

श्री राजगोपाल विद्यु नारायण : 'श्री श्री बहोदय ने जो जवाब देता है कुलीनगिर और राजगोपाल : लेकिन तांबी के लिए आप कुछ नहीं कर रहे हैं ; वहाँ से चांग चाँची भी है पीते के लिए ताकि वहाँ पर दुर्लभ को डिवेलप किया जा सके लेकिन आप पीते नहीं दे रहे हैं ।

धाना कारेस्ट्स जितने -बड़े कारेस्ट हिन्दुस्तान में कही नहीं हैं । वहाँ वन सम्पदा बहुत है । वहाँ के लेट खास तौर से देखने लायक है ।

श्री पुण्योत्तम कोशिक : कुशीनगर और राजगीर के बारे में मास्टर प्लान बन गया है । जहाँ तक धाना और तांबी का सम्बन्ध है, वहाँ जो धायास व्यवस्था है उसको विकसित करने का काम हो रहा है । तांबी में और एकस्पैशन का काम हाथ में ले रहे हैं । धाना में भी एक कारेस्ट लाज बनाने का प्रस्ताव विचारधीन है ।

#### **Purchase of F.C.V. Tobacco by State Trading Corporation**

\*273. **SHRI P. RAJAGOPAL NAIDU:** Will the Minister of **COMMERCE, CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that State Trade Corporation bought more than 10 million Kgs. of F.C.V. tobacco in 1978;

(b) whether it is a fact that China bought F.C.V. tobacco for our Country in November and December, 1978;

(c) whether it bought the above tobacco from State Trading Corporation; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE, CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION (SHRI ARIF BEG):** (a) STC's total purchase of FCV tobacco during 1978, both on its commercial account and Government account, was a little over 12 million Kgs.

(b) and (c). Two private firms from Andhra Pradesh sold FCV tobacco of various grades to China during 1978.

(d) As export of tobacco is not canalised through the State Trading

Corporation, the buyer has the choice to select suppliers in India.

**SHRI P. RAJAGOPAL NAIDU:** I would like to know whether it is a fact that STC has bought inferior tobacco. Is it the reason why China has bought from private persons? Why is it that the Government allowed this? Why is it that the Government has not canalised tobacco through STC?

**THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE, CIVIL SUPPLIES AND CO-OPERATION (SHRI MOHAN DHARIA):** As the House is aware, the production of tobacco in our country is much in proportion compared to the requirements of the country and even for export purposes. Anybody can export tobacco and we have not canalised the export of tobacco through STC so that it boosts up production and to give the producers a fair price. We have kept it open. STC is also having its own exports. It is the choice of the buyer. If they have made their choice, there is nothing to grudge about it.

**SHRI P. RAJAGOPAL NAIDU:** In the Government adopting the policy of giving the 'veto power' to the buyer for all commodities?

**SHRI MOHAN DHARIA:** It all depends—Wherever we have them in abundance naturally we would like all such commodities to be purchased on a wider scale; but if we are having scarce commodities we cannot do that.

**SHRI K. VIJAYA BHASKARA REDDY:** The Government allows foreign buyers to purchase tobacco directly from some private companies. Will the Government announce a quota of tobacco for various companies with respect to foreign purchases, because the farmer is not getting a proper price and the price they are paying the businessman is not known. They are paying a low price to the farmers.

**MR. SPEAKER:** It does not arise.

**SHRI K. VIJAYA BHASKARA REDDY:** Will the Government interfere and announce the price at which they are to buy from the farmer. They must interfere and say that they should purchase a particular amount of a particular quality at a particular price; that would be giving some protection to the farmer. Will the Government interfere and do that?

**SHRI MOHAN DHARIA:** I entirely share the view of the Hon. Member for this reason that last year STC purchased about 5,000 for commercial operations and, besides, on the directive of the Government they purchased 10,000 tons directly from growers or their cooperatives. Similarly, in 1978, Government again asked the STC to purchase 10,000 tons of tobacco because stepping in by STC will certainly help boosting up the prices. That is the policy of the Government.

Besides, as the House is aware, we have passed the Bill and we have introduced the auction system all over so that the producers get a better price.

**SHRI V. M. SUDHEERAN:** From the Minister's statement it appears that STC purchased 5,000 tons, but some foreign countries like Russia are not purchasing tobacco from STC. Instead of that they are purchasing from individuals. Will the Government take any initiative and ask them to purchase from STC and the Co-operative Societies?

**SHRI MOHAN DHARIA:** These are matters to be dealt with through negotiations. Our first endeavour to see that Russia purchased more tobacco, and I am happy to say that, as against a purchase of 12000 tons, because of our discussion with them, they have decided to purchase 20,000 tons of tobacco from our country.

Now we are again trying to have negotiations so that they may purchase more from STC and there are reasons to believe that there will be more purchases from STC as compared to last year.

**Direct Export of Commodities by Agriculture Marketing Board, Punjab**

\*275. **SHRI BHAGAT RAM:** Will the Minister of COMMERCE, CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether he is aware about the fact that the Minister of Agriculture, Punjab, had demanded to allow Agriculture Marketing Board, Punjab and other semi-Government institutions to export directly some commodities like cotton, potatoes, seeds of wheat and vegetables etc; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE, CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION (SHRI ARIF BEG):** (a) and (b). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

#### Statement

Minister of Agriculture, Punjab, in his letter addressed to the Union Minister of Agriculture had suggested making immediate arrangements for the export of potatoes from Punjab and drawing up a long range policy for the export of vegetables.

Export of potatoes is now freely allowed. As for vegetables, special production programmes geared to part of the additional production for export have been suggested to the State Governments. Exports of cotton are done through Cotton Corporation of India or State Cooperative Marketing Federations. Now arrangements are being worked out to involve the State Governments or their agencies in export drive of agricultural and other commodities or products. As for institutional arrangements, it has been agreed to encourage State Corporations and Cooperative Marketing Federations to take up export function, with STC & NAFED providing them free assistance in this behalf.