

**Shri Manubhai Shah:** The delegation has just returned. But the Burmese Government have extended the date of tender by another fortnight; due to the changes in the Government there, they have asked for a retender.

**Shri S. C. Samanta:** Are we facing competition due to different designs of textiles being exported by other countries?

**Shri Manubhai Shah:** The main reason is that every country which became independent after the second world war wants to industrialise in the same way as we want to. The first industry which comes to their mind is the powerloom and textile industry.

**Shri Sham Lal Saraf:** May I know if these markets have been our traditional markets or otherwise? Also, with respect to the reaction that has come now, externally and internally, are we taking steps to meet that competition?

**Shri Manubhai Shah:** As regards the first part of the question concerning our traditional markets, one of the largest is UK which is continuing to take our textiles under a bilateral agreement. Then our neighbouring countries of South East Asia also are in a way our traditional markets because we have the advantage of proximity. But the development of the textile industry in those countries enable them to necessarily restrict imports. It is not as if the Japanese or Chinese or other competitors have taken away our market from us. What is needed is greater diversification, manufacture of mixed fabrics, and not relying on cotton textiles only. That is the approach.

**Shri Hem Barua:** Is it a fact that the decline in our export of textiles is due to the severe restrictions imposed by these importing countries? If so, have these restrictions affected us more than they have affected Japan and China?

**Shri Manubhai Shah:** That is precisely what I said earlier. The

balance of payments position in the last several years has worsened so much that naturally consumer products like textiles come under fire first. It is not as if Japan or other countries have taken away that market from us. On the whole, South East Asia is importing less than before. There are countries and countries. So I would not like to generalise. Our approach is country-to-country to see how we can increase our exports.

#### Export of Mica

**\*643. Shri P. Venkatasubbaiah:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is decline in the export of mica from our country;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) whether any steps are being taken to increase export of mica?

**The Minister of International Trade in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah):** (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) A list of measures taken to step up exports of mica is placed on the Table of the House.

#### Measures to step up export of Mica

- (1) Participation in fairs and exhibitions in foreign countries.
- (2) Publication of brochures and bulletins on mica for distribution in exhibitions in India and abroad.
- (3) Settlement of trade disputes by arbitration.
- (4) Undertaking of surveys of foreign markets.
- (5) Wide circulation of the 'Directory of Exporters of Mica from India' published by the Mica Export Promotion Council.
- (6) Introduction of a voluntary scheme for pre-shipment inspection of mica consignments.

- (7) Formulation of master samples of mica by Mica E.P. Council in consultation with the Indian Standards Institute, duly authenticated by the American Society of Testing Materials and its counterpart the International Standards Institute.
- (8) A scheme for training of Indian experts in foreign countries to develop objective testing and standardisation of mica.

**Shri P. Venkatasubbaiah:** Sometime ago the President of the Mica Owners' Association said that the standardisation or quality of the mica we are exporting to other countries is not up to the mark because of so many difficulties and that was the reason why we could not export more abroad. Is that so?

**Shri Manubhai Shah:** As I said in the main answer, firstly our export of mica has been continuously increasing. Even in the current year, we are earning about a crore of rupees extra over last year's performance of about Rs. 10 crores. The real problem is not so much standardisation because it is a natural product; it is divided into more than 10,000 categories. But it is true that undercutting by our own exporters has been the bane of this industry. We are trying to find some way to prevent that.

**Shri Venkatasubbaiah:** Are there any competitors in this field, and if so, are we thinking in terms of adopting the methods they are using to standardise mica, simplify the process of its manufacture and improve its quality?

**Mr. Speaker:** That is already included in the answer. He says it has been improving from year to year, we are getting more.

**Shri Manubhai Shah:** There main competitor in mica is Brazil. Otherwise, the world's monopoly is with India, because it is a natural mineral

which is only available in India. Regarding the other qualities like filaments and films, India is the only supplier in the world, there is no competition, and our effort now is to produce finished products from mica rather than selling mica as it is.

**Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad:** Is it not a fact that Bihar, which is the largest producer of mica in India, is still producing under capacity because of the fact that the trade is very hard hit, and that export can still be increased if proper steps are taken?

**Shri Manubhai Shah:** Taking the second part of the question first, it is always true that export can be increased, and the very fact that in a single year we have already increased it by about Rs. 1 crore over Rs. 10 crores is quite satisfactory. But regarding the demand for mica in the world, this is more or less exclusively for electronics, where substitutes are also coming up. So, to expect a phenomenal rise is rather difficult. Regarding under-utilisation, it is a question of simple mining operations which always get related to the off-take. Therefore, they are expanding, not contracting.

**श्री यशपाल सिंह :** क्या किसी देश के साथ माइका का एक्सपोर्ट वार्टर बेसिस पर करने के लिये बातचीत की जा रही है ?

**श्री मन्मोहन झाह :** हां, रशिया से बातचीत हो रही है। ईस्ट योरप से हमारी बातचीत हो रही है। अमेरिका, यू० ए० ए०, के साथ सी० सी० वार्टर होने वाला है। उस से भी हम बात कर रहे हैं,

**Shri D. N. Tiwary:** What becomes of the waste that is left over from export, especially in Bihar? What is done with that?

**Shri Manubhai Shah:** That is also exported and is called loose mica ground.