

LOK SABHA DEBATES

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LOK SABHA

Friday, May 3, 1963/Vaisakha 13, 1885
(Saka).

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the
Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

MEMBER SWORN

Mr. Speaker: Secretary may call out the name of the Member who has come to make and subscribe the oath or affirmation under the Constitution.

Secretary: Shri Hemappa Verrabhadrappa Koujalgi.

Mr. Speaker: The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs may introduce the Member to the House.

The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs (Shri Satya Narayan Sinha): Sir, I have great pleasure in introducing to you and through you to the House Shri Hemappa Verrabhadrappa Koujalgi who has been returned to Lok Sabha from Belgaum constituency of Mysore in the vacancy caused by the death of Shri B. N. Datar.

Shri Hemappa Verrabhadrappa Koujalgi (Belgaum).

Barter Deal with Japan

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Shri Subodh Hansda:
Shri S. C. Samanta:
Shri B. K. Das:
Shri P. C. Borooah:
Shri Morarka:
Shri Marandi:
Shri P. Venkatasubbalah:
Shri R. S. Pandey:

Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the State Trading Corporation has entered into a barter deal with Japan; and

(b) if so, what are the commodities that will be dealt with under this deal?

The Minister of International Trade in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. A number of deals have been negotiated by S.T.C. On the export side the commodities are mineral ores, sugar, and scrap. Against these, fertilisers, Industrial equipment, textile machinery, steel and urea have been imported.

Shri Subodh Hansda: May I know whether the present barter deal is a long-term deal or a short-term deal?

Shri Manubhai Shah: These are mostly short-term deals, for one or two years.

Shri Subodh Hansda: May I know whether the earlier agreements made by the STC will be discontinued after this barter deal?

Shri Manubhai Shah: These are barter deals which are a part of the national economy in the field of foreign trade and they get on revived every year, and even after three months.

Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad: Could we have any idea as to what would be the worth of goods that would flow in these barter deals which are short-term ones?

Shri Manubhai Shah: The total I have indicated which is about Rs. 46 crores in all. With Japan, it might be Rs. 11 to 12 crores.

Shri S. C. Samanta: What is the percentage of decrease in exports during 1961-62?

Shri Manubhai Shah: Decrease or increase? There has been an increase of about Rs. 40 crores; not decrease.

Shri P. Venkatasubbaiah: How does it compare, whether our exports are on increase or imports are on increase, so far as our dealing with Japan is concerned?

Shri Manubhai Shah: This does not arise out of this. This is a barter deal.

Shri K. C. Pant: Is it a fact that Japan is taking advantage of the present increased supply of iron ore in the world to beat down the price of iron ore it is purchasing from this country on a long-term contract?

Shri Manubhai Shah: This is a separate question of barter where iron ore does not figure in. Iron ore is sold for cash and on five or six or seven year contract with Japan.

Shri Bade: What kind of fertilisers are going to be bartered and may I know whether the bartered fertilisers will be given at the same rights as given to fertilisers in India.

Shri Manubhai Shah: These terms are general. They are rather global. As the House will appreciate, barterers are not destinational. Say, sugar. 200,000 tons have been sold to Japan and we get about 50 per cent fertilisers, some oil which comes from Japan and some barterers themselves manage to import from others. We have permitted 50 per cent of it to be utilised for importing fertilisers, for this type of essential commodity.

Shri Bade: My question was whether it is ammonium sulphate or all kinds of fertilisers.

Shri Manubhai Shah: About urea, I do not think it is so much. It depends upon the requirements of the Food and Agriculture Ministry for fertilisers.

Shri Kapur Singh: May I know whether the possibilities of barter trade with sterling and dollar areas

have also been explored in the interest of foreign exchange problems?

Shri Manubhai Shah: Yes, Sir.

Shri Sham Lal Saraf: May I know if there are finished or semi-finished goods also in the list of exports from our country and also equally there are finished or semi-finished goods which are imported from Japan on a barter basis?

Shri Manubhai Shah: Barter deals, as I said, are for selective items. This does not equate the general trade. So, there should not be any sort of misunderstanding on that account. Here, in barter, we allow only a packet of such goods which are generally difficult to sell or which are having a large availability in our country. Similarly, we allow import by way of barter or partial barter of very essential things which the country's economy needs.

Production of Small Tractors

*1154. **Shri P. Venkatasubbaiah:** Will the Minister of Steel and Heavy Industries be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to produce small tractors at cheap price in the public sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Punjab Government have started one such scheme in that State; and

(d) whether any financial assistance has been sought by the State Government for this scheme?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Steel and Heavy Industries (Shri P. C. Sethi): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Shri P. Venkatasubbaiah: In view of the fact that cost of production has gone up so far as cultivation and food-grains and other agricultural commodities are concerned, may I know whether the Government have considered the desirability of starting such factories ourselves?