

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 discussion 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.

When I went to Bangkok, I had an occasion to discuss with the Ministers of these countries and also with other Ministers and we are making all-out efforts so that our import and export trade in the eastern region is fostered.

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: You can see the new development in the world foreign trade market—grouping of different countries in different areas. Of course, we are not in any of these groups. In this context, may I know whether you have any long range view or policy regarding these different group of nations like EEC, ASEAN and what is the long term policy you are adopting and whether any diplomatic hurdles are there in this regard?

SHRI MOHAN DHARIA: The Commerce Ministry functions very much in close cooperation with our External Affairs Ministry. To be frank with a view to have coordinated efforts, the Prime Minister has constituted a Cabinet Committee, where the Ministers of Finance, External Affairs, Steel & Mines, and Agriculture are there and the Minister of Commerce happens to be the Chairman of that Committee. So, naturally, whatever efforts are required to be made, they are being made in a concentrated and also in an integrated manner. So far as the various groups like EEC and ASEAN are concerned naturally they have formed their associations. We have to deal with them. We try to deal with the countries bilaterally or we try to deal with the associations. But ultimately it is the interests of the country that are to be served and that is our approach.

Sale of Imported Polythelene and Rubber Compounds in Black Market

*352. **SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU:** Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND CO-OPERATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has been alleged that 'Asian Cables Corporation, Bombay'

under the control of Goenkas of Duncan Brothers Calcutta, had sold off, in 1969 imported polythelene and rubber compounds in the black market;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any investigations have been made into the allegations; and

(d) if so, the findings thereof and action taken thereto?

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

Statement

(a) to (d). There were allegations that M/s. Asian Cable Corporation, Bombay, under the control of Goenkas of Duncan Brothers, Calcutta, disposed of about 326.704 M. Tonnes out of 980 Tonnes of imported low density polythelene moulding power during the period 1968 to 1969, under cover of diversification programme by falsely showing it in the form of manufactured products, namely, polythelene pipes and sheets etc. The complaint did not mention anything pertaining to rubber compounds. An investigation was conducted by the C. B. I. According to the C. B. I. this offence had taken place after Shri R. P. Goenka had taken over as one of the Directors of the Company. On conclusion of the investigation, the C.B.I. found the material adequate to launch prosecution under Section 120 IPC read with Sections 420 and 477 A of the IPC and Section 5 of the JMPEX Act (criminal conspiracy, cheating and falsification of accounts). The C.B.I. consulted the Ministry of Law and recommended to the CCI&E the prosecution of 16 persons, which did not include Shri R P. Goenka and Shri A. K. Raman, Works Manager. On a representation of the Company, on which further legal advice was taken, it was decided by the earlier