

information, profitability of foreign banks is due to not only the use of computers but also due to the fact that they have no social responsibility. Moreover, a lot of rules have been relaxed in their favour and as a result of this, their grip on the Indian economy is growing out of proportion to the number of such bank branches in the country. I would like to know from the Minister as to whether his Government is to take steps to ensure that this country's economy does not get into the stranglehold of the foreign banks which they seem to be in danger of doing.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: The hon. Member has missed the tree for the wood. I did not say that computerisation is the sole element and factor for profitability of the banking system. I fully agree with her that as compared to the Indian banking system, especially after nationalisation, our social burden and responsibilities are more and they have less burden. Secondly, we have to look after a number of welfare activities also. No small scale sector goes to the foreign banks to ask for credit loans on concession. Now, these are the facilities. I said that technologically they are advanced and technologically we are backward. That is the limited point that I wish to point out. I am sorry if the House, along with her, has carried the impression that it is my point of view that irrespective of other factors, profitability is only due to computerisation. It is not so. I fully agree with her. There is no need to reply.

Regarding the second part of the question, I fully agree with her and we will try to create conditions just as there was nationalisation of banks at one state. As far as other banks are concerned, there were certain social controls. We will accept the suggestion and try to devise a social control by which even the foreign banks which operate here will have to see that they do not encroach upon our authority and freedom.

MR. SPEAKER: Q. 67; Q. 66 has been postponed.

Simplification of Procedural Formalities in Exports

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*67. **SHRI SHANTILAL PURUSHOTTAM DAS PATEL:**
SHRI DHARMESH PRASAD VARMA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to simplify the procedural formalities involved in exports;

(b) if so, the main changes contemplated in this regard; and

(c) to what extent these changes would help in improving the exports?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND TOURISM (SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU): (a) to (c). A Statement is given below.

STATEMENT

Government regard the Simplification of procedural formalities as an important fact of improving the export environment. In this connection some of the procedural changes currently under consideration of the Government include:-

- (1) Simplification and Standardization of export related documents;
- (2) Rationalising the requirement relating to Bank Guarantee against export of ceiling items;
- (3) Delegation of adequate powers to the Regional Licensing Authorities; and
- (4) Reducing the burden of discretionary licensing controls on exporters.

It is expected that the proposed changes will help exporters to fulfill various require-

ments more speedily and efficiently.

[*Translation*]

SHRI SHANTILAL PURUSHOTTAM DAS PATEL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, regarding the four changes mentioned by the hon. Minister I would like to know whether some more suggestions were received from the exporters? If so, what action has been taken thereon?

Secondly I would like to know whether there is any time schedule for clearing the applications of the exporters or not? There is large scale corruption in these offices. All the objections are not raised on the applications together, but one after one. All the exporters are considered dishonest which is not a good attitude. Therefore, there should be a time schedule for the clearance of applications. I would like to know as to what Government is going to do in this regard?

[*English*]

SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU: As far as the procedural changes are concerned, we have had discussions with many individual exporters. In fact, we have taken the opinion of 7-8 major exporters of most of the commodities which are being exported from India. We have taken it in writing and have held discussion with them. There are many official bodies with whom we have discussed and the new procedures which we are thinking of incorporating are based on the discussions with the various export Houses. In fact, we are going to have the new export-import policy and we will be laying it on the Table of the House on the 30th. Most of the suggestions received will be incorporated in this policy.

The Ministry of Commerce is basically to assist the exporters. If the hon. Member has got any specific case, where there has been delay, he can refer it to me and I will give the reply.

As far as time schedule is concerned, there are many stages in export. When we

are talking of simplification of procedures, that covers licensing period, various other activities etc. If the hon. Member can tell me something specifically, then I can look into it.

SHRI DHARMESH PRASAD VARMA: Presumably, the procedural simplification is for purposes of increasing exports, but more important than this procedural matters is the availability of infrastructural support. Will the hon. Member kindly let us know as to what he is doing to make available more cargo space in ships and planes as well as the steps he proposes to take to ensure decongestion of ports for quick and timely exports.

SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU: The question which the hon. Member has asked has very little to do with the export formalities but I do not mind answering it. In the current year, we have approximately 40 per cent growth of exports and in the coming financial year, we are planning to have 40 per cent growth of export in value terms. Along with this, we will be taking certain measures. One would be simplification of the procedure to make it much easier for the exporters to export goods and the other is to increase our infrastructural facilities. We have had detailed discussions with the Ministry of Shipping and Transport and the Ministry of Civil Aviation and we are taking all necessary assistance of both these Ministries to do whatever is possible to take care of these problems.

As far as air cargo is concerned, a lot of rationalization has already taken place. There was a big backlog at the Delhi airport which has been sorted out. We are also looking at the cash compensatory support rates both for shipping and airways to sort this problem out which is existing at the moment.

DR. BIPLAB DASGUPTA: I find that the share of India in world exports is declining very steeply over the last 40 years. Despite the size of the country, India accounts for only 0.5% of the total world trade. Even very small countries like Singapore have a total amount of exports double that of India. Even a dot on the map of the world, like Hong Kong

has exports which are four times the total exports of India.

In view of this, is the Government of India proposing to review in its totality, the whole question of export promotion, because the share of India in world exports is a matter of shame. (*Interruptions*) Jewels constitute the single biggest item of export. polished and manufactured, and sent to other countries. May I ask the Minister to let me know whether the Government is proposing to review the whole issue, and come out with certain concrete measures for rectifying the situation?

SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU: This, again, does not really refer to procedural changes mentioned in the question. First of all, the share of India in the world market is not 0.5%; it is 0.6%. I thought I would correct him on that. In the current year, we would be doing nearly Rs. 29,000 crores of exports.

He was referring to the fact that diamond exports constitute only about Rs. 4000 or Rs. 5000 crores, which is not a large proportion. In fact, if you look at the exporting pattern, in the past year we have done extremely well. We have done well in the engineering sector, in chemicals, textiles and leather. The exporting effort has been reasonably good.

The new policy which we are taking up, is about the simplification of procedure; and we are having a re-think on the whole concept of exports. It is a supplementary effort. We are planning a 40% growth: from Rs. 28,000 crores to go up to Rs. 39,000 crores. It is a very steep jump. I don't think we should be misled by statistics. To give you a small example, the hon. Member mentioned about Taiwan and Singapore. We have procedural problems. To give you an instance, in the matter of deep sea fishing, we do an export of *tuna* worth about Rs. 400 crores to Rs. 500 Crores Taiwan and Thailand do about Rs. 2,000 crores. Most of the *tuna* fish in India die of old age. They are not bought, because they have about 100 diseases. (*Interruptions*) These are things which we are looking

into; and once we look into them, then the export will go up, if we simplify and rationalize the procedures. But basically, the export effort has been good. Our Indian exporters have done extremely well, and we are going to assist them, to supplement their effort further.

PROF. K.V. THOMAS: I welcome the sincere efforts made by the hon. Minister to simplify the present cumbersome export procedures. In this connection, I would like to bring to the attention of the hon. Minister the sad state of affairs in the export processing zones, which were started with an attempt to increase exports. In the export processing zones, the export procedures are worse than outside. Will attempts be made to start a single window system at least in the export processing zones?

SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU: Yes, sir; we are looking into the suggestions which the hon. Member has made.

[*Translation*]

SHRI HARIN PATHAK: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it has been stated that for the formulation of a new export-import policy views of 7-8 major exporters were taken. Exporters are in the cooperative sector also in our country and with a view to boost their export, they should also be consulted. I would like to know whether the opinion of cooperative sector will also be taken so that their suggestions could also be included in the new export-import policy to be announced on 30th of this month?

[*English*]

SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU: Discussions have been held with every one. There are many cooperative societies which are exporting; and the cooperative societies are also exporting through trading houses; I mean there are many cooperative societies who do not export directly; they export through trading houses. So, we have consulted them. If any hon. member or any cooperative society or any organisation has got any sugges-

tion to give, we would welcome it.

[*Translation*]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, regarding the simplification of the procedure I would like to say that a mafia group has been working in the name of simplification of procedure and taking undue advantage and depositing money in foreign Banks. Is the hon. Minister aware of it? What action has been taken against the Mafia group who was involved in such malpractices, particularly in the export of basmati rice? Have they been black-listed? Is it a fact that the persons who were involved in the bungling have been again awarded the contract for export of basmati rice?

[*English*]

SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU: The members would be happy to know that in the new procedure that we are taking out, we are also tightening the procedure for inspection. If the hon. member give us any complaint in writing with suitable facts, we can investigate it. (*Interruptions*) Incidentally, basmati rice was exported in the previous year to the USSR; this year, the USSR is not buying basmati rice; basmati rice is going to the Gulf Countries. If he wants any details, he can ask for them. We will give those details to the hon. member.

[*Translation*]

Telecasting of Songs of different States in Chitramala

*68. **SHRI NATHU SINGH:** Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria for selection of songs for inclusion in 'Chitramala' programme being telecast on Doordarshan;

(b) whether the songs of all the states are included in this programme;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the number of times Rajasthani folk songs were included in 'Chitramala' during the last one year?

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMED KHAN): (a) to (d). The songs for inclusion in the 'Chitramala' programme are selected on the basis of their aesthetic and entertainment value, technical quality of sound and picture and professional standard. Songs are not selected State-wise but from feature films in languages which are recognised in the Constitution of India.

[*Translation*]

SHRI NATHU SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the aesthetic value of a song depends on its sound and music. I would like to know whether the Rajasthani songs are in any way inferior to the songs of other languages? Now efforts are being made to include Rajasthani songs in Hindi feature films with a view to make them more popular. Many Rajasthani films are being produced.....

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: Please sing a Rajasthani song.

SHRI NATHU SINGH: Rajasthani films are popular in Calcutta, Madras, Bombay and Rajasthani. Is there any provision in the constitution or any other law or any administrative order which restricts the inclusion of Rajasthani songs in Chitramala?

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to inform the hon. Member that there is certainly no restriction on telecasting Rajasthani songs. I have stated in my reply that songs are selected from feature films in languages which are included in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution. I have given this reply because the hon. Member had particularly asked about the songs of Chitramala. Besides Chitramala, Rajasthani songs are shown in other programmes also and Rajasthani films are telecast by the Doordarshan. Last year two Rajasthani films 'Gangaur' and 'Nanad-Bharjai' were shown on Doordarshan. I agree with the hon. Member that Rajasthani songs are certainly sweet and melodious.

MR. SPEAKER: Question hour is over.