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Title: Problems in export of Indian Tea due to SBI's move to reject Letters of Credit to Iran.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (HOOGHLY): How to revive the Indian tea industry and promote exports has been a matter of greater concern to the House as also the Government. But, unfortunately, the latest instance of the State Bank of India refusing letter of credit to Iranian Bank involving tea export to Iran is another instance of Government's unwarranted capitulation to unilateral decision of the US Treasury to prohibit third country transactions with three banks of Iran from running through the US financial system. These are not any sanctions imposed by United Nations. This is done unilaterally and we cannot do it. The Commerce Ministry has already approached the Ministry of Finance that the market that we have in Iran is going to be missed by our Indian tea exporters. It happened a few days back also in the case of Essar, India. When an Iranian refinery venture was going to be taken over by Essar, India, Essar Global based in US asked them not to proceed with it. In such a way, Indian companies are suffering because of Government's capitulation to unilateral decisions by US domestic companies and domestic authorities, which has nothing to do with the United Nations. So, I urge upon the government that State Bank of India immediately should be told about the letter of credit of the concerned Iranian banks. Thank you, Sir.

MD. SALIM (CALCUTTA – NORTH EAST): I want to associate with this, Sir. This is a classic example of how the United States is exercising its influence.

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing. Without permission, you are speaking, Mr. Salim. Shri S.K. Kharventhan – Not present. Shri Ganesh Singh. But, your matter relates to the Election Commission, what can the Government do? It is an important issue, but it relates to the Election Commission. I will allow you. Without making any comment, just mention the issue. यह चुनाव आयोग का मुद्दा है। यह हमारा मुद्दा नहीं है। क्या आप समझ गये?