

श्री पुरुषोत्तम कौशिक : जहाँ तक माननीय सदस्य की शिकायतों का सवाल है, मैं देखूंगा और जांच कराऊंगा कि इसमें क्या हो सकता है। लेकिन जो प्राथमिक सुविधाएँ हैं— जैसे कि बिजली और पानी—ये तो स्टेट टूरिज्म डिपार्टमेंट को देखनी चाहिए। अगर आई टी डी सी के होस्टल्स में कोई अव्यवस्था होगी तो मैं जांच कराऊंगा। चूंकि माननीय सदस्य ने मेरा ध्यान आकर्षित किया है इसलिए मैं स्टेट गवर्नमेंट से बात करके देखूंगा कि इस तरह की शिकायतें दूर हों और वहाँ साफ पानी और बिजली की व्यवस्था हो।

जहाँ तक महत्वपूर्ण पर्यटक केन्द्रों को हवाई मार्ग से जोड़ने की बात है तो इसका टूरिस्ट डिपार्टमेंट से कोई सम्बन्ध नहीं है। फिर भी मैं जानकारी दे दूँ कि कोनार में हवाई अड्डा बनाने के बारे में सिविल एवियेशन डिपार्टमेंट ने सर्वे कराया था लेकिन यह पता लगा कि वहाँ की जमीन बहुत पोली है और वहाँ पर हवाई अड्डा बनाना बहुत किरफायती नहीं होगा। एक्सपर्ट की राय के मुताबिक बहुत कीमती होगा और उसका कोई लाभ नहीं होगा। इस लिए इस योजना का छोड़ना पड़ा।

Imposition of ban on Export of Rose wood Timber Logs

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*348. SHRI P. K. KODIYAN:
SHRI GEORGE MATHEW:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have imposed a total ban on export of rosewood timber logs;

(b) if so, what are the reasons that prompted Government to impose such a ban;

(c) whether Government are aware of the fact that as a result of the ban on export of timber, several thousands of people engaged in the logging and

exporting of rosewood in Kerala and Karnataka have been hard hit and the forest departments in these States have been deprived of their revenue from auctioning of timber; and

(d) if so, whether there is any proposal to reconsider the ban on export of rosewood timber logs?

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

Statement

(a) The ban was imposed on 18-7-77 on the export of all timber logs including rosewood logs. However, pre-ban commitments were allowed upto the ceiling released for the year 1977-78.

(b) The ban was imposed with a view to encourage the export of veneers, plywood and other value added items of timber and also to develop indigenous industry which is both employment and export oriented.

(c) and (d). Taking into account the representations received from State Governments, log exporters, exporters, of veneers and other value added items, the Government have decided to gradually phase out the exports in log form. For the current year a ceiling of 10,000 cubic meters has been prescribed which will be reduced to 6000 cubic meters in 1978-79. 3000 cubic meters in 1979-80 and to zero from then onwards. This decision has been taken to provide time for necessary adjustments and to allow the exporters to prepare themselves to export rosewood with added value which will fetch more foreign exchange and also provide additional employment opportunities.

SHRI P. K. KODIYAN: The statement says—

The ban was imposed with a view to encourage the export of veneers, plywood and other value added items of timber and also to develop in-

indigenous industry which is both employment and export oriented.

I want to know how many such industries have been set up and what is their employment capacity? Is it a fact that the industries now existing in our country including the two units in Kerala are using 5 to 8 per cent of the rose-wood available in the country. If that is so, what is the justification in imposing a total ban on the export of rose-wood timber?

श्री आरिफ बेग : सर, जहां तक इस बेन का ताल्लुक है, जो कि मेरे डिपार्टमेंट ने लगाया है, वह हेड आफ दि कम्युनिटि बोर्ड्स, एक्सपोर्ट प्रमोशन काउंसिल के आफिसर्स से सलाह-मशविरा करके लगाया गया है। इस बेन का लगाने का मकसद यह है कि इस रोजवुड लकड़ी, जिसके दरख्त या झाड़ को पूरी तरह से परिपक्व होने में सौ से डेढ़ सौ वर्ष तक लगते हैं गवर्नमेंट ने यह जरूरी समझा कि ऐसी कीमती लकड़ी का प्रिजर्वेशन हो, यह ग्रामानी से न चली जाए। इसके साथ साथ हम यह भी चाहते हैं कि हमारी इंडोजिनस इंडस्ट्रीज का नुकसान न हो। हमको शिकायत मिली थी कि रोज बुड लाभ बाहर भेज दिये जाते हैं और हमारे कारखानों को जो लकड़ी मिलनी चाहिए वह उनको नहीं मिलती है।

SHRI P. K. KODIYAN: He has not answered my question properly.

My specific question was whether it was a fact that hardly 5 to 8 per cent of rose-wood available in the country is at present utilized by the industry. He is talking about the indigenous industry being encouraged. But very little capacity of the rose-wood is being utilized by the industry. What is the necessity of imposing a total ban when the existing industry is not in a position to absorb the same?

Secondly, in imposing this ban on export of rose-wood timber whether the Centre has consulted the State Government because 90 per cent of the rose-wood comes from Kerala and every year Kerala Government has a very substantial revenue from this rose-wood. It is also a high quality of rose-wood which is produced in Kerala. This ban has severely restricted the revenue of the Government. Besides that, thousands of workers engaged in the logging and export of rose-wood are also starving: the rose-wood which is already collected from the forests has been accumulated: the workers are starving. Why Government has not consulted the State Government?

THE MINISTER OF CAMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND CO-OPERATION (SHRI MOHAN DHARIA): My colleague has already stated, this is one of the finest varieties of wood produced in tropical countries. We are at present exporting rose-wood in log form. The whole idea is that whatever exports are to be made, having regard to the massive problem of unemployment, if we could add value to it and send it in the form of furniture, doors, windows or other forms, it should be encouraged. In this context, after consulting the Governments concerned including the officers of the Governments of Kerala, Tamilnadu, Karnataka and even Orissa, wherever it is grown, a scheme has been evolved. For the current year as per ceiling fixed, up to 10,000 cubic meters of exports in log forms will be allowed; for the next year it will be 6,000 cubic meters and the year after it will be 3,000 cubic metres. In the meantime, we have also requested them that they should get themselves converted as industries whereby we can export them with some added value. So, this will provide some employment. It is in this context we should look at it. The question is this. Instead of sending away the raw material in the crude form why should we not make efforts to add value to it and send the product outside thereby earning

extra foreign exchange to ourselves and solving unemployment problem here.

I am sure the House will appreciate this approach.

SHRI GEORGE MATHEW: Sir, the Minister just now said that he had consulted the Governments of Kerala, Tamilnadu and Orissa. But the Chief Minister of Kerala has written to the Minister on 25-7-1977 that the Kerala Government objects to this ban because, at present, Kerala will be able to export about 20,000 cubic metres of rose-wood and veneer industries are able to absorb only 700 cubic metres of rose-wood. We get about Rs. 70,000 per cubic metre. Because of this ban and because industries are not able to consume more rose-wood produced here; what is happening is that from Rs. 70,000 the income has come down.

MR. SPEAKER: Please come to the question and do not make a speech.

SHRI GEORGE MATHEW: I am coming to the question. The value per cubic metre has dropped to 3,500. I want to know from the hon. Minister whether he will issue a directive so that whatever is needed by the industries can be supplied and the balance exported.

MR. SPEAKER: You mean converting that into finished products.

SHRI GEORGE MATHEW: Whatever is needed by the industries here should be supplied and the balance exported. Otherwise Government of Kerala will not be able to receive the income they are getting now.

MR. SPEAKER: What is the question that you are putting?

SHRI GEORGE MATHEW: I am asking what is the indigenous industry needing and whether after their needs have been met for the year, the balance will be exported or will the Kerala Govt. be compensated for the loss by the Central Government.

SHRI MOHAN DHARIA: I have already said that even though there is a ban, there are certain ceilings—the ceiling for the current year is 10,000 cubic metres and, accordingly, upto 10,000 cubic metres wood would be allowed to be exported. Secondly, I had discussed with Members of Parliament including the hon. Member and also with the Chief Minister of Kerala as also with some officials concerned. The representatives from industries as also exporters were also present there.

I have explained all those aspects to them.

MR. SPEAKER: He mentioned that the Kerala Government had written you a letter.

SHRI MOHAN DHARIA: They had written me a letter and in that context I discussed the matter with the Chief Minister himself. I have convinced him that this was the best approach. My impression was that he was also equally convinced that this approach would help in solving part of the unemployment problem in Kerala itself.

DR. HENRY AUSTIN: While admitting that some aspects of the policy evolved in this connection are sound, may I know from the hon. Minister whether during the phased programme which he wants to implement any steps have been taken to provide jobs for thousands of people involved in logging and exporting industry... (*Interruptions*) People in my constituency are involved. The position today is that the State is losing Rs. 4-5 crores and at the same time thousands of people involved in logging are not employed. Will the hon. Minister take some steps to see that the difficulties of the poor people and small scale industrialists who have invested a lot of money in this, are solved.

SHRI MOHAN DHARIA: So far as the current year is concerned, there is no problem because 10,000 was the ceil-

ing and that is being allowed. For the next year, it will be 6,000, that means 4000 less. It is for the House to imagine that on logs totalling 4000 cubic metres, what must be the employment, when it is being said that thousands of workers are being thrown out in the streets. It is not correct to say so. I have told those friends that if they require any institutional finance for starting industries, or even if they need to import some machinery, I am prepared to accept that. But I cannot forget the other aspect, we cannot allow our industrial resources to be exported without adding value to them. That is also the policy of the government. I am prepared to have discussions with them and do what is in the interest of the country. So far as rosewood is concerned, it takes 100—150 years to grow and mature. If the present logs are stocked for 5, 10 or 15 years, no harm will be done to them; on the contrary we shall be earning much more of foreign exchange.

SHRI RAGHAVALU MOHANARANGAM: May I know whether any reply has been sent by the government to the Tamil Nadu Government's letter in regard to this matter?

SHRI MOHAN DHARIA: Those who had written letters, have all been sent a reply.

Marketing of Indian Products in South East Asian Countries

*349. **SHRI D. AMAT:** Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian Missions in East and South East Asian countries have urged the Indian business community to adopt more aggressive measures to market Indian products and services to those countries; and

(b) if so, whether Government have ascertained the reaction of the business community thereto, if so, with what results?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION (SHRI ARIF BEG): (a) and (b). One of the subjects discussed in the Conference of Heads of Missions in South East and East Asia held in Delhi in August/September, 1977 related to promotion of India's trade with these countries with particular reference to exports. The Heads of Missions had also met representatives of the business community in this connection during the course of their stay in Delhi. Suggestions that have emerged as a result of these discussions will be kept in view by the Government.

SHRI D. AMAT: May I know from the hon. Minister the names of associations, etc. of the business community which urged the adoption of aggressive measures?

SHRI ARIF BEG: As far as the names are concerned, these are different business communities including FICCI in our country.

SHRI KRISHAN KANT: May I know from the hon. Minister, ever since the formation of the group of countries into ASEAN, whether they have approached the Government of India for a closer economic cooperation and I learn that some of them have approached the Government? May I know what steps the Government have taken for having a closer economic cooperation with the ASEAN, as an organisation of various countries?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION (SHRI MOHAN DHARIA) It is true that Phillipine Islands, Singapore, Malaysia and Indonesia have formed a body viz., ASEAN and we are having our dialogue with all these countries and this ASEAN which is their association.