

आगरे का जूता उद्योग

*१८३८. सेठ अबल सिंह : क्या खासिज्य तथा उद्योग मंत्री यह बतलाने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार को ज्ञात है कि आगरे का जूता उद्योग बड़े खतरों में है ; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो क्या सरकार इसे बचाने के लिये कोई योजना बना रही है ?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): (a) and (b). It is understood from the Government of Uttar Pradesh that the Shoe Industry of Agra is experiencing some difficulties and the State Government are taking necessary steps to improve the situation.

सेठ अबल सिंह : क्या माननीय मंत्री यह बतलाने की कृपा करेंगे कि स्टेट गवर्नमेंट्स और सेन्ट्रल गवर्नमेंट की तरफ से इस सम्बन्ध में क्या क्या स्टेप्स लिये गए हैं ?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: What are the steps taken by the Central Government and the State Government in this regard?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: Sir, the Central Government have not taken any specific steps in regard to the protection of the interests of the Agra Shoe Industry excepting in regard to the import of leather footwear, which is restricted. The import duty on boots and shoes has been raised to 100 per cent. *ad valorem* or Rs. 1-9-8 per pair whichever is higher. Export of leather footwear has been de-controlled.

I have not got the details of what the State Government is doing, except that I was told that the matter has engaged their attention. A Co-operative Society of cottage workers was organised in 1949, another in 1950 and a third in 1951. They are working satisfactorily and the total production of these co-operative societies during last year amounted to over Rs. one and half lakhs. They are taking steps to organise more co-operative societies and to give them financial help so that the dealer is either eliminated or rendered ineffective. And, the

other factor that affects this industry adversely is the tightness of the money market and this is sought to be overcome by help through co-operative societies.

There are other factors, Sir, over which only the State Government can take action. It is said that the Sales Tax is a handicap. These are matters entirely within the purview of the State Government and the Central Government can do nothing in the matter.

Shri Ramananda Das: May I know if the Minister is aware of the state of the shoe industry in Kanpur, Patna and Delhi?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: It has come from Agra to Delhi.

सेठ अबल सिंह : क्या मंत्री महोदय को यह मान्य है कि आगरे की शू इंडस्ट्री इन्डिया में सब से बड़ी शू इंडस्ट्री है और अगर उस की तरफ पूरा ध्यान नहीं दिया गया तो वह खत्म हो जायेगी ?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: All that is necessary to be done is being done by both the Governments. Let us not extend the shoe to the whole of India.

INDIAN LABOURERS IN MALAYA

*1839. Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: (a) Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Government of Malaya have decided to settle Indian Labourers in Malaya on land?

(b) If so, has any beginning been made in this regard?

The Prime Minister (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): (a) Yes.

(b) Yes. Two pilot schemes have been prepared by the Government of the Federation of Malaya for immediate execution. One of them will make State lands and the other Estate lands available to Indian labourers in Malaya. In three out of the nine States in Malaya, some progress has already been made.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: May I know, Sir, whether the labourers who will be settled there will also be entitled to citizenship rights and who will bear the cost of that settlement scheme?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I have not understood the last part of the question, Sir.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: Who will bear the cost of this settlement; whether these labourers are supposed to bear the entire cost or will the Government of Malaya also bear a part of it?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: There used to be what is called the 'Indian Immigration Fund', there and quite a large sum of money has accumulated in that Fund. So far as I can understand, a sufficient part of the cost will come out of that Fund.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: May I know whether that Indian Immigration Fund is also meant for the Indians who are in Singapore?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: It has recently been decided to wind up that Fund and to divide its present assets between Singapore and the Federation of Malaya in a certain ratio, which, I believe is 1:13, so that both parts may benefit from the Fund.

Dr. Lanka Sundaram: May I know whether the Government is in a position to state the total number of people likely to be involved in the settlement schemes?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: This is only the beginning of a pilot scheme. I may also correct myself and say that that Fund will be used also for the repatriation and relief of the aged and destitute Indian labourers. As to the numbers involved, as I said, this is a pilot scheme for the present, and I cannot give the numbers. The area of land that has been put aside for the pilot scheme in the Singapore State in the Terai Estate is 3000 acres of paddy land and in the Singkaling Estate is 6000 acres of paddy land. The settlers will enjoy absolute proprietorship subject to one condition, viz. that the allottee should not sell land to a non-Indian.

Pandit K. C. Sharma: May I know whether the labourers that are being settled will be able to continue to have Indian citizenship or will they be forced to forgo Indian citizenship and adopt Malayan citizenship?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: That is difficult to answer because it depends on the developments there. Normally speaking, in all these countries, at some time or other, people have to choose and that particular moment of choice has not yet arrived in Malaya. But in other countries, as the hon. Member knows, they are choosing, or the matter remains fluid for a while but ultimately some choice has to be made because a person cannot have the advantage of dual citizenship for long.

Shri Thanu Pillai: May I know, Sir, whether the Indian settlers there will enjoy full citizenship rights or will have qualified citizenship rights?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: At the present moment they have normal citizenship rights. There is no qualification to that. But as the situation develops in the Malayan State—as the Malayan State develops—they have to choose full rights there or full rights elsewhere.

BETTERMENT FEES

*1840. **Shri L. N. Mishra:** (a) Will the Minister of Planning be pleased to state whether some steps have been taken in the direction of levying betterment contribution on all areas brought under irrigation by the new river valley projects?

(b) If so, what are the details of the same?

(c) How is the estimated income to be shared by the State and the Union Governments?

The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The States of Bombay, Punjab and Hyderabad have already enacted legislation for this purpose.

The States of Madras, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Rajasthan and Pepsu have drafted bills for this purpose which are under consideration.

The States of Bihar, Orissa, Madhya Bharat and Travancore-Cochin have accepted in principle the levy of betterment fee in connection with new irrigation projects.

(c) The income from the levy of betterment fee will be credited wholly to the revenues of the State concerned. It will of course appear in the administration accounts of the project concerned.

Shri L. N. Mishra: May I know, Sir, whether Government have any idea about the lands already irrigated and receipts from them as betterment fees?

Shri Hathi: Government has not been in possession of full data of the amount of betterment fee received by the State.

Shri L. N. Mishra: May I know whether it is a fact that speculation in purchase of land by some anti-social elements has already begun in some areas to be irrigated by the river valley projects?