

report in the *Economic Times* dated April 15, 1971, and if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE
(VIDESH VYAPAR MANTRAI AYA MFN
UP-MANTRI) (SHRI A C GEORGI)

(a) Yes, Sir

(b) The following specific efforts have been made to promote industrial joint ventures in African countries

- (1) An Indian Delegation consisting of the representatives of the Government of India, Indian Investment Centre and a number of our industrialists participated in the Conference held at NAIROBI between 30th November and 4th December, 1970 co-sponsored by the UNIDO, the African Development Bank and the Economic Commission for Africa which provided an opportunity for the entrepreneurs from the developing as well as the developed countries to meet together and discuss about the possibilities of setting up industrial joint ventures in African countries of mutual interest. It is too early to assess the outcome of this Conference.
- (2) A list of Indian entrepreneurs interested in the establishment of joint ventures in Africa has been supplied to the Economic Commission for Africa, Addis Ababa.
- (3) It is one of the aims of India Africa Development Association which has the support of the Government of India, to encourage joint ventures in African countries.
- (4) Our Missions in Africa take active interest in bringing together the Indian and African parties for the purpose of industrial collaboration. They are furnishing upto-date information regarding investment opportunities in African countries.

Besides, the following general measures have been undertaken to promote our

industrial joint ventures in all the countries including those in Africa

- (i) The concerned Ministries have been strengthened to collect and disseminate information among Indian entrepreneurs regarding investment opportunities abroad.
- (ii) For speedy disposal of the applications received from Indian entrepreneur an Inter-Ministerial Committee for appraisal of such joint ventures has been set up in late 1969 to examine such proposals.
- (iii) Cash assistance, if otherwise admissible is also allowed against export of machinery and equipment against Indian equity subject, however to ceiling of 10% of book value.
- (iv) Normal import replenishments as available to exporters under the policy for registered exporters is allowed on exports against equity capital.
- (v) Indian entrepreneurs are permitted to remit a small amount in cash to meet their preliminary expenses.
- (vi) Indian industrialists are also offering training facilities to foreign nationals in their factories in India.

(c) Government's attention has been drawn to the article published in the *Economic Times* dated April 15, 1971. Efforts made by the Government to promote joint ventures in African countries have been briefly stated above.

Import Licence for Rectifier for Caustic Chlorine Project of Travancore-Cochin Chemicals

314 SHRIMATI BHARGAVI THAKKAPPAN Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE (VIDESH VYAPAR MANTRI) be pleased to state

(a) whether the Kerala Government have requested the Centre to take immediate action for licensing the import of rectifier for the Caustic Chlorine expansion project of the Travancore-Cochin Chemicals, and

(b) if so, the decision taken thereon?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE (VIDESH VYAPAR MANTRALAYA MEN UP-MANTRI) (SHRI A. C. GEORGE) :

(a) Yes, by the Minister for Petroleum and Chemicals.

(b) The request is under consideration.

Promotion of Trade with East European Countries

315. SHRI SAMINATHAN : Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE (VIDESH VYAPAR MANTRI) be pleased to state :

(a) whether any assessment has been made to find out the effect of bilateral trade on the growth of trade in non-traditional goods with the East European countries ; and

(b) whether Government have plans to conduct market surveys and exchange of trade visits to promote trade with the East European countries ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE (VIDESH VYAPAR MANTRALAYA MEN UP-MANTRI) (SHRI A. C. GEORGE) :

(a) Yes, Sir. The export of principal non-traditional items including iron ore, textiles and leather, accounts for approximately one-third of India's exports to East European countries.

(b) For promoting trade between India and East European countries, trade delegations are exchanged annually. Marketing information is also collected as and when necessary.

Shortage of Jute due to Bangla Desh Crisis

316. SHRI BISHWANATH JHUNJHUNWALA : Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE (VIDESH VYAPAR MANTRI) be pleased to state :

(a) whether the situation in Bangla Desh will create a World shortage of 1.5 lakh tonnes of jute goods ;

(b) whether Government have devised ways and means to deal with this demand ; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE (VIDESH VYAPAR MANTRALAYA MEN UP-MANTRI) (SHRI A. C. GEORGE) :

(a) to (c). While no definite information is available as regards the extent to which production of jute goods in East Bengal has been affected, there is likely to be some loss of production. Measures to step up production of jute goods in India as far as possible to meet the shortage have been discussed with representatives of the jute industry and production plans are being drawn up by the industry.

Modernisation of Textile Industry

317. SHRI BISHWANATH JHUNJHUNWALA : Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE (VIDESH VYAPAR MANTRI) be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have finalised a blueprint for the modernisation of textile industry in the country ;

(b) if so, the types of mills that will come within the purview of this scheme ; and

(c) the details of the scheme and when it will come into force ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE (VIDESH VYAPAR MANTRALAYA MEN UP-MANTRI) (SHRI A. C. GEORGE) :

(a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Conference of Chief Secretaries of States and Union Territories on Rural Development

318. SHRI NIHAR LASKAR :
SHRI P. GANGADEB :

Will the PRIME MINISTER (PRADHAN MANTRI) be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government had convened a Conference of the Chief Secretaries of States and the Union Territories in April, 1971 to discuss the problem of rural development ;

(b) if so, whether it was stressed upon them by Government to implement the Plans quickly ;

(c) other subjects discussed ; and

(d) the decisions arrived at ?