

2. For increasing export marketing capabilities important schemes in force are as under :—

(a) Compensatory support is allowed on exports of selected product to develop marketing competence and to neutralise the disadvantages inherent in the present stage of development of the economy.

(b) Trade agreements provide for export of non-traditional goods.

(c) Under a scheme of assistance from the M.D.F. financial assistance is provided to exporters for export activities like market surveys sales-teams, publicity, participation in exhibition and fairs etc. This assistance is given to recognised export houses and other approved organisations.

(d) Tax relief and concessions are provided on expenditure connect with exports like overseas publicity, foreign office(s) abroad, support of technical know-how and other services.

(e) Drawback of customs and Central Excise duties as also concessional railways freight is allowed on a number of export products.

(f) A scheme of registration of contracts insulates the registered exporters against disadvantageous changes in the pattern of assistance subsequent to their dates of contracts.

(g) Export finance is made available at a concessional rate of 7%. E.C.G.C. cover is available for different export requirements. The IDBI participates alongwith other approved commercial banks in the provision of deferred payment facilities.

3. Several priority industries have been selected and placed under export obligation. *Ad-hoc* obligations have also been placed on a number of units.

4. In process quality control has been introduced in several industries.

5. A wholly owned subsidiary of the State Trading Corporation has been set up

to specialise in exports of large ventures and turnkey projects by participating in global tenders in the field of :

(a) Railway systems—rolling stock, locomotives, track and signalling equipments ;

(b) Public utilities ;

(c) Castings and Forgings, ancillary equipment for big International manufacturing concerns such as Automobile Industry etc.

(d) Complete Industrial Plants and Projects.

Eradication of Poverty in India

1659. SHRI M. K. KRISHNAN :
SHRI MUHAMMED SHERIFF ;
SHRI B. N. REDDY :

Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have made any study on the basic causes of growing poverty of the people in our country ;

(b) if so, the findings thereon ; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government to eradicate poverty in the country ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI MOHAN DHARIA) : (a) and (b). Economic conditions in the country are under constant study of the Government. In the four year period from 1966-67 to 1969-70, the index number of *per capita* national product (1960-61=100) has risen from 100.5 to 110.8. This should indicate improvement in the economic condition of the country. The Government, however, recognise that, on account of vast disparities of income and wealth, large numbers do not share in the benefits of development. The Government, therefore, take the view that poverty has to be eradicated by vigorously pursuing both sustained growth and greater equality of income and wealth.

(c) The eradication of poverty is necessarily a long-term problem. The

Government are seeking a basic solution to this problem by promoting growth with social justice through appropriate development strategy, institutional change and economic and social policies. Besides general policies, some measures directed specifically to the improvement of the lot of the poor have been initiated or thought out in recent years. Some of the important ones are listed below :—

1. special package schemes for small and marginal farmers and agricultural workers and programmes of animal husbandry to support their economy ;
2. crash programme for rural employment ;
3. encouragement to States for speedier enactment and implementation of land reform measures aimed at completing the abolition of intermediary rights, reducing rents, providing security of tenure, lowering ceilings, restricting exemptions and distributing the surplus land ;
4. attention to improvement of rural housing, allotment of building sites to landless workers, conferment of homestead rights and grant of assistance to building habitable dwellings ;
5. emphasis on the need to extend the new technology in agriculture to dry farming areas, other new areas and to new crops ;
6. administration of forestry schemes to benefit contiguous rural areas and forest labourers and dwellers ;
7. increased emphasis on welfare and development of backward classes and areas ;
8. nationalisation of banking, promotion of new financial institution, schemes and procedures and re-orientation of banking and credit policies to extend credit facilities

for productive purposes to classes and areas that have been neglected in the past ;

9. added emphasis on clearance and improvement of slums and rehabilitation of slum dwellers ;
10. redistributive taxation and pursuit of other socio-economic measures to reduce disparities ;
11. long-term programmes of rehabilitation and development on a viable basis of individual rural industries ;
12. vigorous promotion of family planning ;
13. the provision in the 1971-72 Budget for the benefit of the educated unemployed ;
14. encouragement of industrial activities in backward areas ; and
15. reappraisal of the Fourth Five Year Plan, to be undertaken shortly, to determine, among others, what further measures could be undertaken to benefit the poor.

Percentage of Imports through Public Sector

1660. SHRI BALATHANDAYUTHAM: Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state the percentage of import handled by the public sector in 1967-68, 1968-69 and 1969-70 ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE): A statement showing the items canalised through public sector agencies from 1967-68 to 1969-70 is attached. Calculation of the exact figures of importation through public sector agencies during various past years would involve an amount of labour which may not be commensurate with the results achieved.

Statement

- I. List of items canalised for imports during 1967-68.

1. Artificial Silk Yarn and Thread