

क्या है? क्या यह सही है कि कैपेसेटी के मुताबिक अगर उनको कोटा दिया जाए तो देश की जो जरूरतें हैं वे पूरी हो सकती हैं? क्या यह भी सही है कि उनको केवल चालीस परसेंट ही कोटा दिया जाता है इस वास्ते वे एक शिफ्ट को भी पूरा नहीं चला पाते हैं? अगर पूरा कोटा दिया जाए तो वे डबल शिफ्ट काम करेंगे और ज्यादा लेबर एम्प्लाय होगी, क्या यह सही नहीं है: इस तरह से क्या कंटी की जो नीड्ज है वे पूरी नहीं हो जाएंगी?

श्री फखरुद्दीन अली अहमद : जहां तक हमारे पास फ़िगरज़ हैं; टोटल कैपेसेटी करीब 56,000 टन की है और रा मैटीरियल जो दिया गया है 1966 में वह इस प्रकार है :

भारत बैरलज को 9877 टन

स्टैंडर्ड ड्रम को 7899 टन

इंस्ट्रियल कंटेनरज़ को 2528 टन हिन्द

गैलवैनाइजिंग कम्पनी को 5966 टन

स्टील कम्पनी कंटेनरज़ को 529 टन।

श्री क० ना० तीबारी : मैंने यह पूछा है कि डबल शिफ्ट काम करने की जो उनकी कैपेसेटी है उसका क्या 40 परसेंट ही उनको नहीं जाता है और 60 परसेंट उनको नहीं मिलता है? यदि सैंट परसेंट दिया जाए तो जो देश की आवश्यकतायें हैं, वे क्या पूरी नहीं हो सकती हैं?

INDO-AFGHAN TRADE AGREEMENT

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*693. SHRI N. R. LASKAR :

SHRI ANBU CHEZHIAN :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Governments of India and Afghanistan have signed a new trade agreement for the year 1968-69;

(b) if so, the main features, thereof;

(c) whether this agreement is likely to increase the quantum of trade between the two countries; and

(d) if so, in what respects?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI DINESH SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir,

(b) A statement showing the main features of the new Indo-Afghan

Trade Arrangement is placed on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

Main features of Indo-Afghan Trade Arrangement for 1968-69.

- (i) Imports into India of asafetida, cumin seeds and medicinal herbs of Afghanistan origin will be allowed freely;
 - (ii) Imports of Afghan dry and fresh fruits into India will be permitted subject to quantitative ceilings;
 - (iii) Not less than 15% of the counter-exports by the importers in India, in payment for items covered by (i) & (ii) above, will be in the form of non-traditional goods *i.e.*, items other than textiles, tea, spices and coir products, and in accordance with the E.P. procedures of the Reserve Bank of India; and
 - (iv) Imports of wool and cotton from Afghanistan, and exports from India of items such as machinery, machine tools, automobiles iron and steel construction material etc., specified in the Trade Arrangement will be allowed against payments in free foreign exchange.
- (c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The New Trade Arrangement is likely to result in expansion of the overall Indo-Afghan Trade, and also in the diversification of India's exports in non-traditional items.

SHRI N. R. LASKAR: Sir, with regard to parts (c) and (d) of the question, I would like to know the percentage of increase in our exports as a result of this new Trade Agreement?

SHRI DINESH SINGH: That will depend on the performance during the year.

SHRI N. R. LASKAR: Sir, when our hon. Minister visited recently the State of Afghanistan their Commerce Minister, Mr. Noor Ali expressed the concern of his Government at the extremely adverse effect of the closure of the land route on the Afghan trade and economy. He said that his govern-

ment had been making persistent efforts to have the land route reopened. May I know what our Government is doing in this regard?

SHRI DINESH SINGH: This was a matter which had been discussed with the Commerce Minister of Afghanistan. It is a matter with which we are also very deeply concerned. We are very anxious that the land route should be opened but with our present relations with Pakistan we are making very little headway in this matter. But we on our side are keen and the discussion that we had with the Afghan Commerce Minister shows that we are interested.

SHRI BAL RAJ MADHOK: Afghanistan is a land-locked country and there is no access for it to sea because of the forcible occupation of Pakhtoon area by Pakistan. So, its natural outlet to sea has been barred by Pakistan and it is preventing even direct access to Afghanistan by road by India. Because of the great importance of Indo-Afghan relations from the political and commercial point of view, may I know whether the Government of India will see that it provides subsidised air transport to Afghanistan for export of its goods to India and, secondly, whether the Government will liberalise its terms for imports that we get from Afghanistan?

SHRI DINESH SINGH: The Government of India is not proposing giving any subsidy for air transport of goods between India and Afghanistan.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Shame, shame.

SHRI DINESH SINGH: because the sea route is open and goods are travelling. I fail to understand the shame part of it, because it is the taxpayer who will have to subsidise this.

SHRI SRADDHAKAR SUPAKAR: Besides the air route, may I know if there is any other trade route to Afghanistan?

SHRI DINESH SINGH: I mentioned about the sea route to Afghanistan just now.

SHRI RANGA: The hon. Minister was just now saying that he was objecting to the suggestion of subsidy because he was afraid that the taxpayer would have to pay for it. Is it not a fact that it is at the cost of the taxpayer that all these incentives for exports are being given at present? Why is it in this particular case alone my hon. friend wants to trot out that as a very cheap reply?

SHRI BAL RAJ MADHOK: Misplaced love.

SHRI DINESH SINGH: The hon. Acharyaji knows very well that whenever there is the question of the utilisation of the money, which is the tax-payers' money, we have to be very careful about its spending and although certain export facilities have been given; there is no need felt so far in this case. That is why I said 'No'. It is not as if in my discretion I can give subsidy. In consideration of all aspects we felt that the money should not be spent.

SHRI HEM BARUA: Is it not a fact that during his recent visit to Kabul the hon. Minister discussed this question of reopening of the land route? If he did not, how does he propose to improve the trade relations between Afghanistan and India, which is a very important matter?

SHRI DINESH SINGH: I have said in my earlier reply that I have discussed this matter.

SHRI HEM BARUA: He had discussed it. He had discussion with the Afghan Government about the land route. We know it. We just want to know the outcome of that discussion.

SHRI DINESH SINGH: It is not in the hands of either Afghanistan or us to open a land route. We only agreed that every effort should be made to achieve this.

श्री सूर अली खां : मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि जब मिनिस्टर साहब हाल ही में काबुल तशरीफ ले गये थे, तो वहाँ पर उन्होंने 1968-69 के लिए नये तिजारती मुआहिदे के अलावा और कोई

पायदार तिजारत का मुआहिदा अफगानिस्तान से किया है; अगर हां, तो वह क्या है।

श्री दिनेश सिंह : जी नहीं। और कोई वायदा नहीं किया है।

SHRI SHRI CHAND GOYAL : India has very close trade relations with Pakistan and in fact most of the consumer goods in Afghanistan are exported from India to Afghanistan. May I know whether Government has got any survey conducted to find out as to in what fields and for what Indian goods there is a market in Afghanistan so that we can increase our exports to Afghanistan and that of Afghan goods to India?

SHRI DINESH SINGH : The hon. Member mentioned that we had very close relations. I would like to say that we have still better relations than what we had in the past.

SHRI PILOO MODY : After your visit?

SHRI BAL RAJ MADHOK : We want them to be still better.

SHRI DINESH SINGH : I do not know about my visit. There have been some romantic speculations beyond what (Interruption)

SHRI J. B. KRIPALANI : Did this romance take place in Afghanistan or beyond Afghanistan?

SHRI DINESH SINGH : Leaving out the element of speculation in the whole question, what I had said is substantiated by facts and figures. Our trade with Afghanistan ten years ago was of the order of Rs. 3.35 crores and last year it went up to Rs. 7.50 crores. It is certainly an increase by any standard. So far as the question of making a study of the Afghan market is concerned, this is being done by the traders there and by our mission. There is a long list attached to the agreement about the goods which can be sold from India to Afghanistan.

SHRI SHIVAJIRAO S. DESHMUKH : You are well aware, Sir, of recent press reports about our efforts to undertake commercial sales of small

arms and army equipment to Malaysia and South East Asian countries. Has the hon. Commerce Minister had any talks about commercial sales of small arms and defence equipment to Afghanistan?

SHRI DINESH SINGH : No, Sir.

श्री महाराज सिंह भारती : जैसा कि मंत्री जी ने बताया है, अफगानिस्तान के साथ हमारे सम्बन्ध चाहे कितने ही मधुर और रोमान्टिक क्यों न हों, लेकिन, बीच में जो पाकिस्तान पड़ा हुआ है, वह न तो अफगानिस्तान से रोमांस करना चाहता है और न हम से और वही लैंड रूट है। अगर लैंड-रूट खुल भी जाये, तो इस बात की कोई गारण्टी नहीं है कि आता हुआ माल किसी दिन ज्वट नहीं कर लिया जायेगा। संयुक्त राष्ट्र संघ के अन्तर्गत यूरोप से ले कर मलेशिया तक अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय रोडवेज की एक योजना बनाई गई है। वह सड़क अफगानिस्तान और हिन्दुस्तान में से हो कर गुजरती है। क्या सरकार ने कभी इस बात का प्रयास किया है कि ऐसी व्यवस्था की जाये कि उस सड़क से दो देशों के माल के गुजरने पर कोई पाबन्दी नहीं लगाई जायेगी, सिवाये कस्टम वगैरह के कायदों के और संयुक्त राष्ट्र संघ इस बात की गारण्टी करे ?

श्री दिनेश सिंह : जी हां। प्रयास जरूर किया है। माननीय सदस्य जिस सड़क की बात कह रहे हैं—एशियन हाई-वे की, जिस के बारे में एकाफ्रे में बात चित हो रही है, उस के पीछे भी यही विचार है कि उस के जरिये खुली तिजारत हो सके और उस में कोई रोक-टोक न हो, अलावा उन नियमों के, जो हर एक अपने यहां बना सकता है।

BLACK-LISTING OF MESSRS. AMIN-CHAND PYARELAL

*694. **SHRI ABDUL GHANI DAR :** Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND METALS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the firm of M/s. Aminchand Pyarelal was black-listed during 1963-64;