

श्री ब० रा० भगत : अभी निर्यात के लिए जो हम सहायता देते हैं और उस के लिए जो क्लेम्स आते हैं उसके तय करने में देरी होती है, यह उनको शिकायत होनी है कि एक्सपोर्ट एक्सपोर्ट करते हैं और उनको जो सुविधा मिलनी चाहिए वह समय पर नहीं मिलती है, इस के लिए हम ने काफी निम्पलीफिकेशन करने की कोशिश की है। फिर पोर्ट में जा कर के या और भी दूसरी जगहों में जा कर के फिजिकल चेक का इन्तजाम किया है ताकि टाइम लैग जो होता है वह कम से कम हो और उन को शिकायत न हो।

Export of Cotton Textiles

*1264. SHRI BEDABRATA BARUA : Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE AND SUPPLY be pleased to state :

(a) what was the rupee value of exports of cotton textiles from India during the last year; and

(b) the value of imported cotton textile machinery and dyes used for cotton textile industry in the same year ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE & SUPPLY SHRI CHOWDHARY RAM SEWAK : (a) & (b). The exports of cotton textiles, including handloom goods, during the year 1967-68, amounted to Rs. 90.71 crores. The value of cotton imported in 1967-68 from U. S. A., mainly under P. L. 480 Programme, was Rs. 44.59 crores, and the value of cotton imported from other countries was Rs. 38.89 crores. Machinery worth Rs. 12.37 crores was imported during the same year. The figures of imports of dyes exclusively for cotton textile industry are not available.

SHRI BEDABRATA BARUA : The figures given by the Indian Cotton Mills Federation reveal that the value of cotton textiles export is about Rs. 100 crores and the amount spent on cotton imports also equals that amount. That means that

this industry is not an export industry at all. We have to take into account the export of handlooms to the value of Rs. 9 crores annually. It appears that we are not really in great difficulty. Will the Minister enlighten us if 85 per cent of what we export is also the product of indigenous cotton produced in the country and that all the cotton that we import is only used for production of fine and superfine cloth for consumption by fashionable sections of the country. This state of affairs cannot continue especially when we have hurt the common man in the process. How is it possible to continue that policy ? Is there any particular direction in which the Government wishes to go ? Will fresh licences not be given to those mills which produce only fashionable clothes ?

MR. SPEAKER : So may questions.

THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN TRADE AND SUPPLY (SHRI B. R. BHAGAT) : Though the hon. Member has touched different questions, the essential point is that this industry is dependent upon Rs. 100 crores worth of cotton imports. I have given the figure for 1967-68; the imports for this industry including exports as well as—it is very important—production for home consumption is Rs. 95.85 crores. The point is that this is not only for exports. For historical reasons, it is true, super-fine and fine cloth is used for consumption at home. We are not producing long-staple cotton cloth to the extent we require. So, according to me, the answer is that we must try to be self-sufficient in our cotton production and also we should, progressively, reduce the import of cotton textile machinery. This is the policy and objective we are trying to achieve through various measures,

SHRI BEDABRATA BARUA : A lot has been said about cotton prices and that the producers are not getting good price for cotton. Is it not a fact that the middleman gets most of the profit ? May I know whether there is any proposal for central purchase of cotton in whatever sector, public or private, so that the grower gets the benefit and a better price that will give him incentive to produce more and a better variety of cotton in the country ?

SHRI B. R. BHAGAT : For the past two or three years, actually, the ruling price is higher than the support price.....

SHRI SHIVAJIRAO S. DESHMUKH : Will he clarify whom the support price supports ?

SHRI B. R. BHAGAT : I do not know if you have allowed him; he has not allowed me to complete my answer. It is our objective that the trader or the middleman should not get the benefit and that, even if the prices are higher, the grower must get the benefit. We are making efforts through various supplementing agencies for the purchase when the stock is with the growers so that the grower gets the benefit. In this respect, the organisation needs to be strengthened and that question also is engaging our attention.

SHRI N. K. SOMANI : There are two or three important reasons why cotton textiles exports are declining progressively from this country. One of them is the recent imposition of 15 per cent import duty by the British Textile Council which indirect contravention of the Ottawa Trade Pact and, I suggest, if this matter cannot be settled at the level of the Foreign Trade Minister, the hon. Prime Minister may be requested to take it up at a higher level so that our exports get continued. The second is the abrupt increase of price of cotton which the hon. Minister himself accepted in reply to the debate the other day. Therefore, the Government of India should take suitable measures and steps to announce the import of cotton under P. L. 480 which will have a healthy effect on the vital raw material. May I know what is the attitude of the Government of India in regard to these two vital matters.

SHRI B. R. BHAGAT : As regards the exports, despite the difficulties with the United Kingdom under the Deposit Scheme that they have introduced, our exports, if you take global exports, have gone up, not declined—it is 90.7 crores as against 84 crores. But the fact is that the restriction has come in the way of our exports to countries like U. K. This matters was taken up with the U. K.

Government. But they did not do anything in the matter. There is no point in taking it up at the highest level. We are constantly engaged in dialogue with them over this matter.

As far as the price of cotton and the suggestion made by the hon. Member is concerned, we have already said that we are expediting the import under P. L. 480. As soon as the Agreement is signed, we will announce it.

श्री अचल सिंह : कोटन टेक्सटाइल इण्डस्ट्रीज के लिए बहुत बड़ा खतरा पैदा हो रहा है—कोटन की बहुत कमी है, मिलें बन्द पड़ी हैं, मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि इस खतरे को दूर करने के लिए आप क्या उद्योग कर रहे हैं, जिससे इस इण्डस्ट्री की रक्षा हो सके ?

श्री ब० रा० भगत : जो मिलें बन्द पड़ी हैं उन की छान बीन की जा रही है, किम कारण से बन्द हैं, उन को चलाया जा सकता है या नहीं। इन सब चीजों की छान बीन कर के टेक्सटाइल कारपोरेशन बहुत सी मिलों को चलाने की कोशिश कर रहा है। इस सम्बन्ध में दूसरे उपाय भी सोचे जा रहे हैं जिससे यह दिक्कत दूर हो सके।

श्री हुकम चन्द कछबाय : हमारे देश में हाथ से बनने वाला जो कपड़ा है, उस की बिक्री की मात्रा विदेशों में बहुत कम हो गई है। इस का मूल कारण यह है कि कपड़ा उद्योग में जिनकी मोनोली है, जो अच्छे कपड़ा उद्योग हैं, उन का कपड़ा विदेशों को ज्यादा सप्लाई होने लगा है। इस का हाथ से कपड़ा बनाने वालों पर बहुत असर पड़ा है। हाथ से कपड़ा बनाने वालों का माल विदेशों में ज्यादा बिके—क्या इस के लिए आप कोई विशेष कदम उठाने जा रहे हैं। दूसरे—जो कपड़ा मिलें इस समय बन्द हैं, उनकी बीमारी का एक कारण यह भी है कि उन के माल का उठाव नहीं है। क्या सरकार ने इन बीमार कपड़ा मिलों का माल

विदेशों में भेजने के लिए कोई योजना बनाई है, जिससे उन को ज्यादा मुनाफा हो सके ?

श्री ब० रा० भगत : बाहर कपड़ा भेजने के लिए दाम भी अच्छे होने चाहिए और क्वालिटि भी अच्छी होनी चाहिए। अगर बनाने वाली मिलें बीमार हैं तो कपड़ा कैसे अच्छा होगा। इसलिए उन के एक्सपोर्ट करने का सवाल नहीं है। अन-आर्गेनाइज्ड सैक्टर के माल का एक्सपोर्ट बढ़े, इस के लिए हम कोशिश कर रहे हैं। एक अलग कारपोरेशन बना कर हेण्डलूम के माल का एक्सपोर्ट बढ़ाने के प्रयत्न किए जा रहे हैं। आर्गेनाइज्ड और अन-आर्गेनाइज्ड दोनों के लिए कोशिश हो रही है।

SHRI SHIVAJIRAO S. DESHMUKH : The hon. Minister is very prompt in saying that the cotton prices have risen, but he forgets that they have risen when 90 per cent of the crop have already been sold. Our tragedy for years together in cotton has been that cotton prices rise when the cultivators have nothing to sell and the only class that benefits is the middle-men who already happen to be hand in glove with the textile mills. He says that we import long staple cotton for historic reasons. The historic reasons are that the tender skin of these affluent classes of this country who do not allow any thing that is indigenous to touch their body accepts only the superfine variety of cotton. Not a single yard of this variety is exported. We go on...

MR. SPEAKER : What do you want to know from the Minister ?

SHRI SHIVAJIRAO S. DESHMUKH : What I want to know from the hon. Minister is this. When the cultivators in this country can grow in abundance and in adequate quantities the longest staple cotton that is grown anywhere in the world, how is that we are not prepared to support the prices of cotton and we keep them deliberately low and do not really do anything to afford support to the man who needs most, i.e., the cultivator. We go on fixing prices of gin cotton but we do not bother to fix the prices of

raw cotton. Do we know that gin cotton does not come out of farms but comes out of factories ? Really speaking, [all our policy has been to support the factory owners and not the cultivators. Does the Minister propose to see that the imports are so regulated, that the regulations are so made, that they favour the cultivators who really deserve support and fix the prices of raw cotton at an adequate level ?

SHRI B. R. BHAGAT : I agree with the hon. Member...

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Tapuriah.

SHRI SHIVAJIRAO S. DESHMUKH : What was the answer ?

MR. SPEAKER : He agrees with you.

SHRI S. K. TAPURIAH . The Minister only mentioned two important points, price and quality, which decide the exportability of a product. But what he did not mention was the export policy of the Government, and there the debatable question of undesirable elements comes in because wrong advices are given to the Ministers by their Secretary and staff here and they rely on them with their eyes closed. My question is this. Is it not a fact that right from the time when their policy of fixing quotas for export of textile to U. K. was being framed, some of us have been writing that this policy will not work and that exports will go down and those were ignored ? May I know what has been the export of cotton textiles to U. K. in the last six months ? Have they not been lower than in the previous six months, and if so, to what extent ?

SHRI B. R. BHAGAT : I do not have the figures for all the months. Immediately after the imposition of the duty—50 per cent deposit scheme—there was a setback in our exports, but in the later months the exports have picked up.

SHRI S. K. TAPURIAH : What about the quotas fixed by the Government. You have fixed export quota. Are you aware of that ?

SHRI B. R. BHAGAT : That is true. But that is more with a view to regula-

ting the exports. There is not any statutory thing as such.

SHRI S. K. TAPURIAH : What does this export quota mean? It means that more people are keen to export than the importing countries want to import. If quotas are given, more is not exported and it is limited. When you are aware that more can be exported, you fix quotas. After that your exports go down. What does this indicate? Does it not indicate that something is wrong in it?

SHRI B. R. BHAGAT : Quota is not for bringing down the exports. With this Deposit scheme we gave other facilities for the exporters so that they are able to overcome this difficulty of 50% deposit imposed and it is to regulate this and not to bring down the export quotas.

SHRI MANUBHAI PATEL : We were very much agitated in pre-Independence days that foreign cloth worth Rs. 52 crores was imported. Now we are importing cotton worth Rs. 95.8 crores. I would like to know whether the Government is considering to divert this huge amount to give incentives and encouragement to the cotton growers by giving them more support prices so that they grow more and this import is stopped.

SHRI B. R. BHAGAT : I accept that this is the weakest element in our scheme that we have not been able to increase the quantum as well as the quality of the long staple cotton and much more needs to be done both by way of research or investments or inputs or encouragement to the farmers.

चाय सम्बन्धी भारत-लंका करार

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*1265. श्री राम स्वरूप बिद्यार्थी :

कुमारी कमला कुमारी :

श्री ओम प्रकाश त्यागी :

श्री बलराज मधोक :

क्या बंबेईशक व्यापार तथा पूर्ति मंत्री
17 दिसम्बर, 1968 के अतारोक्त प्रश्न संख्या

4798 के उत्तर के सम्बन्ध में यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या भारत और लंका के बीच चाय के सम्बन्ध में हुए करार के बारे में दोनों देशों के कार्यकारी दलों की संयुक्त बैठक हुई है ;

(ख) यदि हां तो इस बैठक में क्या निर्णय किये गये ; और

(ग) यदि नहीं तो यह बैठक कब आयोजित करने का प्रस्ताव है ?

THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN TRADE AND SUPPLY (SHRI B. R. BHAGAT) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) As soon as the reports submitted by the Working Groups of India and Ceylon have been considered by their respective Governments.

श्री राम स्वरूप बिद्यार्थी : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मूल प्रश्न जिसका भाग (ए) इन प्रकार था :

Whether the Joint meeting of the Working Groups of both the Countries regarding the agreement reached between India and Ceylon on tea has been held.

उसका जवाब मंत्री महोदय ने दिया—नो, सर। मैं जानाना चाहता हूँ कि इस एग्रीमेन्ट की तहत जिस स्टैंडिंग कमेटी की सिफारिश की गई थी, क्या उसका आपने निर्माण कर लिया है? यदि नहीं किया है तो उसके मार्ग में क्या बाधाएँ हैं? और हमारी तरफ हे स्टैंडिंग कमेटी में कौन कौन व्यक्ति शामिल हैं।

श्री ब० रा० भगत : स्टैंडिंग कमेटी वर्किंग ग्रुप की अलग है। इसीलिए मैं ने कहा कि वर्किंग ग्रुप की रिपोर्ट आ गई है, दोनों सरकारों की, और वह विचाराधीन