

होटलों में ठहरते हैं। उन्हें निर्बन्धन में निषण्णित रूप से नहीं ठहरना पड़ता।

कलकत्ता में विमानचालक कहर में ठहरते हैं, भारत पर्यटन विकास निगम के एयरपोर्ट होटल में नहीं।

डा० बापू कालवते : मंत्री महोदय ने जिन तीन नगरों का उल्लेख किया है— कलकत्ता, दिल्ली और विबेन्द्रम, वैमानिक उन में से सिर्फ एक ही जगह पर आई०टी०डी० सी० के होटल में ठहरते हैं। जहाँ तक मेरी जानकारी है, बम्बई में वैमानिक होटल भोबराय और ताज इन्टरनेशनल में ठहरते हैं। वैमानिक जिन अन्य जगहों में ठहरते हैं, क्या वहाँ उन के लिए परमिटेड रूम रख हुए हैं, और उन के किराया तथा आई०टी०डी० सी० के होटलों के किराये में क्या फर्क है ?

श्री पुष्पोत्तम कौशिक : बम्बई में वे सन्तूर में ठहरते हैं, जो एयर इंडिया का सर्बिसिडियरी होटल है, और ताज में भी वे ठहरते हैं।

डा० बापू कालवते : क्या बम्बई में सन्तूर में जगह नहीं है, इस लिए वे ताज इन्टरनेशनल में ठहरते हैं, या पहले वहाँ ठहरने की धादत के अनुसार यह कार्यवाही चल रही है ?

श्री पुष्पोत्तम कौशिक : यह धादत तो पहले से ही है। इस के अलावा पायलट्स एसोसियेशन के साथ शुरू से यह समझौता रहा है, जिस के मुताबिक होटल में ठहरने के बारे में उन की राय ली जाती रही है। उसी समझौते के मुताबिक उन की राय के अनुसार उन्हें वहाँ ठहरने की सुविधा दी जाती है।

श्री उपसैन : इंडियन एयरलाइन्स के जो वैमानिक प्राइवेट होटलों में ठहरते हैं उन को जो ज्यादा किराया देना पड़ता है, क्या उस के लिए उन के भत्ते में ब्रोडरी की जाती है ?

श्री पुष्पोत्तम कौशिक : किराया ज्यादा नहीं है। नियमानुसार जितना उन्हें देना है, उतने ही किराये में उन्हें ठहराया जाता है।

श्री उपसैन : अन्धर वे भोबराय या ताज में ठहरें और उन्हें ज्यादा पैसा देना पड़े, तो क्या इस बात का भी समझौता है कि वह डिफरेंस उन्हें दिया जाय ?

श्री पुष्पोत्तम कौशिक : ऐसा नहीं है कि किसी भी होटल में जा कर ठहर जायें। समझौते के समय जो उन के साथ तय होता है कि वे किस होटल में ठहरेंगे उसी में ठहरते हैं।

श्री उपसैन : क्या समझौते में उन्होंने इस बात की मांग की थी कि इन को डिफरेंस जो है वह दे दिया जाय पीने खाने के लिए ?

श्री पुष्पोत्तम कौशिक : पीने खाने के लिए कोई भ्रमण से नहीं दिया जाता। नियमानुसार जो कमरे का किराया निर्धारित किया जाता है वह दिया जाता है। बाकी उन को जो दैनिक मिलता है उस में से वह खर्च करते हैं।

Export of Tea

*914. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHRE PATIL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE, CIVIL SUPPLIES AND CO-OPERATION be pleased to lay a statement showing:

(a) the quantity of tea exported during the last five years, viz. 1973-74, 1974-75, 1975-76, 1976-77 and 1977-78, and the amount of foreign exchange earned each year on this account;

(b) whether the present rise in price of tea in the Indian market is due to higher exports; and

(c) if so, what steps have been taken by the Government to arrest the rise in the market price?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE

AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND CO-OPERATION (SHRI ARIF BEG): (a) to (c). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) Statement showing the quantity and value of tea exported during the last five years is as follows:

	Quantity in m. kgs.	Foreign Exchange earned in Rs. crores
1973-74	190.27	144.85
1974-75	225.06	223.53
1975-76	211.41	238.29
1976-77	242.40	255.26
1977-78	219.60	356.00
(Provisional)		

(b) and (c). The tea prices started rising in early 1977 due to a number of factors like low production in Sri Lanka in 1976, sharp decline in world supply of coffee and consequent increased demand for tea, apprehension about continued shortage, panic buying etc.

With a view to protecting the domestic consumers from the sharp escalation of international prices, an export duty on tea of Rs. 5/- per kg. was imposed in April, 1977 and excise rebate and drawback of duties on tea exports were simultaneously withdrawn. Leading tea packeteers in the country were also persuaded to reduce the price of packeted tea. The producers were also asked to bring more of their crop to various auction centres so as to increase the overall availability of tea at auctions. As a result, the total quantity sold at the auction centres during the current season 1977-78 (upto 1st week of April) was 364 million kgs., 66 million kgs. more than last year. Though production in 1977 was a record 560 million kgs. i.e., about 48 million kgs. more than the previous year, the export target for 1977-78 was scaled down to 225 million kgs. from the pre-

vious year's figure of 242 million kgs. in order to make more tea available within the country.

An important step taken recently in order to prevent chances of hoarding of tea stocks was bringing tea within the purview of Essential Commodities Act. As a consequence of all these steps taken by Government, price of tea came down sharply from May, 1977 onwards and has stabilised at reasonable levels.

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL:

It is written in the statement that tea prices started rising due to low production in Sri Lanka. I cannot understand why our country's prices should go up. I want to know from the hon. Minister if foreign prices are better and whether government has any plan to increase tea production? In the next three years what will be the production and what will be the export quantity and the quantity for the domestic consumption? It is stated in the statement that leading tea packeteers in the county were also persuaded to reduce the price of packeted tea. How much price had been reduced by this method of persuasion? It is also stated that in order to prevent chances of hoarding of tea stocks, tea was brought within the purview of Essential Commodities Act? How much stock had been exhausted and how much quantity has been permitted for the stock?

श्री आरिफ बेग : अध्यक्ष महोदय, जैसा कि माननीय सदस्य ने कहा कि श्रीलंका के अंदर चाय का उत्पादन कम हुआ तो हमारे यहाँ प्राइसेज कैसे बढ़ जाती हैं, मैं इस संबंध में माननीय सदस्य को यह सूचना देना चाहता हूँ कि श्रीलंका और भारतवर्ष चाय के उत्पादन में विश्व में बहुत बड़े देश हैं। यदि श्रीलंका के अंदर चाय का उत्पादन कम हुआ तो वर्ल्ड मार्केट के अंदर चाय की कीमत बढ़ेगी और यही कारण है कि दुनिया के बाजार के अंदर चाय की कीमत बढ़ी है और उस का प्रभाव भारत में भी

हुमा । लेकिन हम ने जो कदम उठाए हैं उन के अनुसार आप को यह सुनकर खुशी होगी कि हालांकि हम जो चाय की मात्रा बाहर भजते हैं वह पिछले वर्ष की तुलना में कम है लेकिन उस की कीमत हम को ज्यादा मिली है । हम ने बाजार के अंदर इस प्रकार से अपनी प्रणाली को लागू किया है कि उपभोक्ताओं को सस्ते दाम पर चाय उपलब्ध करा सकें । जब हम ने चाय को एसेशियल कम्पोजिटीव के अंदर घोषित किया तो पूरे के पूरे ब्यापार पर अपना कंट्रोल कर लिया और वह एलान किया कि जो लोग 1 हजार किलोग्राम अपना स्टॉक रखेंगे उन को समय समय पर सूचना देनी पड़ेगी कि उन के पास कितनी चाय है । इस प्रकार से हम ने चाय के पूरे ब्यापार पर कंट्रोल किया । यही नहीं हम ने यह पाबन्दी लगा दी है कि चाय को वह लोग आरक्षण के अंदर लाएं और चाय आरक्षण से मार्केट में आती है । इस से हम को बड़े पैमाने पर चाय के मार्केट को कंट्रोल करने में मदद मिलती है ।

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL:
Mr. Speaker, Sir, I was asking about the action taken for production of tea for the next three years so that internal consumption will be maintained as well as exports. That question has not been answered.

MR. SPEAKER: If you put half a dozen questions, how can the Minister answer?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND CO-OPERATION (SHRI MOHAN DHARIA): For the information of the House, I may say that production of tea last year was 560 million kg; as against that during this year production will go up to about 600 million kg. We have a comprehensive plan; by the end of the year 2000 we intend to produce 1300 million kg in the country.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: Do not produce more than the demand.

SHRI MOHAN DHARIA: There is a lot of demand. Do not worry. I am saying that by the end of 2000 that will be the production. We have a comprehensive plan. Every year about 10,000 acres of land is additionally brought into cultivation of tea. We are making all efforts and taking care to see that we meet the domestic demand. That is the reason why last year we brought down the exports and scaled it down to 225 million kgs. and that will be the policy and we shall see that tea is made available domestically at reasonable prices. At the same time we are quite conscious of the fact that there is a growing demand and we have taken up several projections and programmes accordingly.

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL:
It has been stated that the prices of tea would be stabilised at reasonable level. But as far as my knowledge goes, the prices are not stable. Secondly we are exporting much. I would like to know whether the Government is taking any steps so that the modern technique is developed in the tea gardens and the tea that is produced would be of a good quality so that we can earn more foreign exchange.

SHRI MOHAN DHARIA: I have stated on the floor of the House that we supply the required machinery, also the required loans and there is some element of subsidy so that the whole tea plantation is modernised. After thirty or forty years, the plant goes out of order or deteriorates. Under these conditions, we are taking up new plantations and there is also that renovation of plantation and for that purpose all possible modern machinery is being provided. So far as the quality of tea is concerned, the House will be happy to know that India produces the best quality of tea and the average yield per acre is the best in the whole world.

SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN:
There is no doubt that this year we

earned a record foreign exchange through export of tea. It could have been more. There is a great demand for Darjeeling Clean black tea in USSR market. But on the other hand in the local market, the price of tea is going higher everyday inspite of so many assurances from the Tea Barrons that tea will be sold at Rs. 10 to 12 per Kg. In order to check the increase in price. I would like to know whether the Government has taken any decision (a) to create a buffer stock of tea, (b) to declare any maximum price of tea and (c) to stop the forward sale to prevent smuggling.

SHRI MOHAN DHARIA: We have asked all tea growers to bring at least 75 per cent of their tea produce at the auction centres. Secondly we have put export duty of Rs. 5 on the export of tea. Thirdly we have also taken care to purchase tea through our Tea Trading Corporation of India and the NCDC and NCCF and other cooperative agencies and to make it available through the distribution centres. We are taking all possible steps to maintain the prices.

SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN: He has not replied to my question about the fixing of the maximum price.

SHRI MOHAN DHARIA: I have already said that we have taken several steps and if the House is interested in knowing the price...

MR. SPEAKER: No, no. Have you fixed any maximum price?

SHRI MOHAN DHARIA: No, Sir That is not necessary.

SHRI BEDABRATA BARUA: Tea is exported at notoriously low price and there is no packeting and all that, but I am not on that point. Even in the internal market, if the Minister compares the price at which the sale is effected by the various tea companies in India and the price the consumer pays, he will find that the consumer is paying four hundred or five hundred per cent of the price at which the

factory is selling. It may be due to collision or some other reasons. I do not see, there is any other way except this sort of public distribution in the matter of tea. Is the Minister taking any steps in regard to that.

SHRI MOHAN DHARIA: Fortunately, the Government is in charge of seven plantations in the country and we are well aware of the price structure and having regard to the price structure, all steps are being taken. This year it so happened that the rice in the London Market has crashed down by about fifty per cent. Naturally it has affected here also. But I can assure the hon. House that through our cooperative agencies and through the Tea Trading Corporation of India, we make adequate purchases so that the tea prices are retained at the prescribed level.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: This House cannot be taken for a ride. The question was, there is a difference of 400 times between the ex-factory price and the retail price. What is the public distribution system? That was the question.

SHRI MOHAN DHARIA: I do not know whether my friend was attentive or not. I said, now we are in charge of seven tea plantations and we know the cost structure. It is not correct that there is a difference of 400 times in price.

श्री सर्वेभ सुतंका : मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से मालूम करना चाहता हूँ—प्राज्ञ अछठी चाय यहाँ नहीं मिलती है, सब फारन-कन्टीज चली जाती है, इस की क्या वजह है ? क्या मंत्री जी अछठी चाय देने की कृपा करेंगे ?

SHRI MOHAN DHARIA: This allegation is absolutely wrong. Whatever standard of tea is required, it is available in the Indian market. I am sorry that the hon. member should not be aware of it.