

लेकिन हम देखते हैं कि डिबैल्यूएशन के बाद भी सीलोन की चाय की खपत इंग्लैंड में ज्यादा हो रही है। क्योंकि उनका प्रचार का सिलसिला हम से ज्यादा अच्छा है। डिबैल्यूएशन के बाद भी हिन्दुस्तान की चाय की खपत इंग्लैंड और दूसरे मुल्कों में कम हो रही है। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि सरकार कौन से कदम उठाने जा रही है जिससे हमारी चाय की खपत सीलोन या दूसरे मुल्कों की चाय के कम्पीटीशन में बढ़ सके ?

श्री विनेश सिंह : यह कहना कि हिन्दु-स्तान की चाय की खपत नहीं हो रही है, यह सच नहीं है। हम बहुत बड़ी तादाद में इंग्लैंड में यहाँ की चाय बेचते हैं...

श्री शिव चन्द्र झा : बलका का प्रचार आपके प्रचार से ज्यादा है, वह आपके चाय के मुकाबले में ज्यादा बेच रहे हैं।

श्री विनेश सिंह : खाली प्रचार ज्यादा करने से ज्यादा चाय नहीं बिकती है। हमारा और सीलोन का मिल कर भी प्रचार होता है—यह कोई बजह नहीं है कि हमारी चाय कम बिक रही है। कुछ दिक्कतें हैं, उन को हम देख रहे हैं। हमारी जो बढ़िया क्वालिटी की चाय है वह सब से ज्यादा बिकती है, उसके बाद मीडियम क्वालिटी की बिकती है। कुछ साधारण चाय है जो कम्पीटीशन में कम बिकती है, उसकी खपत को बढ़ाने के लिये हम सोच रहे हैं।

Shri Shradhakar Supakar: May I know if the Tea Export Promotion Council recommended the abolition of export duties altogether and may I know the price of Indian tea after the inclusion of export duty compare with the price of Ceylon tea including their export duty?

Shri Dinesh Singh: The price is comparable and, as you may have seen from the budget proposals this year, we have further reduced the export duty.

Mr. Kothari was agitated about drawback. May I say that the drawback is not allowed to exporters.

Shri S. S. Kothari: Why not?

Mr. Speaker: You are not allowed to put another question.

Shri Hem Barua: In view of the fact that our export of tea has registered a deplorable decline of late, may I know whether our Government have succeeded in putting their fingers on the weak spots and found out why tea export has declined and also whether the British proposal to get into the ECM would in any way adversely affect our tea exports?

Shri Dinesh Singh: It will be one of our major endeavours to see that tea exports are not adversely affected by Britain's entry into the ECM. So far as the prospects of improving exports are concerned, we are holding seminar in Calcutta next week, Monday and Tuesday, and I shall also be going over there and we will have an opportunity of discussing this matter.

Mr. Hem Barua: What is he going to do in the seminar?

Mr. Speaker: He will have discussions.

Shri M. Sudarsanam: Is the Government aware that the rupee agreement countries, namely, East European countries, are importing Indian tea and re-exporting it to West European countries that is, sterling area, to the detriment of the foreign exchange position of India?

Shri Dinesh Singh: We have not received any complaints to that effect.

Production of Machine Tools by HMT

*396. Shri M. R. Krishna: Will the Minister of Industrial Development

and Company Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the production of machine tools in Hindustan Machine Tools, Ltd., has been considerably reduced;

(b) if so, the reasons for the curtailment of the production programme; and

(c) how long this reduced production programme will continue?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Industrial Development and Company Affairs (Shri Bhann Prakash Singh): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The company have had to curtail production in view of the fall in the demand for the machine tools and accumulation of stock.

(c) This would depend on the trend in demand. The company are making efforts to diversify production and increase exports.

Shri M. R. Krishna: May I know whether the target programme for production is not fixed on the basis of internal demand and the export market available?

The Minister of Industrial Development and Company Affairs (Shri F. A. Ahmed): The target had been fixed and licenses had been given only for production to that capacity.

Shri M. R. Krishna: Where is the question of licensing? HMT is your own concern.

Shri F. A. Ahmed: We find that there is a large stock available with us for the last two years and it has not been possible for us to sell that stock. We are taking steps to diversify and increase export outside.

Shri M. R. Krishna: In order to boost up the sale of HMT produced machines in foreign countries, what facilities like credit, etc. are provided, especially in Asian and Arab countries? May I also know to what extent retrench-

ment has been taking place in these factories as a result of curtailment in production?

Shri F. A. Ahmed: During the last few years it has been possible for us to increase our exports. In 1966-66, our exports were 17.86 lakhs and in 1966-67, our exports increased to Rs. 30.12 lakhs. We have to take into consideration that many countries are also competing with us, particularly in respect of products which we want to sell to America. There are competitors from South America and other countries which have the advantage of the price. We are trying to what extent we can give further subsidy so that our manufactured goods can compete with those countries.

Shri M. R. Krishna: He has not answered about retrenchment as a result of decrease in production.

Shri F. A. Ahmed: I cannot give the exact figures about retrenchment if the hon. Member tables a separate question, I shall find it out.

Dr. Ranen Sen: Sometime back it was stated and it was also a fact that HMT was one of the best units of the public sector in India. It was expanding very fast. Now, what happened during the last six months or a year that led to this crisis in the production of the HMT, and when it came to the notice of the Government that this crisis is quite evident in the HMT, what steps did the Government take to improve the situation and to make the undertaking stand on its own legs?

Shri F. A. Ahmed: There were many adverse factors such as rise in prices of various articles, particularly the raw materials used in the production, increase in wages of labour, tightening up of monetary supply and recession in the industrial field. Because of this recession, this industry also had to suffer. After we found that our production was going down and the stocks were piling up, we

have started the process of diversifying and also increasing our exports.

Shri R. Barna: Apparently the stock of these machine tools was accumulating for the last two years. Is it then correct to assume that we did not apply our mind for proper designing to cater to the needs of the consumers countries outside, and that is why our exports have declined?

Shri F. A. Ahmed: That is not correct, because we were manufacturing on the assumption that whatever is produced by us will be consumed within our country. But as I have said, on account of the various adverse factors, the demand for these machines went down and as a result we have a large stock in our hand which has not been disposed of.

श्री कंबर लाल गुप्त : क्या मंत्री महोदय बतलायेंगे कि एच०एम०टी० नुस्तान में बा रहा है। अगर जा रहा है तो कितना नुस्तान है और कितना स्टॉक उस के पास है? क्या मंत्री महोदय यह भी बतलायेंगे कि उन्होंने जो कारण नुस्तान में बतलाये, उनके अलावा इनएफिशिएन्सी और करप्शन के केसेज भी उन के सामने धाये हैं, और अगर धाये हैं तो क्या कार्रवाई की गई है?

श्री कन्हद्वीन शर्मा: अक्टूबर - 30 अप्रैल, 1967 तक हमारे पास 506 मशीनें थीं और उनकी कीमत 2½ करोड़ रुपये के करीब होगी। हमारा फायदा 1960-61 में 73 लाख रुपये हुआ था।

श्री कंबर लाल गुप्त : मैं धाज कल पूछ रहा हूँ।

श्री कन्हद्वीन शर्मा: माननीय सदस्य बरा सत्र करें। 1960-61 से हम ने प्रोडक्शन शुरू किया था उस वक़्त 73 लाख के करीब फायदा हुआ था। 1963-64 में 2 करोड़ 44 लाख २० का फायदा हुआ। उस के बाद 1964-65 में कुछ कम हुआ और 1965-66 में 1 करोड़ 5 लाख

का फायदा हुआ। इस वक़्त नुस्तान हो रहा है यह बात नहीं है, लेकिन हमारा फायदा कम हो गया है। दूसरे सवाल का जवाब यह है कि यह कभी इनएफिशिएन्सी की वजह से नहीं हुई है।

श्री कंबर लाल गुप्त : मैं ने पूछा था कि क्या आप के पास कोई करप्शन और एम्प्लोयमेंट के केसेज धाये हैं? अगर धाये हैं तो उन पर क्या कार्रवाई हुई?

श्री कन्हद्वीन शर्मा: मेरे इल्म में यह बात नहीं है। अगर माननीय सदस्य के पास कोई चीज हो तो वह उसे मेरे पास भेज दें।

Shri N. Sreekantan Nair: May I know whether the Government is aware of the fact that the Central Government as well as the State Governments prefer to buy the machine tools of private firms such as Kirloskar rather than from HMT and, if so, whether it is due to the fact that the Government concern such as the HMT cannot give bonus and other facilities to the Government employees who undertake to arrange for the purchase by the government organisations, unlike what the private companies are doing? May I know whether this complaint has come to the notice of the Government and, if so, whether the Government have issued instructions to see that the machine tools of the HMT are given preference over those manufactured by others?

Shri F. A. Ahmed: That is not a fact. As far as I am aware, all the State Governments are placing their orders for the components and equipments which are manufactured in the HMT, with the HMT.

Shri N. Sreekantan Nair: Sir, may I just point out that I am one of those who are intimately associated with one of the firms and I know this is a specific complaint raised by the management that the State Governments

and the Central Government do not buy them. (Interruption).

Mr. Speaker: All right. He has given information, Shri Venkatasubbaiah.

Shri F. Venkatasubbaiah: HMT is one of the best in the public sector projects in our country. After hearing the answer given by the minister by implication may I know whether the Government or the management of the HMT had no advance planning anticipating recession for diversification of the production and this has led to this recession and retrenchment of employees?

Shri F. A. Ahmed. It was not anticipated that what will be produced will not be consumed. The question of diversification came up only when the stocks piled up. We hurriedly took the necessary steps in this direction so that the idle capacity may not remain any longer.

Shri Virendrakumar Shah: The Minister stated that there is already idle capacity. Will he enlighten us as to what is the expansion programme of HMT for the next 5 years and when does he expect this recession in the machine tool business to recede and full capacity to be utilised?

Shri F. A. Ahmed: Our impression is that after the programme for diversification has been taken up and after the steps for increasing our exports have been taken up, we shall be able to reduce the idle capacity to the maximum. Also, the indications are that even the internal markets will pick up if we have a good monsoon after which the demands for the articles produced by HMT in the next year will increase. Then perhaps the idle capacity will be much less.

Regarding the expansion programme, we have at present units at Bangalore, Pinjore, Kalamassery and Hyderabad. We have a plan for doubling the production in the last three units. We had also a programme of

undertaking 2 further units in UP and MP.

Shri D. C. Sharma: The decline in the prestige and production of HMT gives a big blow to the confidence of the people in the public undertaking. May I know what definite programme Government has chalked out for diversification of production of HMT for home consumption and also for exports, where HMT products are being exported these days and how the exports are being stepped up?

Shri F. A. Ahmed: We have taken a large number of measures and we propose to set up a number of factories as I have already indicated, for the production of higher size automats, radial wheels, grinding machines, milling machines, lathes, special etc. purpose machines including transform lines, gear cutting machines, etc. Also for the purpose of export we are now proposing to manufacture new and sophisticated machine tools such as single and multi-spindle bar chucking automats, copying lathes, multi-tool lathes, horizontal boring machines, drum type turrets, surface grinders, broaching machines and gear hobbors.

Shri Pilloo Mody: It was mentioned that there was a glut in machine tools in HMT. Yet, I find many expansion plans—like plans for doubling 3 of the units. This does not seem to make any sense to me. Will you explain why in spite of the glut and recession in demand for machine tools, you are planning to double 3 of your units?

Shri F. A. Ahmed: We had a plan to double the production in the fourth five year plan. But that will have to be reconsidered on the basis of what we are able to sell and what will be our demand in the next few years.

Shrimati Sharda Mukerjee: The hon. Minister said that due to the standard of goods being very high in America and due to competition being more there our goods cannot

compete with them. Now, Sir, I hear that there were definite contracts available in Iran and in other Middle-East countries but the HMT did not take advantage of those contracts because they were not prepared to make such modifications as were necessary to fulfil those contracts. May I know whether the Minister has enquired into this as to why the HMT does not cater for such foreign markets as may give them a chance to promote their goods with such modifications as are required?

Shri F. A. Ahmed: We have already taken steps to appoint selling agents in various countries so that we may be able to know what are the demands of these countries and what are the special machines required by them. We have to consider to what extent we can bring about adjustments so far as our production is concerned. All that effort is being made and I hope that whatever is possible will be done to speed up our export (*Interruption*).

Production of Commercial Vehicles

*396. **Shri S. M. Banerjee:**
Shri Madhu Limaye:

Will the Minister of Industrial Development and Company Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether some more firms are being licensed for producing light commercial vehicles of which there is a great shortage in the country; and

(b) if so, the number of such units?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Industrial Development and Company Affairs (**Shri Bhanu Prakash Singh**): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: Sir, it appears that the monopoly for the four-wheeler is that of Mr. Birla and that for three and two-wheeler of Mr. Bajaj. The entire thing is of the two

"B's"—Birla and Bajaj. May I know what are the specific reasons as to why this is confined to the existing units only and no licences are given to further units?

The Minister of Industrial Development and Company Affairs (**Shri F. A. Ahmed**): We have given licence to four private firms which have a capacity of producing....

Shri S. M. Banerjee: Who are they?

Shri F. A. Ahmed: They are Messrs. Premier Automobiles, The Standard Motor Products, The Bajaj Tempo Limited and Messrs. Mahindra and Mahindra Limited. These four concerns have been licensed to manufacture 13,000 light commercial vehicles. But we find that they have been able to produce only about 3700. Even those have not been sold by them. At the end of the year 1966 there was a stock of 148 vehicles out of what they had produced which is nearly about 25 per cent of their licensed capacity. In these circumstances there can be no question of considering further applications.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: From the statement of the hon. Minister it appears that these vehicles are available in the market. But he is aware that their price is Rs. 2000 to Rs. 6000 more than the ceiling price—I mean that is the blackmarket price. I would like to know whether it is a fact that the Russians have agreed to collaborate with an Indian firm and with the help of the West Bengal Government to start production of commercial vehicles; if so, may I know whether this proposal has been rejected or it is still under consideration?

Shri F. A. Ahmed: My hon. friend has been writing to us from time to time about this private firm. They have been told that because this particular item is now in the banned list and unless and until there is necessity for giving more licences their application cannot be considered.