

Shrimati Lakshmi Menon: Yes, after.

Mr. Speaker: That satisfies him.

Shri Joachim Alva: In the letter of the Executive Assistant to the Secretary-General dated the 16th August it is stated: "The error which you have pointed out is regretted. It seems to have been due to hasty and inefficient draftsmanship by the artist who painted the map" After this admission made by the Executive Assistant to the Secretary-General, may I know why we have not taken further steps, especially in view of the fact that they are not marking Algeria or Cyprus in the same manner that they are marking Kashmir?

Shrimati Lakshmi Menon: The hon Member is just repeating the contents of the letter I have already pointed out that the Government are trying to find out in what possible way we can put forward our case for changing the map

Excise and Export Duty on Tea

+
*227. { **Shri Raghunath Singh:**
 Shri Bibhuti Mishra:

Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state whether there is any favourable change in the trend of world market since the change of excise and export duty on Tea?

The Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Satish Chandra): The new export and excise duties came into force only on 27th September, and it is too early to assess the impact of these changes on exports

Shri Raghunath Singh: Is it not a fact that in spite of the reduction of the excise duty, our export to U.K. and Iran is falling?

Shri Satish Chandra: That is not correct. Only one month, October has passed since changes in units were effected and exports have maintained almost the same level as in the corresponding period of last year

श्री विभूति मिश्र : मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि सरकार ने एक्साइज और इम्पोर्ट ड्यूटी टी पर जो घटाई है, उसके फलस्वरूप क्या कोई भ्रंदाजा लगाया है कि हमारा एक्सपोर्ट इतना बढ़ा है ?

श्री सतीश चन्द्र : यही मैंने भ्रज किया है कि यह ड्यूटी सितम्बर के आखिर में घटाई गई थी। इसको घटाये हुए अभी सिर्फ एक महीना ही बीच में गुजरा है। जो फिगरज हमारे पास भाई हैं उनमें पता चलता है कि हमारी एक्सपोर्ट जो घट रही थी वह घटनी बन्द हो गई है और जो कमी हो रही थी वह रक गई है। अक्टूबर में तकरीबन उतनी ही एक्सपोर्ट हुई है जितनी कि पहले अक्टूबर में पिछले महीने में हुआ करती थी।

श्री रघुनाथ सिंह : मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि यू० के० और ईरान में जो हमारी टी की एक्सपोर्ट होती है, क्या उनमें कोई खास कमी हुई है या नहीं हुई है ? मैं ममकला हूँ कि बहुत ज्यादा कमी हुई है।

श्री सतीश चन्द्र : मैं यही भ्रज कर रहा था कि ज्यादा कमी नहीं हुई है। अक्टूबर की अभी पूरी फिगरस नहीं भाई है। अक्टूबर के आधे महीने की फिगरस भाई है। जो फिगरस हमारे पास हैं उनसे यही भ्रदाजा लगता है कि उसमें ज्यादा कमी नहीं हुई है।

Shri A. C. Guha: Even if the quantity of export has not gone down, may I know whether the Indian percentage of British imports has gone down or not?

Shri Satish Chandra: It will not be correct to say so, I have figures upto August in which the imports from Ceylon into U.K. have gone down. Ceylon is the main competitor in the British Market. Upto August, 1958, exports from Ceylon were of the order of 263 million lbs. as against 253 million lbs. upto August in 1957. Therefore, there is no reason to suppose at present that the percentage

of Indian tea is going down in the U.K market

Shri Tridib Kumar Chaudhuri: The other day, during the course of the discussion of the Tea (Alteration in Duties of Customs and Excise) Bill, the Minister of Revenue and Expenditure said that the export of tea was picking up. Has the hon. Minister any figures to support that statement?

Shri Satish Chandra: Yes, the total exports of tea during this year have shown a better trend than last year.

Shri Tridib Kumar Chaudhuri: I want to know the position after the reduction of the export duty and excise duty.

Shri Satish Chandra: I have already stated that it is too early to assess the effect. We have got complete figures up till now.

Shri Rameshwar Tantia: May I know whether Government are aware that the changing of export and excise duties will not improve the condition of the tea gardens, but that there is acute need of new machinery and improvement in plantations? Tea being the biggest foreign-exchange-earning commodity, may I know whether Government are considering to set up some finance corporation just like the NIDC, to improve those gardens?

Mr. Speaker: Part of it is a question, and part of it is a suggestion.

Shri Rameshwar Tantia: I want to know whether Government are proposing to set up some finance corporation.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member wants to know whether in spite of the reduction of the duty, the export of tea has not increased owing to bad machinery or old machinery in the tea gardens.

Shri Satish Chandra: I do not think the hon. Member himself will connect

that question with exports. That is an entirely different question. He wants some financial arrangements to be made for the replacement of the dilapidated machinery in the tea gardens.

Shri P. C. Borooah: May I know whether it is a fact that the earnings from our export of tea to the U.K. alone during the first eight months of the year are lower by Rs 22 crores?

Shri Satish Chandra: The exports this year have more or less been, as I have said, at the same level as last year.

Shri P. C. Borooah: I want to know whether the earnings during the last eight months have gone down by Rs 22 crores.

Shri Satish Chandra: The prices which were lower than last year's in the beginning have now begun to pick up and the prices for the last few months are better than those of the previous months. So, it is difficult to say all this till fuller information is available.

Shri P. C. Borooah: My question was whether the earnings during the last eight months had gone down by Rs 22 crores.

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri): If you will permit me, I would like to make it clear that when the Minister of Revenue and Civil Expenditure said that the export was picking up, he did not confine himself to any particular period since when this excise duty was reduced. In fact, he had said that between January to October, as compared to last year, this year, the export figures have gone up. In 1957, the total was 3,53,857 lbs., whereas in 1958, during the same period, it is 3,77,181 lbs. So, it has picked up. In fact, export has gone up during this period. The effect of the reduction or the relief given will have to be assessed after some time.