

श्री श्रीम प्रकाश त्यागी : मन्त्री महोदय ने कहा है कि कोई भी मॅम्बर पार्लियामेंट किसी भी देश को इस प्रकार के फंक्शन को एटेंड करने के लिए जाना चाहे तो हम उसको एलाऊ करेंगे। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या सरकार की दृष्टि में कोई ऐसे भी देश हैं जहाँ पर कि इस प्रकार के फंक्शन हों और आप यहाँ के मॅम्बरों को वहाँ भेजना या उनका वहाँ जाना उचित न समझें ?

MR. SPEAKER: That is a hypothetical question. I am not allowing it.

श्री श्रीम प्रकाश त्यागी : कुछ ऐसे देश हैं जहाँ ये एलाऊ नहीं करेंगे।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : मैं एलाऊ नहीं करता हूँ। गवर्नमेंट कैसे करेगी।

विकास कार्यों के लिए नियत धनराशि का अन्य मदों पर व्यय

*634. **श्री श्रींकार लाल बेरबा :**

क्या प्रधान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि

(क) क्या यह सच है कि 16 राज्यों ने विकास के लिये नियत धनराशि का अन्य मदों के लिये प्रयोग किया है जैसा कि योजना आयोग के कार्यक्रम मूल्यांकन संगठन के प्रतिवेदन में कहा गया है ; और

(ख) यदि हाँ, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं ?

उप-मंत्री (श्रीमति नन्दिनी सत्पथी) :

(क) ऐसा प्रतीत होना है कि माननीय सदस्य के ध्यान में योजना आयोग के कार्यक्रम मूल्यांकन संगठन द्वारा नवम्बर, 1968 में जारी की गई "जिला तथा निम्नस्तरीय पर विकास कर्मचारियों का अध्ययन" से सम्बन्धित रिपोर्ट है। कतिपय मामलों में विकास निधियों के कम उपयोग के उदाहरण रिपोर्ट में दिये गये हैं, परन्तु निधियों के दुरुपयोग की कोई बात नहीं बताई है।

(ख) प्रश्न नहीं उठता।

श्री श्रींकार लाल बेरबा : मंत्री महोदय ने बताया है कि उसके दुरुपयोग की कोई बात

सामने नहीं आई है। भारत में सोलह राज्य हैं जिन में राजस्थान भी एक है। वहाँ पर शैड्यूल्ड कास्ट और शैड्यूल्ड ट्राइबज के लोगों के लिए पैसा, मकान तथा नल कूप बनाने के लिए दिया गया था। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ क्या वह सारा उसी काम पर खर्च हो चुका है और अगर उस काम पर खर्च नहीं हुआ तो वह पैसा कहाँ लगाया गया ?

SHRIMATI NANDINI SATPATHY: This committee was meant for some other purpose. Their main object was to enumerate the present strength of staff in the different development departments including the panchayati raj institutions and other private agencies and so on and so forth. But the question that the hon. Member has put is in connection with the amount that has been spent on the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. That is for the State Government to look after, and it is the State Government which is responsible for the expenditure.

SHRI S. K. TAPURIAH: But the grant goes from here.

श्री श्रींकार लाल बेरबा : राज्य सरकारों द्वारा यह रकम खर्च की जाती है। शैड्यूल्ड कास्ट्स और ट्राइबज के विकास के लिए केन्द्रीय सरकार पैसा देती है राज्य सरकारों को। कर्मचारियों, छात्रों तथा छात्रवृत्तियों के लिए जो पैसा दिया गया क्या वह उस काम में खर्च हुआ ? अगर नहीं हुआ तो वह पैसा कहाँ गया ?

SHRIMATI NANDINI SATPATHY: That does not arise out of the main question.

अध्यक्ष महोदय : आपका सवाल रिलेवेंट नहीं है। उनका जवाब तो ठीक है।

Indo-Ceylon talks on Tea Exports

*635. **SHRI CHENGALRAYA NAI-DU:**

SHRI MAYAVAN:

SHRI R. BARUA:

SHRI DANDAPANI:

SHRI J. B. SINGH.

Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be please to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that delegation visited Colombo on the 13th November, 1969 to discuss ways and means to improve tea exports;

(b) if so, the points discussed;

(c) the final decision arrived at; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken by both Governments to step up tea exports?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI RAM SEWAK): (a) to (d). Sir, A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d). The discussions mainly centred round the following points:--

- (i) The future of 1969/70 U.K. Tea Campaign;
- (ii) Import restrictions for black tea in Japan; and
- (iii) Indo-Ceylon Joint Export Quota for 1970 proposed at the meeting of Tea Producing countries held at Mauritius in July-August, 1969 and the distribution of this quota as between the two countries.

As regards the future of the U.K. Tea Promotion Campaign, it was considered that before a final decision is taken, an evaluation of the work done so far should be undertaken by an independent market survey organisation. It was decided that the whole question should be brought up for further discussions at Rome later.

As for import for black tea in Japan, the Japanese Government have imposed restrictions under a system of quotas which are fixed depending on the estimated requirements and local production for each financial year. The Japanese Govt. have agreed to an annual increase in the quota for the years 1969 and 1970 by 5 per cent. It was agreed that the question of pursuing the matter with the Japanese Government for a further increase in the quota would be considered.

At the Tea Producing countries meeting at Mauritius held in July-August, 1969, it was agreed to withhold 90 million kilograms of tea from

the estimated exports during 1970 with a view to stabilising prices of tea in the international market. A joint export quota for Ceylon and India for 1970 was agreed upon at that meeting. The distribution of the export quota between the two countries for the year 1970 was discussed at length in the meeting held on 13-11-69 in Colombo, but no final decision was taken. It was, however, agreed that a decision should be taken by April, 1970 at the latest.

Following discussions between India and Ceylon in May and June, 1968, Working Groups were formed in India and Ceylon to define precisely the objects, functions, scope of operations and financial and administrative structure for a Joint Consortium for the marketing of blended and packaged tea in selected markets. A joint meeting of the Working Groups, which met at Colombo on 12-11-69 have *inter-alia* recommended undertaking surveys to determine the areas in which the activities of the Consortium should start and manner in which it should operate for promotion of tea export trade. The two Governments have yet to take a decision on this recommendations.

SHRI CHENGALRAYA NAIDU: May I know whether the members who attended the conference in Colombo have privately expressed the view that there will be no understanding reached between Ceylon and India in this regard, and if so, what the use is of attending such conferences now and then?

THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI B. R. BHAGAT): I am not aware of any private arrangement, but there is no truth in the fact that there is no understanding reached with Ceylon. There has been understanding on all matters.

SHRI S. K. TAPURIAH: As with Nepal.

SHRI PILOO MODY: Before he says anything, let him consult his colleague Shri Dinesh Singh.

SHRI CHENGALRAYA NAIDU: The price of tea exported from India has gone by nearly 27½ per cent. In

the case of South Indian tea also, of which large quantities were being exported to Africa, the exports have gone down. In view of this, may I know whether Government will give any tax concession to the tea exported from South India to Africa, and whether Government are willing at least now to stop the levy of tax and try to export more tea on a competitive basis so that our tea industry does not suffer?

SHRI B. R. BHAGAT: The fact is that in the world market, there is supply of tea from all countries including the new countries to which the hon. Member has made a reference, and that has resulted in the price of the exported tea going down. It is true that the South Indian tea has suffered more because of their variety and quality and competition from outside. That is engaging our attention and we shall see in what way we can help that situation.

SHRI R. BARUA: According to the Reserve Bank's report, the profitability of tea is the least. On the other hand, during the last few months, there has been a sharp fall in the exports of tea from India. If things go on like this, it is feared that the tea industry will suffer a serious setback, particularly in my State in which the entire economy is more or less linked with this. In view of this serious position, may I know what positive steps Government have taken either to make the export profitable by minimising the tax or by giving some sort of subsidy for the benefit of labour and so on?

SHRI B. R. BHAGAT: Even in the last budget, some relief was given with a view to making our tea more competitive and with a view to bringing about higher profitability and also to be able to export more.

It is well known that many of our tea plantations are old, and some of them are older than 50 years or even more. A replantation scheme with subsidy has been started and it is gratifying to note that our tea gardens are taking advantage of that, and that will restore profitability in course of time as a long-term measure.

We are also trying to do everything possible on an international basis or arrangement so that the supply of tea

in the world market is regulated with a view to increasing the unit price of exports, and it is good to note that in the domestic market, the auctions in Calcutta and other places have shown a better trend, and the unit realisation is more. This along with any other measure that may be thought of will increase the competitiveness and profitability of the tea industry.

SHRI LOBO PRABHU: It must be recognised that there is a conflict of interest between Ceylon and ourselves in respect of tea exports. There were two issues raised at the last meeting, firstly, a joint programme, and secondly the question of quotas to UK. In view of the conflicting ways in reckoning the quotas to UK, may I know whether in reckoning our quotas to UK, Government will take into consideration the average of at least five years, because Ceylon has only recently exceeded our quota? Unless we go backwards and take a representative period, we shall be doing harm to our country's exports. So, I would like to have an assurance that Government would not too easily submit to accepting the last year's figures for the quotas to UK.

SHRI B. R. BHAGAT: In a situation which may relate to an earlier period, Ceylon and India were the only two main producers of tea and exporters of tea.

SHRI LOBO PRABHU: We were the main exporters.

SHRI B. R. BHAGAT: ...and there was demand for all the tea that we could export and there could have been a period of conflict between India and Ceylon at that time. But today, the position is that unless the producers as a whole, and particularly India and Ceylon which account for 67 per cent of the exports and 53 per cent of production, come to certain arrangement, it would be difficult. I can assure the hon. Member that while fixing the quota between India and Ceylon *vis-a-vis* others and *inter se*, the national interests will be taken care of to the best possible extent, and the point that the hon. Member has placed before us and also our capacity will be taken into consideration.

SHRI RANGA: The hon. Minister has not given any specific answer to the specific question which was put.

SHRI B. R. BHAGAT: I have given a very specific answer.

SHRI RANGA: What about the answer to the period suggested by the hon. Member?

SHRI B. R. BHAGAT: The quantum of exports during five years is only one consideration. There are also other considerations such as our capacity to export etc. I would submit that we shall take our overall national interest into account.

SHRI RANGA: This also will be taken into consideration?

SHRI B. R. BHAGAT: What more specific answer can I give?

SHRI RANJEET SINGH: How can he break the convention by being specific?

श्री प्रेम चन्द वर्मा : हिमाचल प्रदेश के जिला कांगड़ा की चाय ज्यादातर काबुल जाया करती थी, लेकिन काबुल तक बाई रोड कोई रास्ता न होने के कारण उस चाय के एक्सपोर्ट में बहुत कमी आ गई है। मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि जब चाय के एक्सपोर्ट के बारे में सीलोन के साथ बातचीत हुई थी,.....

अध्यक्ष महोदय : क्या आप जानना चाहते हैं कि क्या कोलम्बो में हिमाचल प्रदेश का जिक्र आया था ?

श्री प्रेम चन्द वर्मा : मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या सरकार ने इस बारे में कोई जांच की है कि कांगड़ा की चाय कहां एक्सपोर्ट की जा सकती है, क्या इस सिलसिले में कोई जांच की है कि कांगड़ा की चाय किस मार्केट में भेजी जा सकती है ।

श्री ब० रा० भगत : सीलोन से कांगड़ा की चाय के बारे में बातचीत नहीं हुई है, मगर हमारी इच्छा है, और हम इस बात की कोशिश कर रहे हैं, कि कांगड़ा की ग्रीन टी के निर्यात को बढ़ाया जाये ।

SHRI A. SREEDHARAN: The hon. Minister has stated in reply to a supplementary question that the quality of South Indian tea has deteriorated...

SHRI B. R. BHAGAT: I never said that.

SHRI A. SREEDHARAN: Anyway, he has said that it does not compare favourably.

SHRI B. R. BHAGAT: I said that there was a fall in price.

SHRI A. SREEDHARAN: He has said that it does not compare favourably. I shall give him the benefit of doubt. It does not compare favourable with tea produced from other countries. Am I correct?

SHRI B. R. BHAGAT: What I said was this. I have said that it is true that the fall in the unit price of South Indian tea has been sharper than that of North Indian tea.

SHRI A. SREEDHARAN: He has said that it had suffered in quantum and quality.

SHRI B. R. BHAGAT: I have said that the quality is not competitive and there are a number of other factors as well.

SHRI A. SREEDHARAN: The two reasons that have contributed to this are as follows. One is the mismanagement of the tea plantations by private interests and the other is the failure on the private interests to put tea processing on a modern basis. In view of these facts and also in view of the Government's latest declaration of socialism, will Government nationalise the plantations including the tea industry?

MR. SPEAKER: Now, Shri Beni Shanker Sharma.

SHRI A. SREEDHARAN: He has not answered my question.

MR. SPEAKER: That is not relevant to the main questions.

SHRI A. SREEDHARAN: It is a very relevant question.

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA: It is a very relevant question.

SHRI LOBO PRABHU: Will he get money from Russia?

SHRI A. SREEDHARAN: Let him keep out of this. Mine is a very relevant question. I know the Government's difficulty in answering this question. I know their difficulty about socialism in regard to exports.

SHRI N. SREEKANTAN NAIR: Foreign interests are involved in this.

श्री वेणी शंकर शर्मा : अध्यक्ष महोदय, इस देश में बाइस वर्ष से अपनी सरकार होने के बाद भी टी इंडस्ट्री अपने पैरों पर खड़ी होने में समर्थ नहीं हो रही है और वह सीलोन जैसे छोटे छोटे देशों की ओर मदद के लिए नजर लगाये हुए है। खैर सीलोन से एग्जिमेंट करने पर मुझे कोई आपत्ति नहीं है।

हमारी चाय का निर्यात व्यापार 1968 की पहली छमाही की तुलना में 1969 में काफी कम हो गया है। मैंने बजट पर बहस के दौरान कहा था कि चाय की एक्सपोर्ट ड्यूटी में जो कमी की गई है, वह काफी नहीं है। उससे चाय का निर्यात बढ़ाने की कोई सम्भावना नहीं है। इसलिये चाय के निर्यात व्यापार को वर्तमान स्थिति को देखते हुए क्या मन्त्री महोदय यह नहीं समझते हैं कि चाय की एक्सपोर्ट ड्यूटी में जो कमी की गई है, वह काफी नहीं है और इस लिये क्या वह उस को एक दम खत्म करने पर विचार करेंगे ?

बिना एक्साइज ड्यूटी को रिफंड किये हुए भी टी इंडस्ट्री अपने पैरों पर खड़ी नहीं हो सकती। क्या मन्त्री महोदय इस बात को दृष्टि में रखते हुए एक्साइज ड्यूटी को रिफंड करने पर भी कुछ विचार कर रहे हैं ?

श्री ब० रा० भगत : माननीय सदस्य ने जो बात उठाई है, वह बजट का मामला है। उस के बारे में अभी कुछ नहीं कहा जा सकता है।

SHRI HEM BARUA: In view of the fact that Indian tea is losing the world market due to competition from Ceylon particularly and 70 per cent of the rural market in Assam depends on

tea, may I know whether Government have evaluated the effect of our tea exports due to the re-fixation of the value of the Ceylonese currency, and whether this particular fact was discussed with Ceylon or not and if it was discussed, the reaction of Ceylon thereto?

SHRI B. R. BHAGAT: Unless I get specifically a question on the effect of revaluation, I would not be in a position to answer it. If notice of a separate question is given, then I can answer it.

SHRI HEM BARUA: My question arises out of the main question directly. Was this not discussed?

SHRI B. R. BHAGAT: To what extent the revaluation of the Ceylonese currency has affected it is a technical question, and it is mainly a financial question. Before examining it, it is not possible for me to reply to this question.

SHRI HEM BARUA: If he did not know the effect of the revaluation of Ceylonese currency on our tea export, what matter did he discuss with Ceylon?

MR. SPEAKER: He is not in a position to answer it just now.

SHRIMATI ILA PALCHOUDHURI: From the statement furnished to us I find that we are going to withhold 90 million lbs. of tea from the estimated world exports with a view to stabilising the prices of tea. In that case, we would have to diversify our exports. Japan has asked us for 10,000 tonnes of green tea. What are we doing to popularise this? Are we doing anything about it?

MR. SPEAKER: I think that that question had come up a little earlier.

SHRI B. R. BHAGAT: That was a news report of which we have no confirmation. But I may inform the House that Japan has increased its quota of black tea from India and Ceylon by 5 per cent in the next year.

SHRIMATI ILA PALCHOUDHURI: They have placed import restrictions on black tea.

SHRI K. RAMANI: May I know with what idea in their mind the Government delegation went to

Colombo? Did they have any idea of dividing the spheres of influence in the market between Ceylon and India or did they have any idea of some quota system or control system? What was the idea with which they went for discussion?

SHRI B. R. BHAGAT: There is no question of spheres in the market. We are exporting to the same market. What we are doing now is that there is a coordinated effort and promotion research in tea in all the markets. There is a general arrangement about the level of exports in view of the overall regulation of the world market. Otherwise, there is no other restriction.

SHRI K. M. ABRAHAM: Will the hon. Member please state whether there is any complaint about under-invoicing by exporters of tea as a result of which we are losing foreign exchange?

SHRI B. R. BHAGAT: We have not had any complaints to that effect.

Development of Okha Port as a Naval Base

*636. **SHRI BAL RAJ MADHOK:** Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that decision to develop Okha Port as a naval base on the West Coast has been taken; and

(b) if so, the progress so far made in the execution of this project?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI M. R. KRISHNA): (a) and (b). Government are considering the question of setting up of Naval facilities at Okha for the defence of the Gulf of Kutch area. No decision to develop Okha Port as a Naval base has been taken.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Where is the hon. Minister of Defence?

SHRI M. R. KRISHNA: Let the hon. Members put their questions. If they are not satisfied with my replies, the hon. Prime Minister will answer.

SHRI BAL RAJ MADHOK: Let her answer from the very beginning. The other day we read in the papers about a joint communique issued by the Prime Ministers of India and Mauritius in which they talked about a power vacuum in the Indian Ocean and wanted to keep this Ocean free of nuclear arms...

MR. SPEAKER: How is it connected with this question?

SHRI BAL RAJ MADHOK: At last they are accepting what we have been saying all along earlier which they had so far refused to accept, that there is a power vacuum growing in the Indian Ocean and a number of powers, specially China and Pakistan, are trying to fish in troubled waters and make mischief. The Okha Port is nearest to Karachi. It is a natural port. Government say that they have taken no decision to develop this as a naval base. When they accept that naval facilities can be developed in this port as a natural port, what are the reasons why they have not taken a decision to develop it as a naval base, particularly in view of the growing situation in the Indian Ocean to which I have alluded?

SHRI M. R. KRISHNA: Development of a base depends upon various factors. First of all, I would like to tell the hon. Member that we are very keen to develop facilities for our naval ships; wherever it is possible, we are developing them and it will take some time; there are various priorities fixed, and if the hon. member thinks that it is only from Okha Port that we can operate effectively, it is not correct. We have got other places also. Along with these, we will also develop this port.

As we are introducing very effective craft in the Navy, it is not necessary that we should have our facilities very near Pakistan. The Defence Ministry is well aware of all these needs and I can assure the hon. Member that the need have no apprehension on this score. We are at it and are trying to develop it.

SHRI BAL RAJ MADHOK: Is it a fact that the Japanese Government have offered facilities to develop harbours which can be used as naval