

**COMMITTEE ON ABSENCE OF
MEMBERS FROM THE SITTINGS
OF THE HOUSE**

SECOND REPORT

SHRI P.V.G. RAJU (Bobbili): I beg to present the Second Report of the Committee on Absence of Members from the Sittings of the House.

**ANNOUNCEMENT RE: PRIME
MINISTER'S STATEMENT ON THE
VISIT OF MR. L. I. BREZHNEV**

MR. SPEAKER: I have to inform the House that the Prime Minister will make a statement in the House today at 2.45 p.m. regarding the visit to India of Mr. L. I. Brezhnev, General Secretary of the Central Committee of the CPSU & Chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, from December 8 to 11, 1980.

DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY: (Bombay North East) You should allow a discussion on it, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: Calling Attention.

12.20 hrs.

**CALLING ATTENTION TO MAT-
TER OF URGENT PUBLIC IM-
PORTANCE**

INDIA'S TRADE DEFICIT DURING 1980-81

SHRI G. M. BANATWALLA: (Ponmani): Sir, I call the attention of the Minister of Commerce to the following matter of urgent public importance and I request that he may make a statement thereon:—

“Report that India's trade deficit may exceed Rs. 4,000 crores during the financial year 1980-81.”

**THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE
AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI
PRANAB MUKHERJEE):** Hon. Speaker, India's trade deficit has shown a worsening trend since 1977-78, as may be seen from the following table:—

	(Rs. in Crores)			
	1976-77	1977-78	1978-79	1979-80
Exports	5142.25	5404.26 (5.1)	5726.26 (6.0)	6426.86 (12.2)
Imports	5073.79	6025.29 (18.7)	6814.30 (13.1)	8683.55 (27.4)
Balance of trade	+63.46	-621.03	-1088.04	-2256.69

NOTE : Figures in brackets indicate percentage increase over the preceding year.

In 1979-80, while exports increased by 12.2 per cent, imports recorded an increase of 27.4 per cent, leading to a trade deficit of Rs. 2256.7 crores. During the first quarter of 1980-81, for which latest provisional data are available, exports are estimated to have recorded an increase of about 7 per cent whereas imports during the quarter were higher by about 63 per cent over the corresponding period last year.

The growth of exports in the first quarter of 1980-81 was slow because of the impact of drought and poor economic performance of the economy in 1979-80, when there was a decline in agricultural production, industrial production and GNP by 10 per cent, 1.5 per cent and 3 per cent respectively. Prospectus for

the latter period of 1980-81 are considered better in view of improvements in agricultural and industrial production supply of power and other infrastructure requirements of the economy combined with various measures taken by the Government to remove domestic constraints on export production and other export promotion measures. The export target for 1980-81 amounting to Rs. 7100 crores is expected to be achieved and, if possible even exceeded. This will not be a mean achievement when seen in the background of slow down in the tempo of world trade, economic recession and growth of protectionist tendencies abroad. Our optimism is based on the fact that many of the important section have started

responding to our policy initiatives. The data available from the respective Export Promotion Councils shows that the important sectors such as engineering products, processed foods, basic chemicals, jute manufactures, handicrafts and textiles, etc., are showing growth rates in the range of 20—30 per cent during the months of the first half of 1980-81. Honourable Members will also be happy to know that exports from the Santa Cruz and Kandla Free Trade Zones are showing even much higher growth rates in their export performance.

In spite of such export increases the trade deficit in 1980-81 may exceed Rs. 4000 crores mainly due to the steep hike in international prices of petroleum and fertilisers. Petroleum prices have already recorded an increase of more than 100 per cent during last year. Value of imports of petroleum and petroleum products are estimated to have exceeded Rs. 2500 crores in the first half of 1980-81 itself as against imports of Rs. 3213 crores in the whole of 1979-80.

Government is seriously concerned over the prospects of mounting trade deficit. Government has recently taken a number of measures to promote exports. These include exclusion of production for export for the purpose of "licensed capacity" and dominance", favourable treatment to import of technology for export production. Free Trade Zones like treatment to all 100 per cent export-oriented units., expansion of the list of industries for "Automatic Expansion" and selective relaxation in restrictions imposed on new undertakings in metropolitan cities to exporting units.

Government have also rationalised input planning for export production in order to improve input availability. For instance, steel requirements of the Engineering exports for 1980-81 has been already tied up. Government is taking measures for improv-

ing credit, availability for exporters. In addition the new EXIM Bank going to be set up shortly will also encourage the financial infrastructure for exports. In order to reduce delays procedures for disbursement for duty-drawback are also being streamlined. Simultaneously, action is being taken to step up production of steel, coal fertilisers, and non-ferrous metals and to accelerate the tempo of oil exploration and production. Saving on imports thus effected can significantly contribute to narrowing the trade gap.

SHRI G. M. BANATWALLA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, we have got a statement from the Government confirming a serious report that the trade deficit in 1980-81 may exceed Rs. 4,000 crores. I have fully sympathy for the hon. Minister of Commerce because I do realise that a large part of the predicament in which he finds himself. It is rather unfortunate that the Janata Government left the economy rather uncared for and such an economy was inherited by the present Government.

12.26 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

Encouraged by a very large inflow of remittances, the then Janata Government went on importing even those articles which could be manufactured within the country at cheaper costs. However, we may not go into all that aspect of it. I am also in sympathy with the Commerce Minister because he is handicapped by the difficulties faced by the other departments in the matter of production and in the matter of infrastructure and so on. The import of cement, fertiliser, etc. could be cut down if the industry could produce to the full capacity. But, that is not possible because of the shortage of power, coal and so on. We therefore see this particular phenomenon. While expressing my sympathy with the Government, I must also record my sense of

[Shri G. M. Banatwalla] appreciation of the measures which the hon. Minister has just now outlined which he proposes to take for the improvement of the situation.

However, I must point out that there is a certain feeling of complacency, uncalled for complacency, on the part of the Government. The Government says that the export target for the year 1980-81 will be achieved. It further says that that is not a mean achievement. Before I may comment on this particular thing, there is. I must say, this unhappy complacency on the part of the Government. I must say that the export performance of our country, if we take a long range view, is very dismal and very poor.

Taking any indicator of export performance, we have a very dismal situation. For example, if we take the average annual growth rate of export, we find that in 1950-60 while the world rate of growth of exports was 6.2 per cent, India's growth rate was negligible. From 1960-70, while the world growth rate was 8.9 per cent, India's growth rate was 3.6 per cent from 1970-74, while the world rate of growth of export was 27.9 per cent, India's rate of growth was 15 per cent from 1974-77, the world growth rate of export was 11.2 per cent while India's growth rate was better—it was 13.4 per cent. For 1977-78, while the world growth rate of export was 14.2 per cent India's growth rate was only 4.5 per cent. Of course, I do not want you to be responsible for 1978 position. That is a different thing. But let us not have the stock answer of some other being responsible. We must state our position that there is no room for complacency whatsoever and not a statement of this sort that our achievement is not a mean achievement. Sir, if we take India's contribution to world trade, in 1950 it was 2.2 per cent; in 1955 it was 1.4 per cent; in 1963-64 it was 1.2 per cent; in 1970-71 it was 0.7 per cent; in 1973-74 it was 0.6 per cent

and in 1978 it was 0.5 per cent. There is a continuous decline.

Taking the question of exports as percentage of gross national product it was 6.3 per cent in 1950-51 and after all these years by 1970-71 it was again at almost the same figure of 6.9 per cent. I, therefore, say that it is hard to believe that India has achieved a break-through in exports.

Sir, we are told that the export target for 1980-81 was Rs. 71,00 crores. Today you have admitted that there is mounting trade deficit and it would amount to Rs. 4,000 crores. You further go to say that in view of the mounting trade deficit you have taken certain measures. But then with all those measures for promotion of exports you only say that you will be able to achieve your previously fixed export target. In view of the mounting trade deficit you ought to have revised your export targets and the additional measures that have been taken during these years ought to have brought exports more than the previous target that was fixed, viz. Rs. 7,100 crores.

Therefore, my question is: whether it is a fact that having fixed export target at Rs. 7,100 crores the government found it impossible to achieve that target? Whether it is a fact that this shows a total failure of the government to achieve its export targets? Is it not a fact that additional concessions being given in order to improve exports in view of the mounting trade deficit only lead to the fulfilment of the previously fixed targets and not to meeting the situation created by the trade deficit which is now expected to go up because of rise in international prices of oil and fertiliser and so on? Therefore, what specific steps were taken by the government to meet the situation created not merely for the fulfilment of the original target but in order to obviate the circumstances that were created and the difficulties that were

created by the higher international prices of oil and fertilisers and so on and the consequent mounting trade deficit?

Sir, there is an announcement that 100 per cent export units will be given all facilities in order to promote their exports. Now, Sir, I must submit this, that Export is a risky trade. There are several changes in fashions, trends, tastes, etc. The international market is subject to several variations. Therefore, no unit (big or small) can depend exclusively upto 100 per cent on trade. Every unit has to be assured of some part of domestic trade, say, about 40 per cent. in order that the industry may be able to absorb the shocks if any due to fluctuations in the international market.

Therefore, will the Government sympathetically consider extending the facilities promised to 100 per cent export units also to 60 per cent export units?

If not, why not?

What is the particular objection on the part of the Government? That has got to be made clear.

Lastly there is one small point with which I would like to conclude.

There are definite prospects for improvement of our trade in exports. We have got, in the emergence of the Gulf Areas, an additional market. There are today certain areas which are being vacated by the Developing countries. In respect of exports, there are areas in which there are labour-intensive industries, and so on.

Therefore, Sir, let us know what efforts are being made by the Government to utilise all these prospects for the improvement of our export trade to the Gulf Areas. These are my questions. Thank you.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: I do appreciate the hon. Member's sympathy for me. In fact, the hon. Member himself has pointed out and he has himself expressed this, that, in a given situation, we cannot do better than what we are trying to do.

But if he has interpreted my statement to say that we are complacent or there is a note of complacency and so on, in the statement which I have made I am sorry it is not so. I am really seriously concerned over the mounting trade gap.

Now the question is how we can make it up. After all, export depends upon the overall economic performance in the country. I have to have something which should be produced to be exported. Therefore, if the general economic condition does not improve, it would not be possible for us to improve the export performance. At the same time, the concept which prevailed upon the previous policy-makers was this I would not like to pass on the blame. But perhaps they thought that the foreign Exchange Remittances (mainly due to invisibles) would continue to be in the same order and we have enough Foreign Exchange to play with. This idea prevailed upon the policy-makers a few years back. So, they did not pay much attention to the growth of exports. Otherwise, the hon. Member has himself pointed out that from 1974 to 1977 (in these three years) our export growth was in the neighbourhood of 25 to 27 per cent and it came down to 7 per cent from 1977-78 to 1979-80. So far as the current year's target is concerned it is known that it was determined earlier. In the background of the overall performance of 1979-80, I fixed the target for 1980-81.

These targets were fixed in the context of the overall economic performance. It would be possible for us to reach the target. We can visualise this from the periodical performance of the export. In the statement I have mentioned that in the first quarter of the current financial year, the growth has been nearly 7 per cent. But, it is known to the hon. Member that growth of export in the first quarter is always less compared to the later period. We can make a comparative study of the corresponding period's performance. From that we can get an

[Shri Pranab Mukherjee]
 idea. We would know whether it would be possible for us to have the growth rate and to achieve the target. But even there, the target we reach will be inadequate, I agree, because our Oil Bill alone would constitute nearly 65 per cent of our total export earnings. The hon. Member would appreciate that it is not possible for us to reduce our dependence on import of oil to a considerable extent because it requires to maintain our agricultural programme, it requires to maintain our transportation system. Even the common fuel, kerosene, we cannot perhaps do away with. Therefore, the strategy which we are to follow is to reduce our dependence on importing in whatever areas we can do so. On earlier occasion also, I have pointed out that there are certain areas. The hon. Member has himself pointed out that. For instance, if we can improve our domestic performance in certain critical centres like steel, cement and aluminium—in these 3 sectors alone—perhaps we can save nearly one thousand crores of rupees and it is possible. In 1976-77, we had sufficient production to meet our requirement and even we could export a little bit. Therefore, if we have an installed capacity in the cement industry, in the order of 24 million tonnes and at one particular point of time, the capacity utilisation was 90 per cent we can do so. We are trying our best to reduce our dependence on those sectors so that it can get reflected in the total volume of import. Another area is of course edible oil. Even in the late 70s our import bill on edible oil was insignificant. It is not much. But now it has gone to the extent of one million tonnes and if we can produce sufficient cereals to meet our requirements then there is a possibility of a break-through in the edible oil sector and my colleague in the Ministry of Commerce is looking into it. We are trying our best to improve our performance in export and at the same time reduce our dependence on the import in the areas wherever

it is possible. There is no room for complacency. I won't be able to reduce our dependence on imports in so far as petroleum and oil products are concerned. That will completely upset the entire economic programme. Therefore, the answer lies in producing more in certain areas where we can export and there is a possibility. At one particular time, India was the net importer of foodgrains. Even in the mid 70s, we had to import foodgrains and so far as the present world forecast is concerned, many of the countries will be the net importer of foodgrains and if we can make a break-through in the agricultural sector, we will be in a position to enhance our export in this sector. Perhaps, the hon. Member would appreciate that this year alone we are going to export nearly one million tonnes of rice.

Sir, another point which the hon. Member has mentioned is: what are the results of the concessions which we are going to give to the 100 per cent export oriented units and whether we can reduce the performance from 100 per cent to 60 per cent. My difficulty is the moment I reduce this concession, there will be no initiative for export because there is a surplus market in India itself and who will undertake the trouble of going to foreign market and face stiff competition in world market if they could get readymade market in India itself. Therefore, the concessions which we have given to the exporters must be strictly adhered to 100 per cent and if it is not possible for 100 per cent, there may be some reductions. We can consider of reducing it 2 per cent or 3 per cent or even 5 per cent. But the moment I give concession to the 60 per cent export-oriented units all the concessions which the units established in the free-trade zone are entitled to have, then there will be no incentive for export because the producers will find ready market in the country and in our country we cannot have the concept of exportable surplus. If we

want to make up the trade gap to a considerable extent and if we want to have sufficient foreign exchange to meet our essential import bill, definitely we must produce for export and a part of the production must be earmarked for export. Therefore, it may not be feasible or desirable to give concession to the export-oriented units at the level of 60 per cent which we are giving at the level of 100 per cent. To the question what would be the net performance and what would be the reaction to the concessions which we have given, we are yet to see that now that some of the concessions have been announced recently, the industry will take some time to absorb it and to adjust their production programmes to meet that requirement.

SHRI HARIKESH BAHADUR (Gorakhpur): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir for every failure this Government blames Janata Party.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: He did not blame in this case.

SHRI HARIKESH BAHADUR: Here also, he did. It is a permanent thing; I do not know for how long this will continue though the entire nation knows who is responsible for all kinds of problems which have been created in the country today. It is the total inefficiency, mismanagement and corruption of this Government that has created this situation that everyday India's trade deficit position is worsening.

There is a department known as the Export Inspection Council. The duty of this department is to create a good image of this country in the international market, but this organisation has become the centre of absolute corruption, total mismanagement; everything in that Department is going absolutely wrong and I do not know what the hon. Minister is doing in that respect. Everything is being destroyed by the present organisation. There, the Director is a non-technical person, though the post is a technically oriented post.

He does not look into the things properly; he himself is involved in dirty things and I would give some examples for the Minister to verify. He also says that nobody can harm him because the hon. Minister protects him, but I do not know how far that is correct. If the Export Inspection Council does not function properly, and there is total corruption, our products would not be purchased by the people from outside, I would like to quote what has been stated in the Economic Age:

"At a time when most other countries including the advanced ones like the United States are opting for greater and more stringent quality control for their products, India seems to be going the other way.....If an Indian product fails to stand in competition with counterparts produced by other countries, not only the individual producing units but the reputation of the entire country suffers. Once such damage is done, it might be years before lost good will can be recovered."

This is the situation; our quality control system is completely paralysed and it has become totally defective. For example, one consignment of chapals had been sent to Italy and the buyer in Italy refused to accept that and it was returned. After that, there have been a lot of things which have been going on in the department and the officer who was responsible is the Director himself. While the consignment was stopped at the Bombay docks, on specific instructions of the Director, that the things were quite all right, these were sent to Italy. I do not know whether any Minister had directed him or he himself had taken the initiative. These were ultimately rejected and sent back from Italy. After that he demanded Rs. 65 lakhs or something of that kind has happened. No action has been taken against the senior officers who are responsible for that. Some junior officers were suspended for that defect. I do not know what is happening now. They are being made scapegoats. The issue was raised

[Shri Harikesh Bahadur] before** who is the Director, but he did not take any action. Since he himself is involved, he wants to victimise the junior officers. If such things go on continuously, there would be no quality control. There is also another example. The major carpet inspection scheme was closed from compulsory pre-shipment inspection. What were the reasons? This is because they wanted to send some dirty type of carpets to foreign countries. That is why they stopped this inspection. Some platinum crucibles were imported. Actually, they were purchased for Gold Scheme. Now they have been stolen away. I do not know what is happening. The hon. Minister must look into these things which are going on in the Export Inspection Council, otherwise things would not be corrected and ultimately there would always be this kind of deficit in India's trade.

Then, a particular process was adopted for quality control of jute goods. Now that has been changed completely. Something like periodical inspection is being done now. Because of this the quality of jute and jute products is deteriorating continuously. If you are sending such type of thing to foreign countries, will they come to you again for purchase? These things are happening in this Department. This Inspection Council is fully responsible for all these things. But, no action is being taken against the officers who are concerned and basically this office who is telling that he is being protected by the Minister, and, therefore, nobody can do anything. Now, Sir, I want to say at this point of time itself that the hon. Minister must set his Department right. Otherwise, all the charges which are being levelled against that particular officer or the Department, it will be considered that all these things are happening only because of the blessings of the Minister which, I do not want to say at this point of time but, certainly after some time

the Minister will be charged for that. Therefore, I must remind the Hon. minister that he must look into the functioning the working of that particular Department, to which I have referred. Sir, my question is:

(a) Will the Minister constitute a Committee of Members of Parliament to look into the functioning of this Export Inspection Council; and

(b) What are the steps which are being proposed by the Government to streamline this organisation so that proper quality control may be ensured.

These are my question.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Sir, firstly, the charges which the Hon. Member has made, if he had given me a notice, I would have answered all these questions and it is not fair when the subject is trade gaps to discuss about one individual officer. He could have sent me the notice according to normal practice and I would have answered all the questions. I do not protect anybody if he does not require protection but I will have to give protection as a Minister to my officers if they do the correct thing. I am to know whether he is corrupt or not. You should have sent me earlier. I would have come prepared.

Sir, the Hon. Member has said that we are sending substandard quality jute. The figures say something different. There is 42 per cent growth. Let me answer the question. He has said that because we have no inspection of the quality of the jute, as a result now substandard goods are going to the foreign market and we are losing the market. This year from April, 42 per cent has been the growth, so far as jute export is concerned. If I am to presume Hon. Member's conclusion that we are sending substandard jute because of the lack of inspection, substandard goods are going, are the foreign buyers so fool that they will purchase

**Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

jute from us? when they can get jute from Bangladesh. when they can get jute from other countries? The growth is, 42 per cent.

Regarding chappals, definitely hundreds of consignments are sent. Leather, and various types of goods. If the Hon. Member wanted to know about any particular item he should send me the notice. With regard to the complaint that I am trying to pass on the blame, what can I do? I am prepared to look into it. I have already said "Give me the specific complaint. I will look into it. I will look into the functioning of the Inspection Council." But, I know what politics is going on so far as the Inspection Organisation is concerned. I get the complaints from other side also. And they say that when the shipment is ready, they create problem on some pretext. Otherwise, they will not certify that it is a quality good and shipment will be missing. The parties will lose the order for the foreign market and there is a question of the sub-standard quality goods similarly, the question is of the delivery schedules. Therefore, we are getting these types of complaints. We are trying to streamline it. I do not say, certify that the inspection is perfectly alright. There are black-sheep. It would be our efforts to identify them and to take action against them. He may be Director or anybody. But I will take action against him provided I get the information from the Hon. Member.

Sir, in regard to the complaint that I am trying to pass on the blame, what can I do? In 1976-77 we had net surplus. This is the cold fact and from 1976-77 up to 1977, we have 27 per cent growth-rate. I find from 1977-78 on wards instead of plus figure, we are going for minus. I cannot help it. It may be pleasing, It may be unpleasant to the Hon. Member. But this is the cold fact.

Therefore, Sir, this year, from Rs. 64 hundred crores, if I can export about Rs. 71 hundred crores definitely I will say that I have improv-

ed a little bit, not to the expectation, but I have been able to do a little bit.

In regard to the suggestions of the M. Ps, I had always discussed with them, if they had any suggestion to improve and streamline not merely the Export Inspection Organisation but in regard to many other organisations. This is a very sensitive Department. A lot of people could be favoured there, So, if the hon, Member can give me any suggestion, I am prepared to examine and implement it. But for that, a formal committee is not needed. But they are welcome to give me any suggestion for improving the functioning and for building up a better imaged and to identify black sheep if there are any, in any area. I would be glad to accept any suggestion and implement it. No committee, but informal suggestions can be made.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Jadavpur): The suggestions can be formal.

SHRI SATISH AGARWAL (Jaipur): Formal suggestions, in an informal way.

श्री राजेश कुमार सिंह (फर्रुख़ाबाद):
उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, मंत्री जी ने जो फर्मिया उसमें बहरहाल उन्होंने मान लिया कि चार हजार करोड़ का डेफिसिट हो गया है। हमने तो चार हजार करोड़ की बात कही है और उन्होंने और अधिक की बात कही है। माननीय मंत्री जी ने कहा है कि पांच परसेंट निर्यात में वृद्धि हुई है और 63 प्रतिशत की वृद्धि आयात में हुई है यानी माल बाहर भेजा कम और बाहर से मंगाया अधिक।

उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, यह जो सर्वे रिपोर्ट आई है, डाइरेक्टोरेट आफ कर्माशियल इंटेलिजेंस, रिजर्व बैंक और नेशनल काँसिल आफ एप्लाइड एकोनामिक रिसर्च से, उनकी फीगर्स को अगर आप देखेंगे तो उस में उन्होंने कहा है कि आप निर्यात में बीस प्रतिशत का घाटा और

[श्री राजेश कुमार सिंह]

करेंगे तथा अन्त में एक दिन जाकर आपका घाटा 82 प्रतिशत हो जायेगा।

माननीय मंत्री जी ने अपने वक्तव्य में पेट्रोलियम की खपत के बारे में कहा है, उन्होंने फर्टिलाइजर की खपत के बारे में भी कहा है कि उनको बाहर से मंगाने में बहुत खर्चा करना पड़ रहा है और इसीलिए आयात बहुत बढ़ा है। इसके बाद मंत्री जी ने अपने वक्तव्य में यह कहा है कि फसल अच्छी होगी, एग्रीकल्चर के लिए पेट्रोलियम पदार्थ की आवश्यकता है इसलिए भी हम इसको मंगा रहे हैं। मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से जानना चाहता हूँ कि उन्होंने कैसे कह दिया कि एग्रीकल्चर में बढ़ोतरी होगी? आपके जो थर्मल प्रोजेक्ट्स चल रहे हैं वे बेकार हैं; आपके हाइड्रल प्रोजेक्ट्स बेकार हैं इसलिए आप एग्रीकल्चर के लिए पेट्रोल और डीजल की खपत करवा रहे हैं। इसलिए आप पेट्रोल और डीजल बाहर से मंगवा रहे हैं। इसी तरह से खाद्य तेलों का प्रोडक्शन आप नहीं बढ़ायेंगे तो बाहर से आपको मंगाना ही पड़ेगा। इसलिए मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि आप इस इकोनोमी को कब चेंज करेंगे। आप इस आर्थिक अवस्था में बदलाव कब लायेंगे? इस अवस्था को तभी बदला जा सकता है जबकि आर्थिक पहलुओं में जो फारेन एक्सचेंज आप लगाना चाहते हैं वह उसके प्रोडक्शन में लगाया जाए। कीमतों को रोकने के लिए आप आयात करेंगे तो उसके दूरगामी परिणाम क्या होंगे इसके बारे में आपने चिन्ता की है।

आपने अपने वक्तव्य में एक्सपोर्ट फैसिलिटी की बात भी कही है। मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से जानना चाहता

हूँ कि आपने काटेज इण्डस्ट्रीज के लोगों को, छोटे-छोटे ट्रेडर्स को, जैसे हमारे आगरा में जूते-चप्पल, कार्पेट और मार्बल का काम होता है—ऐसे लोगों के लिए उनको प्रोत्साहन देने के वास्ते जो कानून में आप सरलीकरण करने जा रहें उसमें उनके लिए आपने कोई विशेष ध्यान दिया है या नहीं?

अभी हमारे भाई साहब ने बताया, एक** हैं, मैं इसलिए यह रखना चाहता हूँ क्योंकि इसका एक्सपोर्ट पर असर पड़ रहा है, ** के कारण 65 लाख की जगह पर भारत सरकार से 90 लाख का भुगतान मांगा जा रहा है। यदि ऐसे अधिकारी होंगे तो एक्सपोर्ट कैसे होगा? ऐसे भ्रष्टाचार को रोकने के लिए आपने क्या कदम उठाए हैं? एक साथ और हैं एडीशनल डायरेक्टर, एक्सपोर्ट इन्स्पेक्शन कौंसिल में, उनका एप्वाइंटमेंट गलत तरीके से हुआ है...

MR DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The mention of the name of their Additional Director, made by Mr. Harikesh Bahadur and this hon. Member shall not go on record.. You can expunge that.

SHRI HARIKESH BAHADUR: Why Sir?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I said you can speak, but not mention the name. No. You must give it in writing to me.

श्री राजेश कुमार सिंह : यह करप्शन का मामला है और यह अखबार की न्यूज है। मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि जिनके खिलाफ भ्रष्टाचार और अनियमितताओं के बारे में शिकायतें हैं उनके बारे में यदि आप कहने की अनुमति नहीं देंगे तो वह कैसे सामने ला सकेंगे?

MR DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I only said that you should not bring in the names. You can put all the points.

श्री राजेश कुमार सिंह : मेरे कहने का मतलब यह है कि माननीय मंत्री जी कृपया बतायें कि छोटे ट्रेडर्स, छोटे काम करने वाले और कांटेज इण्डस्ट्री में काम करने वाले, इन लोगों के प्रोटेक्शन के लिए, उनकी सुविधायें की रक्षा के लिए, आपने कौन से कदम उठाए हैं और क्या कदम उठाने जा रहे हैं? इसके साथ ही साथ आप लां का भी सरलीकरण करने जा रहे हैं, उस में भी क्या-क्या कदम आप उठा रहे हैं?

13 hrs.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: The hon. Member first asked what we are going to do about the small scale sector. particularly handlooms and handicrafts and other small producers. Various export promotion councils are providing them the necessary incentives which are needed but I do feel that there is still a large scope for providing them assistance and improving their earning because quite a substantial part of their earning is being taken away by the middlemen. Therefore, we are trying to look at the three problems of the small scale industry people; they are facing the problem of getting raw material, getting credit and marketing. We are trying to tie up all these three things through institutional arrangement so that they get the incentive and we provide them benefits in a systematic manner. This is a matter which is constantly under review and we are trying to improve the system.

In regard to corruption in the department, as I had already said in reply to Shri Harikesh, I will definitely look into it, even about my officer to whom he referred, I will look into it and if there be any allegation any time received either from M. P. or from anybody else, I shall look into it and take steps.

What I was trying to point out was that we were not in a position to import petroleum products because petroleum consumption here is almost

minimum; hardly 15-16 million tonnes we are importing. The hon. Member knows that if we cannot import diesel, if we do not import kerosene, ferertiliser, etc. if we do not maintain the national transportation system, the whole economy will collapse. That is the reason why I say the scope for reducing the import of petroleum products is extremely limited. No body can say what would be the ultimate level of prices so far as petroleum products are concerned. In one year 100 per cent rise has taken place. Whenever these is an OPEC meeting, immediately our blood pressure starts going up; we do not know what is going to happen. It is really a serious problem and the answer lies in exports; we must produce enough to export and we must try to get export earnings. There also, production in some developed countries is standing in the way. I will give you one example; I would not like to mention on the name of the country. They imposed a ban on the entry of our oval shaped footballs; a large number of people are employed in this country and our oval shaped football can compete with any manufactured in any part of the world. But the country which was importing this was subjected to local pressure and they put a countervailing duty. We have taken it up. We are fighting against this sort of thing in handlooms. One country which imported these things had imposed duties on it because there were 10,000 persons in that country who were connected with handloom products operations. I told them, when I met them; you are thinking of 10,000 persons; we had to throw out of job here ten million people who are engaged in handloom industry alone. His answer was; after all, I am to take care of my own problem. You have 650 million people; you are to think in terms of millions but I have only a few millions of people and so I shall have to think in terms of thousands. This is the atmosphere in which we have to work and it is always not easy for us to get market

but we are trying to get it and certain improvement is there but I do agree with the hon. Members that much more is to be made and particularly I am concerned about the complaints and about the shortages. If any hon. Members bring them to my notice, I can assure them that I will look into them and corrective action will be taken.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The House now stands adjourned till 2-05 p.m.

13.05 hrs.

The Lok Sabha adjourned for Lunch till five minutes past Fourteen of the clock.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled after lunch at seven minutes past Fourteen of the clock.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair]

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

(i) CONSTRUCTION OF A BRIDGE OVER YAMUNA RIVER IN DELHI NEAR INTER-STATE BUS TERMINAL.

SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT (East Delhi): With your kind permission, I raise the following matter of urgent public importance.

It is a matter of regret that the construction of a new bridge over the Yamuna river in Delhi near the inter-State bus terminal which was sanctioned by the Congress Government in 1976, has not started yet, causing great and continued hardship and inconvenience to lacs of people and thousands of vehicles, which have to cross Yamuna every day due to traffic jam and congestion. Construction of the bridge on priority basis is a necessity not only for the people living in trans-Yamuna area, the people of Delhi but also people of Uttar Pradesh and other areas States. Urgent attention of the Government to the matter is required. The work should start quickly and a time-bound programme for completion of the bridge should be fixed.

(ii) ERA SEZHIYAN COMMITTEE REPORT ON THE WORKING OF LIC.

SHRI R.K. MHALGI (Thane): The Era Sezhiyan Committee appointed by the Government to review the working of LIC has submitted their report long ago. The Committee have made a number of important and useful suggestions and recommendations.

Lakhs of LIC policy holders are waiting for the decision to be taken by the Government thereon. The recommendations of group-term policy shall receive well as it provides a kind of block insurance to large section of people in the un-organised sector.

I, therefore, urge upon the Government to take as immediately as possible the decision on the said Committee's Report or at least on some of the important recommendations of the Report.

(iii) DRINKING WATER PROBLEM IN RAJASTHAN.

श्री दौलत राम सारण (चुरू): राजस्थान के अधिकांश भागों में दो वर्षों से भयंकर अकाल है। कुछ स्थानों में 3-4 वर्ष से अकाल है। यह अकाल वर्षा की कमी के कारण है। वर्षा के अभाव के कारण मनुष्यों और पशुओं के लिए पीने के पानी की गम्भीर समस्या है। राजस्थान के लगभग 34,000 गांवों में से 24,000 गांवों में पीने के पानी की कमी है। 11,000 गांवों में पीने योग्य पानी ही नहीं है। वहां खारा पानी है, जहरीला अथवा अस्वास्थ्यकर पानी है। लाखों पशु जहरीला पानी पी कर प्रतिवर्ष मर जाते हैं और अस्वास्थ्यकर पानी पीने से अनेक क्षेत्रों में कुबड़ापन आदि असाध्य रोगों से हजारों लोग पीड़ित हैं। पानी के अभाव से पीड़ित इन गांवों के लोग पांच से दस मील की दूरी से प्रतिदिन ऊंटों पर पीने के लिए पानी लाते हैं अथवा गांवों को खाली करके पानी वाले स्थानों पर चले जाते हैं।

केन्द्रीय सरकार की सहायता से राज्य सरकार द्वारा निर्मित ग्राम जल