

LOK SABHA

—
*Wednesday, June 2, 1971/
 Jyaistha 12, 1893 (Saka)*
 —

*The Lok Sabha met at Eleven
 of the Clock.*

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Export of Handicrafts

*211. SHRI R. S. PANDEY : Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a great demand for Indian handicrafts and novelties abroad and the goods exported at present are not sufficient to meet the demand there ; and

(b) the major Government agencies engaged in the export of handicraft items and whether they have been asked to survey the foreign markets to promote the export of handicrafts ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE) : (a) Yes, Sir. Exports of Handicrafts from India in 1967-68, 1968-69 and 1969-70 were Rs. 54.76 crores, Rs. 75.24 crores and Rs. 83.29 crores respectively. There is no scarcity of handicraft goods to meet export demands.

(b) Three Central Government agencies namely, the Handicrafts and Handlooms Exports Corporation of India Ltd., Central Cottage Industries Emporium, New Delhi and Handicrafts Emporium, Madras are engaged in the export of handicrafts. Competitive position of Indian handicrafts in overseas countries has been under continuous study.

SHRI R. S. PANDEY : May I know what are the promotional programmes for exporting handicrafts in order to earn foreign exchange ? Secondly, may I know whether there is a good demand from practically all the countries for our handicrafts because these are very popular and attractive too and, if so, whether you are going to introduce agencies by which you can ask those people to tour abroad and explore the export markets for our handicrafts in order to earn more foreign exchange and popularise further our articles ?

SHRI A. C. GEORGE : As regards promotional programmes, the different agencies of the Government of India are making intensive efforts for market survey and for making our handicraft products popular in all the foreign countries. Apart from this, we are making raw material available on easier terms. Also, new designs are introduced and the real effort is being made to revive dying crafts to improve tools and to improve training of craftsmen under master craftsmen.

Secondly, with a view to exploit the real potentiality of handicrafts exports in different countries, we have arranged exhibitions and other promotional programmes.

SHRI R. S. PANDEY : May I know whether the Government of India, particularly, your Ministry has assessed the potentiality of handicrafts exports, say, for five years to come and how much foreign exchange we can earn. If you accelerate your programme and introduce a sort of new method by sending agencies abroad to explore the market, by how much you can increase the exports in five years ?

THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI L. N. MISHRA) : As my hon. colleague stated, we have a definite programme for the expansion of the export of handicrafts. The House will be glad to know that for the Fourth Plan, we had a target of exports of Rs. 100 crores worth of handicrafts and we have already achieved

the level of Rs. 95 crores worth of handicrafts. We are going to revise the target for the remaining period of the Plan. As regards making studies, etc., we have got officers who go about and organise exhibitions, etc. in foreign countries for popularising our handicrafts. The demand for our handicrafts has been increasing. There has been some shortfall in respect of particular items like carpets, etc. specially in U.K. We are trying to catch up with that I must say that the prospect of export of handicrafts is really very bright.

SHRI SHYAMNANDAN MISHRA : What percentage of the total production of handicrafts is exported and which are the countries that are the largest consumers of our handicrafts ?

SHRI L. N. MISHRA : I require notice for that. I can give the figures later.

श्री हुकम चन्द कछवाय : हमारे देश में हस्तशिल्प उद्योगों के द्वारा जो सामान तैयार किया जाता है, हम उस को बहुत बड़ी मात्रा में बाहर भेजते हैं और आगे भी भेजेंगे। लेकिन जो इस सामान को हाथ से बनाने वाले कारीगर लोग हैं, उन को जितना मुनाफा मिलना चाहिए, वह उन्हें नहीं मिलता है। क्या सरकार कोई ऐसी व्यवस्था करने जा रही है कि उन लोगों को अपने माल का उचित और पूरा पैसा मिले ? क्या सरकार इस बात की भी व्यवस्था करेगी कि जिन देशों में इस सामान की मांग है, उन लोगों को वहां जाने की सुविधा दी जाये ताकि वे स्वयं देख सकें कि वहां कौन सा माल खप सकता है और उन को प्रोत्साहन मिले ?

श्री एल० एन० मिश्र : जहां तक बनाने वालों को पैसा मिलने का सम्बन्ध है, भिन्न भिन्न जगहों में भिन्न भिन्न स्थिति है। कहीं पर उन को अच्छी मजदूरी मिल जाती है और कहीं नहीं भी मिलती है। इसका एक अच्छा रास्ता यह है कि उन के को-ऑपरेटिव बनाये जायें, जो इस सामान के विक्रय आदि का काम करें। यह बात सही है कि जब तक बीच के

लोग, मिडलमैन, रहेंगे, तब तक उनको जो कुछ मिलना चाहिए, वह नहीं मिलता है। लेकिन यह राज्य सरकारों का काम है कि वे उन लोगों के को-ऑपरेटिव आर्गनाइज करें और उन से काम लें। जहां तक उन लोगों के विदेशों में जाने का सवाल है, मुझे बड़ी खुशी होगी, अगर हमारे डेप्युटेशन में कुछ लोग रहें। हम ने उन्हें भेजा भी है और आगे भी भेजने के लिए तैयार है। जो लोग बाहर जाना चाहेंगे, हम उन को गुविधा और मदद देंगे।

SHRI KADAR : May I know from the Minister concerned whether we are exporting this at the prices prevailing in the local market or that we are under-selling and exporting this item ?

SHRI L. N. MISHRA : I don't think we are under-selling. We have made profit also. We give some incentives and encouragement to the exporters.

SHRI KADAR : To what extent ?

MR. SPEAKER : Next question 'Shri Y. P. Mandal.

Maharashtra Government's Comments on Findings of Kapur Commission on Gandhi Murder

*212. **SHRI YAMUNA PRASAD MANDAL :** Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of India have since received the comments from the Maharashtra Government relating to the findings of the Kapur Commission on Gandhi murder ;

(b) if so, the main points thereof ; and

(c) the reaction of government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI K. C. PANT) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The question of prosecuting Shri G. V. Ketkar, who was found by