference was made to the silk industry. It is another growth point in our economy. The main question is of building up production of silk. Italy and Japan, which were the main silk producers, are withdrawing from this industry. The Central Silk Board is undertaking a special programme for research, development and training and for increased production. Meanwhile we propose to import silk yarn for the Central Silk Board so as to meet the requirements of our weavers, and we will try to build up the exports.

Similarly, handicrafts registered a big growth from Rs.76 crores in 1968-69 to Rs.90 crores this year. We propose to provide further support and assistance to this industry in the coming years with the dual objective of exports and providing increased employment.

I gave details of the percentage of growth in the industrial sector, where it has not only been 7 per cent, but as much as 25 per cent. In the engineering products, it is 25 per cent, in iron and steel, 7 per cent, in chemicals and allied products, 11 per cent, in plastic products 42 per cent, in leather products 12 per cent, in handicrafts and others in some case it is 50 per cent. But the two traditional industries of jute and tea have accounted for a large net fall in our exports, and we have taken corrective measures, and we hope that with the removal of the export duty and strengthening of productivity through subsidy and other schemes, the position will improve. Already, the signs are that tea is doing better now. I hope in the coming years tea will show better results.

LS 17

But I must confess that our success in handling the structural problems of the jute industry.

Shri Jyotirmoy Basu : About tea, the report of the sub-committee was submitted, and we want to hear about the Package Export Corporation.

Shri B. R. Bhagat : I have appointed a special officer to look into it.

We are examining it, and we will take action on it.

Shri Jyotirmoy Basu : We want a categorical assurance here and now whether you are going to set up a public sector corporation to export package tea in order to get full value, or whether you will continue to surrender under pressure of foreign monopolists and lose Rs.300 to Rs.400 crores a year.

Shri B. R. Bhagat : I think the hon. Member need not unnecessarily bring in insinuations. We are not surrendering to any monopoly. Public sector agencies is a part of our policy. I have assured the House that we are examining the report. A special officer is looking into it, and we will come to a decision.

I must confess that our success in handling the structural problems of the jute industry has been somewhat limited. We have managed of course to secure an increase in the production of raw jute. The industry has also developed its capacity to export a comparatively new product, namely, jute carpet backing for tufted carpets. There has, however, been a temporary set back in the off-take of jute carpet backing in the United States. This is primarily due to the recession in the carpet industry in that country. At the same time, the competition offered by Pakistan on the one hand and synthetics on the other continues to worry us. The high prices for some jute products do not help us to meet competition, I have a feeling that the tremendous increase in domestic requirements for sacking poses some structural problems for the future. We are engaged in discovering the best means to meet rising domestic requirements and at the same time to increase our exports against the competition offered

by Pakistan and by synthetics. I shall be grateful for the help of hon. Members in discovering right solutions and giving effect to them.

Shri Indrajit Gupta (Alipore) : Why do you not take over the export trade in jute because it is a perpetual headache for everybody ?

Shri P. G. Sen : How are you going to tackle the jute growers ?

Shri B. R. Bhagat : I have dealt with some of the important products in our export sector. Let me touch upon the policies which we want to pursue in the coming years. We have to add new dimensions to our policies if a compound rate of growth at seven per cent per annum has to be achieved over the Fourth Plan. If the objective which has been accepted by the House is to be achieved we have to emphasise four aspects in our policies.

The House is already aware of the decision taken by my colleague, the Minister of Industrial Development—I am glad he is present here—to import an export orientation to industrial policies.

श्री कामेश्वर सिंह : माननीय सदस्य ने कहा है कि ज्यूट गुड्ज के दाम बढ़ते जा रहे हैं। लेकिन कल्टीवेटर्स के राइट्स को प्रोटेक्ट करने के लिए आपने क्या किया है ?

Shri B. R. Bhagat : They can ask me questions in the end.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker : He is dealing with broad policies now ; let him conclude.

श्री कामेश्वर सिंह : एक तरफ ज्यूट गुड्ज के दाम बढ़ते जाते हैं लेकिन उसका फायदा उत्पादकों को नहीं होता है। मिल मालिक उनको फायदा नहीं पहुंचाते हैं। उत्पादकों को भी फायदा पहुंचे, क्या इसकी आप व्यवस्था करेंगे ?

श्री ब० रा० बबल : बाद में आप पूछ सकते हैं।

We propose in the coming years to take concrete steps to build up the production and marketing capabilities of the units in the small and medium sectors which have

shown both interest and competence in this field. This will be one of the special tasks to be performed by the Trade Development Authority which we intend to set up in the public sector. I hope the House will appreciate the increasing role of the public sector. The build up of export production in the large sector presents some problems. We must obviously regulate expansion in this sector so that such expansion does not defeat the social objectives of our industrial policy. At the same time it is not our intention to block expansion and diversification projects which serve our national purposes and build up the nation's capacity to increase industrial efficiency and augment export income.

The second aspect of the policy will be that even in industrial products we have a clear advantage in items which are labour intensive. I referred to it briefly earlier but I want to give a comprehensive picture about the policy in this respect. The hon. House is aware of the interesting developments which are taking place in the markets of industrial countries. We have reason to believe that very soon a system of general preferences in favour of developing countries will be instituted and the tariff barriers on our exports may be very substantially reduced if not altogether eliminated. The high rate of economic activity is persuading many industrial nations to seek satisfaction of their needs, not so much through imported or immigrant labour, as through import of labour intensive products. We must take advantage of this situation and organise production in this field on a scientific basis so that we may be able to meet the emerging needs of industrial nations and provide them with exactly what they need, and when they need it, at competitive prices. There are many sectors of industrial production in which purposeful and concentrated activity by us can provide larger employment for our people and increased income for our country.

The third aspect of the policy will be, interesting prospects are emerging in developing countries. Our newly acquired capacity to set up turnkey projects and provide equipment goods relevant to an early stage of diversification of economy will help us to forge new bonds of mutual value with developing countries. The House is

aware of the success which the State Trading Corporation has achieved in securing contracts for the supply of railway equipment. The State Trading Corporation is now well-organised to contribute to the development of transportation facilities in developing countries.

Shri S. K. Tapuriah (Pali) : What about the Russian wagon deal ?

Shri B. R. Bhagat : I am talking about the developing countries; ask about U.A.R., Malaysia, and other countries. The State Trading Corporation is now well-organised to provide that facility. Recently we have been able to win a contract in open competition for the setting up of a cement plant in Kuwait. A textile unit is being build up by a consortium of our textile machinery manufacturers in the U. A. R. The Hindustan Machine Tools has been able to increase the export of its products both to developing and developed countries. Our consultancy services are playing a very promising role. Our rates are competitive. Our technical competence is high and our enterprises are familiar with the problems posed in early stages of economic growth. International trade in this sector needs financial credits. We have been able to provide them to some extent. We are in discussion with the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank on what they can do to help us develop our export potential in this sector. The untying of aid by industrial nations would help developing countries to meet a portion of their developmental performance from within their own group.

The last aspect of this policy is, there is the possibility of industrial co-operation with developing countries. Ten projects are already in operation. Reference about this was made by Mr. Kamalnayan Bajaj and some other friends. Mr. Bajaj said that this should be speeded up, namely, these joint ventures in industrial co-operation. He complained that only a few projects have been completed and said that only six approvals have been given. He quoted the figures only for the last three months. We are conscious of this aspect, that here is a subject where we can increase our role, particularly with our neighbouring countries and we can build up good economic and other relations and place them on a

sound foundation. I appreciated the suggestion made by the hon. Member that we should see and we should have a better and speedy performance in this aspect.

I now come to the geographical diversification of our trade. Reference to this was made by some hon. Members.

15.24 hrs.

[**SHRI SHRI CHAND GOYAL in the Chair**]

श्री कामेश्वर सिंह : केरल के इंडीकेट के लीडर, स्टीफन साहब, यहाँ काजू के लिए ब्राए हैं। वह अशोका में ठहरे हैं। उन्होंने लाबींग किया है। इस बारे में कोई उत्तर नहीं मिला है।

Shri B. R. Bhagat : I have very effectively answered it. If you have not heard it, and go on commenting, what can I do ? Today the United States and U. S. S. R. rank as our most important markets. I have recently surveyed on the spot the potentialities of the U. S. A. market. I have formed the impression that if we are able to organise production and marketing it should not be too difficult for us to secure very significant increases in our exports to that market. In the case of U. S. S. R., we are on the point of concluding another five-year agreement with them for the development of our mutual trade exchanges.

Shri S. K. Tapuriah : What about the waggon deal ?

Shri B. R. Bhagat : That is also a part of it. It is in the process of negotiations.

Shri S. K. Tapuriah : For three years ?

Shri B. R. Bhagat : It is a big deal and if it takes three years, there may be genuine difficulties in a deal like that.

Shri S. K. Tapuriah : Are they political difficulties ?

Shri B. R. Bhagat : No political difficulties.

We have not so far paid adequate attention to the import potential of Japan and the European Economic Community. I am hoping it would be possible for us to elaborate trade development programmes with both these countries.

[Shri B. R. Bhagat]

The U. K. market is an important market, but unfortunately our trade with U. K., is going down. We are concerned with the decline of our export earnings from that market and we are currently engaged in re-vitalising our effort in it. I am very happy to say that our exports to both West Asia and South-East Asia have registered substantial increases. The House is aware of the programme of work which has been arranged during the Asian Council of Ministers for elaborating of Asian Economic Co-operation. We are lending our active support to the evolution of such a strategy and we hope that a concrete programme of action, howsoever modest it might be, would bring advantage to ourselves and also to other Asian countries.

Latin America is far off but since the visit of our Prime Minister, the commercial interest is increasing. Recently we have had discussions with the Columbian Foreign Trade Minister and it promises to a limited extent some commercial actions in the immediate future.

I would briefly deal with the role of the public sector. I have already dealt with it in relation to cashew. Our policy is to increase the role of the public sector in foreign trade. It is not only our policy, but we are going ahead step by step; almost every month we are going forward in increasing the role of the public sector in foreign trade. Having increased the role of public sector in the foreign trade, we consider it our duty to improve the competence of the public sector organisations to handle the new tasks which have been assigned to them. It would be recalled that a Reviewing Committee was appointed for the S. T. C. two years ago. Its work was completed last year and we have accepted the recommendations to improve the functioning of the S. T. C. and to provide adequate technical, administrative and other resources at its command. Of particular interest is the introduction of the performance budgeting system in the S. T. C., whereby progress is measured weekly, monthly and quarterly against pre-determined targets. In consequence, the profitability of S. T. C., has improved and better control has been secured over its inventories and the employment of its financial managerial resources.

We have evolved a scientific merchandising and marketing technique.

Similarly, the Ministry is developing certain facilities and services, a wide range of services for the exporting community. They include market publicity, provision of commercial intelligence, participation in exhibitions and trade fairs and, most important of all, quality control, market and product research and so on. I do not want to go into the details of these items but I can assure the hon. Members that both in the Ministry as well as in our organisations, corporations, we are conscious of this fact that in commercial activity quick decisions, speedy decisions and high level performance and high level efficiency are very important because we can lose a lot by not taking a decision in time.

Shri R. K. Birla : Practise what you preach.

Shri B. R. Bhagat : I can assure the House that the Ministry as a whole is geared to this task of high level operational efficiency.

Shri Dhireswar Kalita (Gauhati) : Self-propaganda.

Shri B. R. Bhagat : I am sorry he used the term self-propaganda. It does not belong to me, the credit for whatever has been achieved goes to the Ministry. I am open to any criticism about the functions of the Ministry. I am prepared to discuss them with the hon. Members and set them right. So, it should not be taken in that spirit. I am sorry, my remarks have been very much misunderstood.

In conclusion, I want to express my deep satisfaction that the country as a whole, and Parliament in particular, has developed a lively awareness of the importance of exports, as the means of earning the wherewithal of development. If we wish to reduce our dependence on foreign aid speedily, as we have proclaimed in the Fourth Plan, we must accord the highest possible priority to exports. The target of 7 per cent growth in exports is, by all accounts,

a very ambitious one and it would be idle to pretend that it could be realised without our working for it. Indeed, even if we work for it, there can be other factors, such as external factors, or even variations in our agricultural crops within the country, or an inflation in our prices and costs which could interfere with their realisation.

Shri Piloo Mody (Godhra) : No excuses.

Shri B. R. Bhagat : I am only explaining the situation. The hon. Member knows very well that if our costs go up, to that extent our competitiveness in the foreign market decreases. I am not making any excuses ; I am only honestly analysing the situation. So, it will be our duty to keep a watchful eye on all these internal and external factors and there we want the full support and co-operation of the House.

I cannot help reflecting somewhat sadly that breaches of industrial peace during the past year have tried to strike at the very heart of exports and, in some cases, unfortunately succeeded. I am conscious of the need to improve the standard of life of our industrial labour. There should be good labour-management relations. It is not that I am casting any blame on any one party. I know that in a situation like ours the conflict between the employer and the employee is inevitable. Here I am not emphasising the need for higher wages for labour or strikes and industrial unrest. My emphasis is on the settlement of such disputes. There should be good imaginative relations between the management and labour. They should anticipate situations and settle disputes in time so that there is the minimum of delay. Even during last year, if we had avoided strikes or come to speedy settlement, we could have earned many crores of rupees worth of foreign exchange by way of increased exports. Therefore, it is necessary that these matters should be settled very amicably and without any loss to production or loss to the national economy.

I should like to conclude by appealing for a pivotal position to be accorded to exports in our scheme of things and by soliciting the co-operation of the worker and the manager in the factory, of the farmer in the field, of the consumer, of the producer, of the trader, of all wings of the

Central Government, of the State Governments and local bodies and, indeed, of all sections of society and of all sectors of the economy, if we want to achieve our objectives of self-reliance in our economy and increase in exports, and most of all this tribune of the people, the Parliament. Of course, I admit that this criticism also is needed to put us on the right but if we want to achieve its objective and its accepted policy, we must get the fullest co-operation and understanding and we must seek the

co-operation and assistance of the highest tribune of the people in our land to help the Government and the people of this country in realising the objectives of increasing exports and raising the rate of economic growth.

Some Hon. Members rose—

Mr. Chairman : We have already taken 40 minutes more than the allotted time for this Ministry's Demands. The reply is not likely to completely satisfy you. Taking more time on this will result in guillotining more ministries' Demands. Why are you being unfair to other ministries? Kindly sit down.

Shri S. M. Krishna : We understand all that. We know that this demand was to be passed on the 9th of this month and today is 13th. It is not that we are unaware of all that ; nonetheless we should be fair to the Ministry also and to the Demands we are about to vote. We shall not vote till we get certain clarifications from the Minister.

Mr. Chairman : All right ; I shall allow only two or three Members to ask questions.

Shri S. M. Krishna : I and Shri Viswanathan from Madras also made a very pertinent plea that the headquarters of the Silk Board and the Handloom Board, which are located at Bombay, had to be shifted to the silk belt, that is, Mysore, and the handloom belt respectively. What prevents the Central Government from shifting these two headquarters to where they belong? I want a clear and specific assurance on that point.

Shri Rajasekharan (Kanakapura) : The Silk Board has also made a recommen-

[Shri Rajasekharan]

dation about this continuously. The sericulture industry is one of the most important industries today. In all the countries, sericulture is attached to the Ministry of Agriculture but, unfortunately, in this country it is attached to the Foreign Trade Ministry who do not know anything about sericulture development, with the result that we are suffering very much. Therefore, will the Government consider transferring this portfolio of silk to the Ministry of Agriculture from the Ministry of Foreign Trade?

Secondly, we are exporting crores of rupees worth of tobacco to other countries but, unfortunately, we are suffering due to the export duty. Therefore, will the hon. Minister consider quashing the export duty so that our exports improve?

Shri Himatsingka (Godda): The tea industry says that it has been priced out from foreign countries not because they cannot supply tea but because the price of Indian tea is much higher than that of Ceylon and Africa.

Therefore, the excise duty that has been levied will stand in the way. Will the Government consider reducing the excise duty at least in zone 4 and zone 5 which are producing the largest amount of tea.

Again, so far as carpet backing is concerned, they are being priced out by competition with Pakistan and also because of competition from synthetics in America. Will the Government consider doing away with the excise duty so far as carpet backing is concerned?

श्री रमेश चन्द्र व्यास : सभापति जी, मैंने मिनिस्टर साहब से जानकारी चाही थी कि राजस्थान सरकार ने पावरलूम्स की माँग कर रखी है, वहाँ पर जितने तकुवे थे और जितना सूत होता है उसके हिसाब से पावर लूम नहीं मिले हैं—वहाँ पर पहले इन्डस्ट्रीज नहीं थी लेकिन बाद में इन्डस्ट्रीज बड़ी हैं, ऊनी और सूती दोनों की—तो उसके सम्बन्ध में सरकार क्या कर रही है? दूसरे जो मिल्स वहाँ पर बन्द हैं जिसके सम्बन्ध में चार पाँच एम०पी० ने मिनिस्टर साहब को आवेदन-पत्र भी दे रखा है और हमको जवानी मिनिस्टर साहब ने कहा भी कि जाँच कमेटी बिठा दी है लेकिन हमारे पास उसकी कोई इत्तला नहीं है। मैं जानना चाहता

हूँ कि जो टेक्सटाइल विभाग है जिसकी आलोचना कई माननीय सदस्यों ने की है और एक माननीय सदस्य ने तारीफ भी की है, उसके द्वारा क्या इस प्रकार की व्यवस्था की जायेगी कि जो मिल बन्द हो जाते हैं उनके बन्द होने से पहले सबकी जाँच करा कर उनको बन्द होने से रोका जायेगा?

श्री शिव चन्द्र झा (मधुबनी): मन्त्री महोदय ने जवाब में कहा कि ब्रिटेन के साथ हमारा एक्सपोर्ट घटता जा रहा है लेकिन उन्होंने कोई बजह नहीं बताई कि हमारा एक्सपोर्ट क्यों घटता जा रहा है? ब्रिटेन जहाँ बहुत सी रुकावटें डाल रहा है उसमें एक खास यह है कि वह इंडिया के इम्पोर्ट पर १५ परसेंट की ड्यूटी लगाने जा रहा है जिससे कि इंडिया का एक्सपोर्ट कम होगा।

दूसरी बात यह है कि आप अमरीका में अपना मार्केट बढ़ाने के लिए सोच रहे हैं लेकिन आप अमरीका में अपना मार्केट किस प्रकार से बढ़ायेंगे। क्या आपने अमरीका के साथ इस तरह का एग्रीमेंट किया है, जिस के मुताबिक अंकटाड ने भी रिकमेंड किया है कि जो डेवलपिंग नेशन्स हैं वह साफिस्टिकेटेड गुड्स पर ही कन्सेन्ट करे और जर्नल इंडस्ट्रियल गुड्स का प्रोडक्शन कम कर दें ताकि डेवलपिंग नेशन्स को उसका मार्केट मिल सके? क्या इस तरह का एग्रीमेंट आपने अमरीका के साथ में किया है?

Shri K. Narayana Rao (Bobbili): Tobacco is an important industry and tobacco is an export item. The growers of tobacco are experiencing great difficulties because of its fluctuating market. In view of this, may I request the hon. Minister to consider the appointment of the Tobacco Board, at Guntur on the lines of the Tea Board, Coffee Board and the Coir Board?

श्री बेणो बंकर लामा (वांका): सभापति जी, मैंने अपने भाषण के दौरान दो माँगें की थीं। एक तो जूट कापेट बैकिंग पर जो ड्यूटी लगी हुई है उसको उठा रहे हैं या नहीं? दूसरे बिहार और झारखंड प्रदेश में तम्बाकू का उत्पादन बहुत होता है और इस देश से 33 करोड़ रुपए की तम्बाकू का निर्यात भी होता है। आपने गत वर्ष भी आश्वासन दिया था कि तम्बाकू की पैदावार को तथा उसके निर्यात को सरकार प्रोत्साहन देगी। अतएव मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि मंत्री जी इस सम्बन्ध में क्या कर रहे हैं?

श्री श्रीकार लाल बोहरा (चित्तौड़गढ़): सभापति जी, मैं आपके द्वारा मन्त्री महोदय से बहुत संक्षिप्त सवाल करना चाहता हूँ। राजस्थान के अन्दर इस समय स्पिण्डल्स की संख्या 3,04,156 है, बिहार में 48,800 है और उड़ीसा में एक लाख है। राजस्थान की मीलों में पावरलूम की संख्या 2490 है जबकि बिहार में 800 और उड़ीसा में 850 है। लेकिन बिहार में 48,800 स्पिण्डल्स की संख्या पर 7000 पावरलूम दिये गए हैं, उड़ीसा में एक लाख स्पिण्डल की संख्या पर 4000 पावरलूम दिए गए हैं जबकि राजस्थान में 3,04,156 स्पिण्डल की संख्या पर केवल 3,100 पावरलूम ही दिये गए हैं। इसलिए मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि टेक्सटाइल कंट्रोलर के यहाँ से इस प्रकार का भेदभाव क्यों किया गया है? राजस्थान एक पिछड़ा हुआ राज्य है वहाँ के लिए पावरलूम की संख्या बढ़ाई जानी चाहिए। आप कम्पैरीजन करके देखेंगे तो आपको मालूम हो जायेगा कि राजस्थान में स्पिण्डल्स की संख्या के मुकाबले में पावरलूम की संख्या कम है।

इसी प्रकार से राजस्थान के अन्दर उन बहुत पैदा होती है। लेकिन राजस्थान में पावरलूम के लिए उन के धागे या मरीनो उन के आबंटन का प्रश्न है, उसमें बहुत बड़ा भेदभाव बरता गया है। हिमाचल प्रदेश को 8 लाख रुपये के मूल्य का उन और पंजाब को 36 लाख रुपये के मूल्य का उन दिया गया है लेकिन राजस्थान को कुछ नहीं दिया गया है। इसलिए मैं चाहता हूँ कि इस प्रकार के भेदभाव और असन्तुलन की नीति समाप्त की जानी चाहिए।

Shri Manubhai Patel (Dabhoi): The cotton growers from Gujarat had come here and they had represented their case. They are in great trouble. Their cotton is not being lifted. I will not go into the details. I request the hon Minister to give sympathetic consideration to their representation.

श्री बेबराब पाटिल (यवतमाल): सभापति जी, यह सञ्चालन रुई के सहायक मूल्य निर्धारित करता है जिसका किसान से कोई ताल्लुक नहीं है। सरकार की नीति यह है कि किसान का जो कच्चा माल हो, जैसे कि अनाज है उसके लिए सपोर्ट प्राइस निश्चित की जाये तो मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि किसान जो कपास पैदा करता है और मार्केट में बेचता है उसकी

अगले साल के लिए क्या आप सपोर्ट प्राइस तय करने वाले हैं?

श्री रवि राय: सभापति जी, मैं एक नीति संबंधी सवाल पूछता चाहता हूँ। एक तरफ तो सरकार की नीति यह है कि वह विदेशी बैंकों का राष्ट्रीयकरण नहीं करना चाहती मगर दूसरी तरफ सरकार की इस नीति का एलान हुआ है कि निर्यात-आयात व्यापार का राष्ट्रीयकरण किया जायेगा तो मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या सरकार ने उसके लिए कोई अवधि निश्चित की है कि अमुक तिथि के अन्दर हम आयात-निर्यात के व्यापार का राष्ट्रीयकरण कर देंगे? यदि हाँ, तो उसका एलान करें और यदि नहीं, तो उसका क्या कारण है?

श्री राम चरण (खुर्जा): सभापति जी, मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि जैसा कहा गया कि बड़ा करप्शन है, इम्पोर्ट एक्सपोर्ट में मानोपली है—चाहे वह आफिशियल हो या प्राइवेट कन्सर्स की हो—तो क्या इम्पोर्ट-एक्सपोर्ट का जल्द से जल्द नेशनलाइजेशन सरकार करेगी ताकि इस करप्शन का खात्मा हो सके?

श्री ब० रा० भगत: माननीय सभापति जी, माननीय सदस्यों ने जो कई सवाल पूछे हैं उन सभी का तो अभी जवाब देना सम्भव नहीं है।... (व्यवधान)...

जो सवाल निर्यात करने के बारे में हैं जैसे कि निर्यात-कर तम्बाकू पर और कार्पेट बैंकिंग पर है तो माननीय सदस्य जानते हैं कि उसके बारे में कोई सूचना पहले से नहीं दी जा सकती क्योंकि उसका सम्बन्ध वित्त विभाग से है। यदि वित्त मन्त्री यहाँ पर उपस्थित भी होते तो भी यकायक वे इसकी सूचना नहीं दे पाते। इसलिये मैं अपना खेद प्रकट करता हूँ कि इस पर अभी कुछ नहीं कह सकता।

दूसरे कुछ सवाल हैं जो सवाल के रूप में सुझाव हैं और मैं उनकी कद्र करता हूँ, जैसे सिल्क बोर्ड के दफ्तर के बारे में लोगों ने कहा कि उसकी बम्बई से उठा कर बंगलौर में रखा जाये। पहले बंगलौर गया था, फिर वहाँ से बम्बई आया, और अब फिर उसको बंगलौर ले जाने की बात है। तुरन्त इस का जवाब देना मेरे लिये अभी सम्भव नहीं है। एक दफ्तर को किसी एक जगह से दूसरी जगह ले जाने में काफी दिक्कत सामने पेश आती है, और वहीं दिक्कत

[श्री ब० रा० भगत]

सिल्क बोर्ड के दफ्तर को बम्बई से बंगलौर ले जाने में भी है। इसलिये अभी एक दम उस के बारे में कुछ नहीं कह सकता।

An Hon. Member: It is an evading reply
.....(Interruptions)

Mr. Chairman : Reply may not be to one's satisfaction. But one has to hear the hon. Minister.

श्री ब० रा० भगत : माननीय सदस्यों के मुद्दाब हैं, उन पर विचार करेंगे। इस में कोई इवेजन् का सवाल नहीं है। जो प्रेक्टिकल दिक्कतें सामने आती हैं, वह मैंने आप को बतायीं।

एक माननीय सदस्य ने कहा कि सीरीकल्चर को ऐग्रीकल्चर मिनिस्ट्री में जाना चाहिये। माननीय सदस्य जानते हैं कि हमारी पावर में कुछ नहीं है, यह तो प्रधान मंत्री की जिम्मेदारी होती है कि किस मंत्रालय में कौन सा विभाग है। इस मिनिस्ट्री में वह सब इंडस्ट्रीज हैं, ऐसे तो इंडस्ट्रीज विभाग के मंत्री, माननीय फखरुद्दीन अहमद साहब बैठे हैं, सारी इंडस्ट्रीज वहाँ जानी चाहिये, मगर फैसले में यही हुआ कि जो एक्सपोर्ट ऑरियन्टेड इंडस्ट्रीज हैं, जैसे टेक्सटाइल या सिल्क है, ये इस मंत्रालय में रहें। आज सिल्क का बहुत बड़ा निर्यात हो रहा है। इसलिये उसको इस मंत्रालय में रखा गया।

An Hon. Member : It is grown in the fields, not in the factory.

श्री ब० रा० भगत : इसी तरह से एक्साइज ड्यूटी के बारे में कहा गया। बाहर एक्साइज ड्यूटी हटायें नहीं तो चाय का निर्यात नहीं होगा। शायद माननीय सदस्य जानते हैं कि एक्साइज ड्यूटी लगाने का अर्थ यह था कि चाय की खपत जो हमारे देश में होती है उस को रोकने के लिये एक्साइज ड्यूटी लगायी जाती है ताकि निर्यात के लिये वह चीज ज्यादा बचायी जा सके, और जो चाय निर्यात के लिये बाहर जाती है उस पर एक्साइज ड्यूटी सैट ग्राफ होती है।

इसी तरह से कार्पेट बैंकिंग का है, उसके लिये कोशिश कर रहे हैं, और एक डेलीगेशन हम ने अमरीका भेजा है। यह हमारे लिये बड़े फल की बात है। कार्पेट बैंकिंग हमारा सारा का सारा निर्यात होता है, इसलिये इसको हर पहलू से देख रहे हैं।

एडवर्ड मिल के बारे में माननीय व्यास जी

ने कहा। हम ने यह फैसला किया कि एक वहाँ इनवेस्टीगेशन कमेटी होगी। मैंने मुख्य मंत्री को भी लिखा है। मगर अभी उस मिल को लिया नहीं जा सकता, जब तक कि इनवेस्टीगेशन कमेटी की रिपोर्ट न आ जावे और सरकार उस पर गौर करके मिल को लेने का निश्चय करे और यह निर्णय वित्त मंत्रालय से मंजूर हो कर न आ जाये। मैंने यह सारी चीजें बता दी हैं, और अगर माननीय सदस्य सदन के द्वारा जानना चाहते हैं तो मुझे उसमें कोई एतराज नहीं है। मेरा फैसला बिल्कुल ठीक है कि हम एक इनवेस्टीगेशन कमेटी बैठावेंगे। और वहाँ के मजदूर भी यही चाहते हैं।

पावर लूम का हर स्टेट का कोटा बंधा हुआ है। अभी हम प्लानिंग कमीशन से ही बात कर के कुछ उसमें रद्दोबदल कर सकते हैं। और अगर उसका टागेंट बढ़ेगा तो जरूर राजस्थान के बारे में सोचेंगे।

माननीय बोहरा जी ने ऊन के पावर लूम के बारे में कहा। वह अभी हम नहीं बढ़ा रहे हैं क्योंकि वह बाहर से मंगानी पड़ती है और जितने पावर लूम या मिल लूम लगे हुए हैं उन्हीं को पूरा नहीं जुटा पाते इसलिये और पावर लूम बैठाने की गुंजाइश नहीं है। अगर राजस्थान में बहुत ऊन पैदा होती है, उसी के आधार पर आप लगाना चाहते हैं तो पावर लूम बैठाइये।

सपोर्ट प्राइस हर साल तय करते हैं ऐग्रीकल्चर प्राइस कमीशन के द्वारा। और इस साल हम काटने का इम्पोर्ट ट्रेड भी लेने जा रहे हैं। माननीय राम चरण ने कहा कि एक्सपोर्ट और इम्पोर्ट को कब नेशनेलाइज करेंगे? मैंने कहा कि जैसे ही हम तैयारी कर लेते हैं, कि एक आइटम के आयात को हम ले सकते हैं। तो हमने 38 आइटम लिये हैं। सितम्बर में काटन लेने जा रहे हैं; जो 80, 90 करोड़ का है इसी तरह से कैनयूनट, जो 36 करोड़ का है, उस को लेने जा रहे हैं। इसलिये सिर्फ किसी आइटम को ले लें और उसके लिये कोई एजेंसी की तैयारी न हो तो बजाय फायदे के नुकसान हो सकता है। इसलिये सभ्य का लिमिटेशन नहीं है हमारी अपनी तैयारी में देर लगती है।

एक्सपोर्ट के बारे में कई डेवलपमेंट एजेंसीज की, मेरीन प्रोडक्ट एक्सपोर्ट एजेंसीज की चर्चा मैंने की है, उस बारे में कई कदमों की आज-ही घोषणा की है। इसलिये अब इस में कोई दुविधा की बात नहीं रहनी चाहिये।

Mr. Chairman : I shall now put all the cut motions 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 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, 1971, in respect of the heads of demands entered in the second column thereof against Demands Nos. 34 to 36 and 117 relating to the Ministry of Foreign Trade."

The motion was adopted.

(The motions for Demands for Grants which were adopted by the Lok Sabha are reproduced below—Ed.)

DEMAND NO. 34—MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE

"That a sum not exceeding Rs.44,17,000 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, 1971 in respect of 'Ministry of Foreign Trade'."

DEMAND NO. 35—FOREIGN TRADE

"That a sum not exceeding Rs.70,65,55,000 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, 1971 in respect of 'Foreign Trade'."

DEMAND NO. 36—RENEUE EXPENDITURE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 6,39,70,000 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, 1971 in respect of 'Other Revenue Expenditure of the Ministry of Foreign Trade.' "

DEMAND NO. 117—CAPITAL OUTLAY OF THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE

"That a sum not exceeding Rs.21,97,000 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, 1971 in respect of 'Capital Outlay of the Ministry of Foreign Trade'."

16 hrs.

MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND MINES AND METALS

Mr. Chairman : The House will now take up discussion and voting on Demand Nos. 74 to 76 and 128 relating to the Ministry of Petroleum and Chemicals and Mines and Metals for which five hours have been allotted.

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.

DEMAND NO. 74—MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICAL AND MINES AND METALS

Mr. Chairman : Motion moved :

"That a sum not exceeding Rs.44,88,000 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, 1971, in respect of 'Ministry of Petroleum and Chemicals and Mines and Metals.' "

DEMAND NO. 75—GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

Mr. Chairman : Motion moved :

"That a sum not exceeding Rs.9,37,58,000 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, 1971, in respect of 'Geological Survey.' "