

श्री क० ना० तिवारी : एक्विस्टिंग प्लांट के बारे में उत्तर नहीं मिला ।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : उन्होंने कह दिया है कि वह उसके बारे में सोचेंगे ।

Shri Sivamurthi Swamy: May I know if all the Committees, Indian as well as foreign, have recommended that for the internal consumption of steel, Hospet is the richest iron ore centre and so the steel factory will be very much successful a tHospet?

Mr. Speaker: That is a suggestion.

श्री जगदेव सिंह सिद्धांती : क्या सरकार बतलायेगी कि हरियाना के जिला महेन्द्रगढ़ में इस्पात का कारखाना खोला जा सकता है और क्या सरकार उस पर विचार कर रही है ।

श्री त्रि० ना० सिंह : वहा पर फिग्रायरन प्लांट के लिए एक लाइन्सेंस पंजाब गवर्नमेंट को दिया गया है ।

European Economic Committee

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- *1284. **Shri P. C. Borooah:**
- Shri M. L. Dwivedi:**
- Shri Bhagwat Jha Asad:**
- Shri S. C. Samanta:**
- Shri Subodh Hansda:**

Will the Minister of Commerce be pleased to state:

(a) whether the European Economic Committee has extended the arrangement for duty free entry of tea into the member-countries of the Common Market;

(b) if so, for how long; and

(c) the quantity of Indian tea exported to the Common Market countries during 1964-65 since the concession was granted and how it compared with the Indian tea exported in the preceding two years and the extent to which these exports are expected to increase during the next year?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Manubhai Shah): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The European Economic Community has extended the period of validity of the suspension of customs duty on tea, which was originally effective for a period of two years ending the 31st December, 1965, by another year till the 31st December, 1966.

(c) During the year 1964-65 India exported to the Common Market countries 5.6 million kgs. of tea valued at Rs. 378 lakhs as against 4.8 million kgs., valued at Rs. 321 lakhs in 1963-64 and 5.2 million kg., valued at Rs. 336 lakhs in 1962-63. With the continuation of the suspension of duty on the import of tea by the E.C.M. countries and increased efforts for promoting exports, it is expected that exports of tea to E.C.M. Countries in the coming years would increase further.

Shri P. C. Borooah: May I know which are the main competitors for Indian tea in the European Common Market, and whether imports from any of them have increased since the system of duty-free entry of tea was introduced; if so, from which country and to what extent?

Shri Manubhai Shah: The rise is about 20 per cent. In terms of money it is about Rs. 60 lakhs. Mostly it is Germany, France and Italy.

Shri Ranga: The question was about the other countries which have got entry into the Common Market.

Shri Manubhai Shah: Under the Rome Treaty there are six countries of which the two countries which mainly contributed to this are Germany and Italy?

Shri P. C. Borooah: In spite of the best efforts of the Tea Board since its inception some ten years ago to popularise tea, it has not been able to arrest the downward trend of exports in that market, which is the mother of markets of tea of the world, that is, United Kingdom. In that context,

may I know whether Government is going to give a second thought to the question of refunding excise duty on exports to make it competitive in the near markets of ECM countries and also to reciprocate the liberal gesture shown by the Common Market countries to make tea imports duty-free in their respective areas?

Shri Manubhai Shah: The hon. Member is very experienced in tea. But there has been a slight slip on his part. The European Common Market is neither the father, nor the mother. It is only a child market for Indian tea. It is the smallest market for Indian tea in the world. The real market is the United Kingdom, which is outside the ECM. The question relates to the European Common Market. I just wanted to clear the misunderstanding. The European Common Market is a very very small market for Indian tea.

Shri P. C. Borooah: The Minister has not followed me. I said that U.K. is the mother of markets.

Shri Manubhai Shah: That mother I accept.

Mr. Speaker: Let that issue be resolved first.

Shri Manubhai Shah: The point is that this question relates to the European Common Market with which we are very vitally concerned and we do not want to distract attention of the House from the basic fact that the suspension of the duty has earned us Rs. 60 lakhs and 20 per cent, increase in two years. I hope that should be considered satisfactory, looking to the smallness of that market.

श्री म० ला० द्विवेदी : मंत्री महोदय ने अपने जबाब में बताया है कि ससपेंशन आफ कस्टम्स ड्यूटी घान दी टी को सिर्फ एक एकसाल के लिये बढ़ाया गया है। मैं जाना चाहता हूँ कि परमानेंट बेसिस पर इसको हटाने के लिए क्या सरकार नहीं सोच रही है ? अगर 1966 के बाद यह ड्यूटी का

ससपेंशन बन्द हो जाएगा तो टी मार्केट का क्या होगा ?

श्री मनुभाई शाह : यह सवाल हमारे हाथ में नहीं है। ससपेंशन करना हमारे हाथ में नहीं है, ससपेंशन के लिए रिक्वेस्ट करना हमारे हाथ में है। हम आशा करते हैं कि परमानेंट ससपेंशन हो जाएगा। अभी तक ई० सी० एम० की इकोनॉमिक पालिसी फाइनेलाइज नहीं हुई है और आपस में डिसकंशन हो रह हैं। इस लिए उन्होंने परमानेंट बेसिस पर ड्यूटी को एबालिश नहीं किया है। हम आशा करते हैं कि रोम ट्रीटी के नीचे वाले सभी कंट्रीज इसको हमेशा के लिए जीरो टेरिफ पर ला देने।

Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad: May I know whether the attention of the hon. Minister has been drawn to the comments in the foreign press that the British economy is in the doldrums and that Britain is breaking its head hard to enter the European Common Market, this time with the courtesy of President De Gaulle, who takes a different view about NATO from that of America, an action on the part of the United Kingdom which will hit hard the members of the Commonwealth. May I know what preventive measures are being taken by the Indian Government to save our economy?

Shri Manubhai Shah: As far as the entry of United Kingdom into the European Common Market is concerned, I have had the privilege of mentioning several times before this House that the Commonwealth Trade Ministers' Conference successively for two years has stipulated that while entering in any manner the European Economic Community U.K. should see in their negotiations that compensatory advantage to the products of the developing countries of the Commonwealth is secured in the markets of the Rome Treaty countries before U.K. joins the Common Market.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know whether any other tea trading countries of the world have also got this concession and, if so, whether their exports have also increased?

Shri Manubhai Shah: There are only four countries as far as tea is concerned and, I hope, the hon. Member refers to tea. As far as this question is concerned, the same advantage will go to all.

Closure of Textile Mills

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*1286. **Shri R. S. Pandey:**
Shri Yashpal Singh:
Shri Firodia:

Will the Minister of Commerce be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a Committee consisting of officials of some Ministries has recently been constituted to conduct investigations into the affairs of some textile mills which have been closed or are facing closure on account of the financial crisis; and

(b) if so, when the Committee is likely to submit its report?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Commerce (Shri Shafi Qureshi):

(a) Yes, Sir. Inter-ministerial committees have been appointed for this purpose.

(b) The reports are expected shortly.

Shri R. S. Pandey: Although the majority of the textile mills are going well so far as the production of qualities is concerned, some of the mills are closed down or are facing closure. What concrete steps are they going to take in order to see that production should not suffer and labour should not be unemployed? The moment the mills are closed, labour becomes unemployed and nobody takes care of the labour.

Shri Shafi Qureshi: That is the main reason why we come in. We appoint a committee of investigation

under section 15 of the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act and that committee goes into the whole affair of the mill and sees whether it is due to mismanagement or financial paucity that the mill is not functioning. The main problem of unemployment is also taken into consideration. It is to see that people are not thrown out, there are no lay-offs, there is no unemployment that we also come in.

Shri R. S. Pandey: It is all right to appoint a committee, but this is just jugglery. Whenever the question comes, the committee is appointed. What steps are going to be taken by Government to help the labour at the time the mills are closed and the labour is unemployed? Have they formulated any scheme to help labour?

Shri Shafi Qureshi: The question is that when the mill is taken over by the Government, wages which are in arrears are paid to the labourers. That way the labour does not suffer.

Shri Daji: Sir, the question is something and the reply is something else. How can we keep quiet then?

श्री यशपाल सिंह : क्या सरकार का ध्यान इस ओर गया है कि बम्बई में श्री रुह्या ने यह बयान दिया है कि बम्बई गवर्नमेंट अगर डी० ए० कम नहीं करेगी तो मिलें बन्द होती चली जाएंगी। सरकार क्यों इन मिलों को अपने हाथ में नहीं लेती? क्यों उनको मौका देती है कि वे धमकियाँ देते चले जायेंगे? क्यों उनको सरकार खुले ग्राम डी० ए० कम करने की घोषणा करने का मौका देती है?

श्री शफी कुरेशी : हमारे डरने का सवाल पैदा नहीं होता है। हम पूरी नजर रखे हुए हैं। जहाँ पर भी मालूम होगा कि कारखानेदार जानबूझ कर कारखानों को नहीं चलाना चाहते हैं या उनको बन्द करना चाहते हैं वहाँ पर हमारे हाथ छोटे नहीं हैं। कानून की गिरफ्त बहुत लम्बी है उनको पकड़ सकते हैं।