

show that the increase in exports is now-a-days mainly—not entirely—confined to articles which previously did not figure very largely in our exports such as jewellery, readymade garments, handicrafts, leather goods and all that. Whereas our traditional export items like tea, jute goods, leather, hides, I am sure, all these things have shown steep fall. So, I would like to know from him whether there is any trend towards any change in the export pattern and if so, how the Government proposes to step up our export performance in the light of these changes ?

SHRI DINESH SINGH : There is no change in the overall policy as such. Greater effort is being made to diversify our exports so that we are able to export more things than what we did in the past. We cannot depend only on the export of commodities. We are now trying very hard to export engineering goods, jewellery, and various other things that are made, which is a value added export instead of just exporting the primary produce. Our effort is to add value and then export it. But that does not mean that there is any less effort to export the traditional items. They are also being exported.

So far as the direction of exports is concerned, the old directions are being maintained and we are making effort to find new markets for our goods.

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH : Knowing what you would be interested in, Sir, so far as this question is concerned, I would like to ask the hon. Minister as to what steps have been taken by his Ministry to promote export of fresh fruits and vegetables. There is a very large scope for increasing the export of these commodities. Is it a fact that the subsidy for the export that is made available by the Commerce Ministry is only available to exporters of fruits and vegetables, the people who collect this produce from the cultivators. The farmers are not getting any benefit. Hundreds of crores of rupees are given as air freight subsidy, as transport subsidy, to the middlemen who only collect the produce from the farmers and no benefit flows out to the farmers.

Would the hon. Minister be pleased to state as to what scheme is he thinking of and what are the steps already taken by the

Commerce Ministry to try and prevent huge wastage of fruits and vegetables in the country just because it cannot be exported ? The farmers are not getting the benefit of any scheme formulated by the Commerce Ministry.

SHRI DINESH SINGH : There are two issues that hon. Member has raised. One is the question of support that we are giving for exports. May I say that we are making every effort to promote the export of fruits and vegetables ? In fact the export last year over the previous year, has gone up by 4.24 per cent. It is practically a new item as compared to the traditional items of the past and therefore more effort has to be made in this regard. Also there are certain rules and regulations which the importing countries have regarding import of fruits and vegetables, which at times become an impediment. But there is an Agricultural Produce Export Development Authority in the APEDA which is specifically responsible for assisting the export of fruits and vegetables.

The other question that the Hon. Member has raised is a rather basic one as to what is the profit of the producers as compared to that of exporters. Now, I do not have those figures with me but I dare say that there would be a difference. This is not only in the fruits and vegetables business but in all goods that are manufactured and sold. There is always a mark up between the cost of production and the sale price.

As regards assistance, Sir, the assistance is given only to offset any disadvantage that the exporter may have in comparison with the exporters from other countries. And, therefore, this system is required to be given only to make our goods competitive in international market.

#### River Basin Authority

\*53. SHRI H.N. NANJE GOWDA† :  
PROF. RAMKRISHNA MORE‡ :

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to set up a River Basin Authority for optimum utilisation of river waters in view of drought, floods and drinking water shortage in various parts of the country;

(b) if so, the time by which the proposed authority will be set up; and

(c) the powers and functions to be exercised by this Authority?

**THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) :** (a) to (c). The National Water Policy recognises the need for establishing appropriate organisations for the planned development and management of a river basin as a whole. Since the matter involves both the Centre and States, and legislative measures would need to be taken, no specific time-schedule can be indicated.

**SHRI H.N. NANJE GOWDA :** Sir, while the National Water Resources Council was considering the National Water Policy, some of the Hon. Members of Parliament, more than 50, gave a memorandum indicating to consider about 13 to 14 important points while enunciating the National Water Policy. Now, you are telling that "Water Policy recognises...". That means you have finalised the National Water Policy. If that is so, I would like to know whether you have finalised the National Water Policy and the same is approved by the National Water Resource Council, if so, what are the salient features and when it is going to come for discussion and approval in this august House.

**SHRI B. SHANKARANAND :** Sir, I may tell for the benefit of the Hon. Member that the National Water Resource Council has finalised the National Water Policy on 9th September, 1987. The Prime Minister presided over the meeting and all the Chief Ministers of all the States, who were the Members, were also present.

With regard to the Memorandum that was submitted by M.Ps., as indicated by the Hon. Member, during the draft formulation of the policy itself these points were taken into consideration and all those aspects which are mentioned in the memorandum were considered and then the draft was formulated. It was finally adopted by the National Water Council.

**SHRI H.N. NANJE GOWDA :** Sir, the 22 per cent of the assessed drought area lies in Karnataka in Chitradurga region.

So, I would like to know whether the National Water Policy recognises the need to fully fund the Irrigation projects located in drought prone areas. If it is not considered, would the Minister assure us that he will take up the matter again with the National Water Resource Council and make it a policy to fully fund the projects in the drought prone areas?

**SHRI B. SHANKARANAND :** Sir, the Hon. Member's supplementary is entirely different because it pertains to funding of the project and it has nothing to do with the main question.

**SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO :** Sir, about the optimum utilisation of water in the entire country I would like to know from the Hon. Minister whether the Government of India will take up a time-bound programme for clearance of several irrigation and power projects that are pending for approval with the Government of India because for several years this water is going wasted and is not being utilised in the fields. So, will the Government take up a time-bound programme to clear these projects? I want a categorical answer from the hon. Minister.

**SHRI B. SHANKARANAND :** Sir, it depends upon the time-bound programme adopted by the States in submitting their project reports.

**MR. SPEAKER :** Question Hour is over.

#### WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

##### IDBI Assistance for Modernisation of Textile Mills

\*45. **SHRI VAKKOM PURUSHOTHAMAN :** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total amount of assistance given by the Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI) for the modernisation of textile mills in the country during 1987-88; and

(b) the names of textile mills which have received assistance along with the amount of assistance given to each mill?