

discussion on the D.A. Commission's report. We should have at least two hours for this next week.

Mr. Speaker: He can write to me. If he wants, we can stop the Budget and take that up (Interruptions).

Shri S. M. Banerjee: We are prepared to sit on Saturdays.

Mr. Speaker: I am not prepared.

Shri Sheo Narain (Basti) On a point of order.

If any member absents himself from the House when the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs announces the business for the next week, he should not unnecessarily raise that point later

Mr. Speaker: He is right.

श्री एस० एम० जोशी कल हम लोगों ने मवाल पूछे थे कि जो मजदूरों की सम्हाये हैं उन को बुलाया जाय, लेकिन इन्होंने नहीं कह दिया। इन लोगों के फैसला करने के पहले कम से कम हाउस को मौका मिलना चाहिये कि उन की बात को ये लोग सुनें।

Mr. Speaker: That is what he said:

Shri Nath Pai (Rajapur): You put me a query which indicated that you were in sympathy with my demand. You asked me whether I would like to have a discussion before Government takes a decision or following the decision, and I did suggest to you that the discussion should precede, so that the Finance Minister may have the benefit of the views of this House. I do not know why a discussion is being avoided. Mr. Morarji Desai says that he is not afraid of any discussion. Let us have a free discussion on this very vital subject.

The Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance (Shri Morarji Desai): There is no question of my being afraid of any discussion. The only difficulty is that the discussion

can take place—I have no objection to it—but I would not be able to say anything until the Government takes a decision. I can go on hearing but I would not be able to intervene.

Shri S. M. Joshi (Poona): That is all right.

Mr. Speaker: The point is that they want to put forward their views, so that when the Government takes a decision, their views can also be taken into account.

Shri Morarji Desai: Why should I have any objection? They are utilizing their own time from the budget. I have no objection.

12.35 hrs.

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS—contd

MINISTRY OF COMMERCE—contd

Mr. Speaker: Now let us proceed with the further discussion on the Demands for Grants under the control of the Ministry of Commerce. Two hours are there. The Minister will begin at about 2.30 or 2.35 and finish by 3.30 when we can take up the Private Members' business.

Shri P. K. Deo (Kalahandi): When are the Demands for Grants relating to the Home Ministry coming up?

Mr. Speaker: Today is Friday, and we are having non-official business also. So, they may not come up today.

श्री कंवर लाल गुप्ता (दिल्ली सदर)
 अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं आप से एक चीज के बारे में प्रार्थना करना चाहूंगा कि मिनिस्टर फॉर पार्लियामेंट्री अफेयर्स होम मिनिस्टर साहब से प्रार्थना करे कि कल दिल्ली के सैन्ट्रल जेल में जो झगडा हुआ है और 100 घातवी जखमी हुए हैं . . .

Mr. Speaker: I know that. Today, we have set up a bad precedent. Hon. Members have started talking about things without notice and they are again going back to the old methods.

श्री कंबर लाल गुप्ता : अध्यक्ष महोदय, सात घायमी तो बहुत सीरियसली जखमी हुए हैं . . .

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member gave a calling-attention-notice. He had also sent me a chit after coming to the House. I requested him to table a short notice question. If everybody begins like this and starts speaking on any subject he likes, then where will it lead us?

श्री कंबर लाल गुप्ता : शार्ट नोटिस क्वेश्चन तां मिनिस्टर माहब .

Mr. Speaker: I am not prepared to discuss with the hon. Member now. It is a wrong procedure.

श्री कंबर लाल गुप्ता अध्यक्ष महोदय, यह बहुत गम्भीर बिषय है . . .

Shri Hem Barua (Mangaldai): Since you do not have any authority in regard to short notice questions, it is better not to ask the Members to submit short notice questions but instead you should ask them to table calling-attention-notice.

Mr. Speaker: Instead of a calling-attention notice, the hon. Minister may accept a short notice question.

Shri Kanwar Lal Gupta: That is within his discretion. You cannot force him to accept it nor can the Members force him to accept it.

Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha (Barh): You must intervene a little bit in this matter because invariably we find that short notice questions are rejected and we do not find any other avenue open to us. So, some more intervention by you is required in this matter because short notice questions are invariably rejected.

Mr. Speaker: We are not discussing that subject now. The subject before us is not how to coerce Ministers to accept short notice questions. We

shall discuss that subject some other day. Just now, the subject before the House is the Demands for Grants relating the Commerce Ministry.

Now, Shri N. K. Sozani.

श्री कंबर लाल गुप्ता : अध्यक्ष महोदय, दिक्कत यह है कि हम काल एटेंशन नोटिस भेजते हैं तो उस को प्राप मंजूर नहीं करते, हमें कह देते हैं कि शार्ट नोटिस क्वेश्चन भेजी, शार्ट नोटिस का जबाब मिनिस्टर माहब नहीं भेजते, आखिर हमें कोई रास्ता तो बताइये, हम किम तरह से अपनी क्वेश्चन प्रापके सामने रखें ।

Shri N. K. Sozani (Nagpur): Seniors are getting chance, juniors also must have a chance.

श्री एस० एम० जोशी (पूना) : अध्यक्ष महोदय, अगर मिनिस्टर शार्ट नोटिस क्वेश्चन को एडमिट नहीं करते हैं, तो प्रापको काल-एटेंशन नोटिस के नियम मौका देना चाहिये ।

Mr. Speaker: How can we discuss it today?

श्री एस० एम० जोशी जैम पूना कारपोरेशन में करगन का मुद्दा है उस का काल-एटेंशन का नोटिस दिया है अगर अगर प्राप उस को एडमिट कर दें तो जवाब देने के नियम मजबूर हो जायेंगे ।

Mr. Speaker: We shall discuss it in the Rules Committee. This is not the forum for it.

श्री एस० एम० जोशी : क्लर कमेटी में डिस्कस करेंगे, वह तो ठीक है, लेकिन मिनिस्टर को शार्ट नोटिस क्वेश्चन को एडमिट करने के नियम कह तो सकते हैं ।

Mr. Speaker: After all, I cannot force the hon. Minister. We shall discuss it in the Rules Committee. The hon. Member can discuss it in the Rules Committee and see whether he can tighten the rules or do something else.

Now, Shri N. K. Somani.

lutely within your discretion and you have to intervene.

Shri N. K. Somani: Mr. Speaker, Sir...

Shri Kanwar Lal Gupta: We seek your protection in this matter.

Shri Nath Pai (Rajapur): On this, may I make one submission? ...

Mr. Speaker: All right. But this is not the way to raise it.

Mr. Speaker: Yes, Shri Nath Pai. What does he want to say?

Shri N. K. Somani: Am I to speak or is Shri Nath Pai to speak?

Shri Nath Pai: Of course, the Chair had called me.

Shri Chintamani Panigrahi (Bhubaneswar): I had also tabled a calling-attention-notice, but I have not been allowed to raise it. ...

An hon. Member: What is happening in the House, Sir?

Mr. Speaker: I do not myself know what is happening.

Shri Nath Pai: You will know it if you look at us.

When you replied to Shri S. M. Joshi, you said that this matter could be discussed in the Rules Committee. But I would submit that this matter does not come within the purview of the Rules Committee, because it is absolutely covered by the rules as they stand and we do not have to amend the rules, either with respect to calling-attention-notice or with respect to short notice questions.

The matter raised by us related to an affair in the Poona corporation. We had raised it earlier and the CBI was seized of it. We have not been allowed to raise it here now. Where is the question of Rules Committee in this matter? We are being stonewalled by the Ministry again and again. It comes within the purview of the Home Ministry and the Finance Ministry. They are not allowing it to be raised in this House. This is abso-

धी कंवर लाल गुप्ता : हम कैसे रोज करे, आप हमें गाइड करें ।

Mr. Speaker: This is not the way to raise these things. This is the mistake that we are committing. If every day this is going to happen and any Member can get up and raise any matter, I do not know where it will lead us.

Shri Nath Pai: In the Poona corporation default is not taking place every day.

Mr. Speaker: If hon. Members begin like this, then they are going back to the same old methods—namely that anybody can get up and start speaking on any subject, and no agenda will then be necessary, no rules will be necessary or no rules need be followed, and thereby we shall be going back to confusion. If people who do not know the rules do it I could understand, but when senior Members do it, I do not know what to do.

Now, Shri N. K. Somani may begin his speech.

Shri N. K. Somani: Mr. Speaker, essentially to my mind, this Ministry is assigned two functions. One is that of professional marketing and the other is that a certain number of industries has been assigned to it—I do not know why.

As far as its marketing functions are concerned, I would like to review in the light of data available to us how it is functioning so far. I would ask the hon. Minister whether the normal market research functions have been undertaken by the two-

[Shri N. K. Somani]

corporations, the STC and MMTC. I would like to know whether they have assessed for the next ten years the demand forecast by various industries and consumers in India, both in respect of the supplies that would be available and the quantum of these commodities that would be required in the country. This, I think, is an essential feature of any marketing operation. Has the Ministry paid any attention to it?

12.42 hrs.

[MR DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair]

The STC and MMTC import essential raw materials and goods like fertilisers, newsprint, sulphur, copper and several other things on a monopoly basis. From reports we have obtained the profits made by STC in the matter of its operation is on an average 39 per cent of the capital employed.

Now I fail to understand, since most of the goods which are handled by the STC and MMTC are essential goods what is the justification for this high profit being made by STC. Is there any corporation in the world, of this extent and scope of activity indulging on a monopoly basis in import of items of industrial raw materials like fertilisers, newsprint, drugs, pharmaceuticals and several things, things of daily common necessity in India, which is reaping a profit of 39 per cent return on capital employed? If anybody in the private sector were indulging in this fashion or were allowed to do so, I think this House would be shouting against it. Therefore, I would like to ask why we are doing it in the case of STC.

The second essential aspect of marketing, I hope the Commerce Minister knows, is the development of stable and long-term cordial relationship with suppliers all over the world, both in the free world as well as in the communist world. Indeed the episode concerning sulphur supplies has been repeated on the floor of the House more than once, and I do not want to

go into the intricacies of this. The reputation of STC, I am sorry to say, is so bad in America and Mexico that the world's leading suppliers are not even prepared to talk turkey, to talk terms, with STC. The Ministry of Commerce is the machinery we have for the development of cordial and stable businesslike relationship with leading suppliers of these things.

I also understand that copper was imported by MMTC before devaluation at pre-devaluation prices and now the unsold stocks are being thrust upon unwilling consumers in industry at post-devaluation prices information about which I have been seeking from the Commerce Ministry for the past few weeks but which has not been forthcoming. I would like an answer to this question, and I hope the Commerce Minister does better than his colleague, the Defence Minister, in vouchsafing to the House correct and complete information in regard to the trade in these commodities imported by STC and MMTC. I would like the House to be given a complete list of such commodities which were imported before devaluation and which are currently on sale on a sole monopoly basis in this country at post-devaluation prices. Why is this being done?

I have already dealt with the matter of market trends and market demand forecast. Now on the question of import entitlement, there are so many fluctuations in the international market that I do not think a yearly or two-yearly policy of entitlements would either be adequate or up-to-date. Fluctuations, for instance, in the matter of prices of mercury, copper, fertiliser etc. are such that our import policy concerning these commodities will have to vary from time to time. The export incentives allowed to the textile, the jute, tea and coffee industries and other industries that fall within his purview will have to be such that our industries both in the public and the private sectors should be able to export in the world market in competition with

others. There is absolutely no relevance for a policy which is given in the first week of April to continue for 12 months irrespective of what is happening. I do not know what commercial intelligence we obtain because this is a matter where we will have to be fed on a day-to-day basis. This is a matter where we will have to be fed properly and therefore we will have to develop our channels and our commercial intelligence on a very scientific and rational basis to be able to step up our exports which unfortunately have been falling in the last few months.

Coming to the industrial sector I should say that the textile industry has been the biggest victim of the policies of the Government of India over the past few years. Eighty per cent of the textile costs on an average are due to labour charges and cotton charges. Labour is a matter over which the Government of India has some control in the matter of cost of living and administration of its policies. It has been mentioned several times that the wages of the textile workers should be related to the national average and wages earned by all the other workers in India and they should be related to productivity. I do not know what is the basis of treatment of all the textile mills in India at par. Some of them are export-oriented and therefore should be given a red-carpet treatment. Some of them are marginal units and they should be given the best and timely help. Others are such units, whether they are in the private sector or taken over by the proposed sick corporation, should be scrapped and the sooner it is done the better. I also understand that the cotton imports are to be done by the STC on a monopoly basis. This is a grave development to which the hon. Minister himself must apply his mind sincerely and objectively. Cotton import is a highly technical subject. The requirements of cotton vary not only in terms of staple in length and quality but in several other aspects.

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STC would not be able to do this job, even if it has a monopoly. Asking it to do this job entirely will not be in the interest of the textile industry.

I am concluding, Sir. The entire operations in the rupee payment area either in imports or exports have been causing a great deal of anxiety to this country. There have been allegations that whatever exports we make to these countries find their way to other European markets and these countries have been making fat profits at the expense of our foreign exchange earning capabilities. I have also heard that we receive such junk as imports from these East European countries that the equipment is lying in the factory yards or in STC warehouses. A parliamentary committee should go into the entire aspect of the extent and scope of the operations in these countries to determine whether it is to our country's benefit.

My last point is about tea. Our tea exports are going down and a country like Ceylon with imagination and determination has beaten us. We should definitely take a lesson from this. One of the reasons why our tea exports have been falling is that we do not have adequate marketing facilities in England and we are too much at the mercy of the British interests, probably, monopolists who import tea from our country in bulk and make their blending operations in London and sell them throughout the U.K. and other European markets under their own brand name at fat profits. The Government with the assistance of the Tea Board should take a lesson from the Ceylon Government and take timely action so that we could have our independent marketing agencies as far as tea is concerned.

बी ७० को० सेन (पुर्ववा) : उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, हमारे यहाँ बिहार में चाय स्थिति बड़ी संकटजनक है, और बाह्य और पर फीदीज और स्कीमिटी की स्थिति में, जिस का पिछले दिनों बहुत से लोगों ने चिन्त किया,

[श्री फ० गो० सेन]

यह पोजिशन है। जो भी षोड़ासा जूट एरिया बिहार का है उस में जो जूट होता है उस में भी जूट के ट्रेडर्स जंगली पाट बगैरह निकाल कर उस के भाव को गिरा देते हैं और जान बूझ कर मिल वाले और दूसरे लोग कहने लगते हैं कि जूट की शार्टेज है। यह सब एक तमाशा सा बना रक्खा गया है। इस शार्टेज को दिखला कर बाहर से काफी जूट आज मंगाया जा रहा है। मिल वाले भी कहने लगते हैं कि जूट की कमी है और उनको इम्पोर्ट करने की इजाजत दी जाये। जो जूट "कानिकल" निकलता है, उस के मार्च-अप्रैल के इन्चू में शार्टेज आफ जूट के बारे में इंडियन जूट मिल्स एसोसिएशन की तरफ से बहुत सी बार्ते कही गई हैं। वह लोग कहते हैं कि हमारे यहाँ जूट की शार्टेज है और हम को उस को इम्पोर्ट करने का लाइसेंस दिया जाये। उन को और भी मजा दिया गया है यानी मन्सिडी दी गई है। इस वक्त हालत यह है कि जूट की लोकल मार्केट प्राहिस्ता प्राहिस्ता गिरती जा रही है। बिहार जूट प्रोडर्स एसोसिएशन और ट्रेडर्स एसोसिएशन की एक मीटिंग अप्रैल में हुई थी इम्पोर्ट आफ रज जूट के बारे में। उन में कार्डीनेट के बारे में जो वक्तव्य दिया गया है उस को मैं आप के सामने रखना चाहता हूँ :

"The members of the Executive Committee of Bihar Jute Growers' and Traders' Association at a meeting on 9th April, 1967, held at Gulobbagh expressed great concern over Government's liberal permission to the jute mills for import of raw jute from Thailand which has very badly affected the economy of the cultivators. Members cited that nearly 4-5 years back Assam bottom raw jute was sold at Rs. 4-5 per maund higher than the jungle bottom jute of Bihar but since two years due to heavy imports of raw jute from Thailand by the mills, the Bihar Jungle jute is being sold at Rs. 15 per maund lesser than the

Assam Jute. It should be noted that the major portion of Bihar raw jute is of jungle quality. It is estimated that over 20 lakh maunds of raw jute is still lying in stock with the marchants and cultivators in Bihar today. Due to the lack of purchasers the price of jungle raw jute has gone down to Rs. 20 to Rs. 25 per maund affecting the cultivators very seriously. It is surprising that while enough raw jute is available in the country, the millwallas are importing Thailand jute and are intended to consume the foreign jute only to compel the cultivators and traders to bring the prices of Bihar raw jute even lesser. The Union Government is adding fuel to the fire by granting the mills a subsidy of Rs 9 per maund approximately on the imported raw jute."

इस से मालूम पड़ता है कि हम लोगों की इस समय क्या हालत है। आज भी बिहार में स्थिति संकटजनक है तब भी काश्तकार के माल की जंगली ग्रेड का बना दिया जाना है। चूँकि पानी की कमी है उस की वजह से अगर कुछ खराब ज्यादा माल आता भी है तो उस की यह लोग ब्रेडिंग कर देते हैं। जंगली पाट का नाम दे देते हैं।

एक माननीय सख्तव : यह जंगली कौसे हो गया ?

श्री फ० गो० सेन : हम लोग हैं ही जंगली। बैकवर्ड एरिया के हैं। अब की भी यह कहा जा रहा है कि अगले साल जूट की कमी होगी। श्री धार० एन० बगुर, रिटायर्ड चैम्बरमैन आफ दि इंडियन जूट मिल्स एसोसिएशन यह कहते हैं कि शार्टेज आफ जूट है और कार्डीनेट से उस को मंगाने की परमिशन दी जाये। इंडियन प्रोडर्स जो 1966 में हुआ था कहने है कि इस साल उस से भी कम हुआ या उस के समान हुआ। कार्डीनेट से जो जूट फाइबर इम्पोर्ट हुआ है वह 1.38 मिलियन

बेल्स धाया है और करीब 37 मिलियन रुपये का कारेन एम्प्लेन्स उस में लगाया गया। हमारे ट्रेडर्स कहते हैं कि उन लोगों के पास इस वक़्त 20 लाख बेल्स जूट बच रहा है, इस दरमियान में ख़त्म हो चुका है। कल के "स्टेटसमेंट" में रा जूट के बारे में जो निकसा है उस को ध्याप देखिये :

"The price of raw jute has also risen in Calcutta during the past week. The increase in the price of jute goods has been the most influencing factor. The former system of a mill buying on the basis of quotas issued by the Jute Commissioner has been suspended."

यह सत्येड क्यों हो गया ? दूसरी बात मुनिये :

"The Mills have also been asked not to buy raw jute as a group."

ध्र ध्याप देखिये कि जो रा जूट परचेज होता था उस में ध्र ध्रुप सिस्टम ध्रा गया। ट्रेडर्स चाहते हैं कि भाकट हार्ड न हो, कल्टिवेटर्स को पैसा ज्यादा न मिले। इसलिये वह ध्रुप बना कर खरीद करते हैं और जिस भाव पर चाहते हैं उस पर लेते हैं ताकि उस का भाव न बढ़ने पाये। कह दिया जाता है कि यह लो ग्रेड पाट है। ध्राखिर पाट होता क्या है ? जूट की ग्रेडिंग कर दी जाती है और लो ग्रेड पाट के नाम से उस को सस्ते दर पर ट्रेडर्स से लेते हैं और ध्राखिर में मिल जाने उस को इस्तेमाल करते हैं। उसी जूट से हर तरह की चीजें बनती हैं। कोई हेसियन बनाता है, कोई सैकिंग बनाता है या दूसरी चीज बनाता है। इम्पोर्टेड जूट के बारे में कह दिया जाता है कि उस से नुक्सान नहीं होता है। क्यों नहीं होता है ?

The initial expenditure of foreign exchange on imported jute was more than justified because jute doubled itself in value when exported as jute manufactures".

ध्र ध्याप जूट को बाहर से मंगा कर देते हैं और उस की बेल्यू डबल हो जाय तो घर का जो जूट है उस की बेल्यू भी डबल हो जाती होगी। लेकिन उस से कल्टिवेटर को क्या मिला ? कल्टिवेटर को 20 या 25 रुपया मिलता एक मन में।

हमारे यहां ध्रव हालत यह है कि जूट प्रोडिंग एरिया में ध्रनाज का भाव बढ़ गया है। पैडी का रेगियो जूट के साथ चलता है। जब जूट का दाम ज्यादा हो जाता है तो लोग जूट पैदा करते हैं लेकिन जब पैडी का भाव बढ़ जाता है तो लोग पैडी को स्विच ओवर कर जाते हैं। ध्राजकल लोग 50 ६० मन पैडी खरीद रहे हैं। चावल का भाव 80 या 90 या 96 ६० तक चल रहा है यानी वह 2 ६० से ले कर 21। ६० किलोग्राम तक बिक रहा है। इस से कम नहीं है। ध्राप इस को समझ सकते हैं कि जब इस तरह से पैडी का भाव बढ़ रहा है तब जूट में हमारे यहां सेल्फ-सफिकिएन्सी कमी होगी ही नहीं। दूसरी तरफ उन के पास पैसा नहीं है। वह ध्राप से पैसा मांगते हैं। मिल वाले रिसर्व बगैरह करने की बात भी कहते हैं और नये नये धंग से हेसियन ध्रादि की बुनाई करते हैं। यह यह भी कहते हैं कि जो ध्रमरीका की डिमान्ड है उस को हम मीट करने की कोशिश कर रहे हैं। इस के बाद कहते हैं कि हमारे पास पैसा नहीं है। मैं पूछता हूँ कि जो पैसा होता है वह क्या हो जाता है। वह कहते हैं कि :

Jute mills are finding difficulty in obtaining finance even for day-to-day working.

बतलाइये, डे-टु-डे बँकिंग के लिये इंडियन जूट मिल्स एसोसिएशन कहता है कि ध्रभी हमारे पास पैसा नहीं है। हर बात में कहता है कि हम को टैक्स रितीफ दे दो, ध्रभी हम को पाकिस्तान से कम्पिटीशन करना है।

एसोसियेशन का कहना है कि टैक्स में रिडक्शन कर दिया जाये और इम्पोर्टेड ड्यूटी को कम कर दिया जाये। यह सज्जन

[श्री क० मो० सेन]

भी दिया गया है कि जूट बढ़िया होना चाहिए, क्वालिटी जूट होना चाहिए। हम यह भी देखते हैं कि गवर्नमेंट ने कलरिंग और स्लीचिंग में इम्प्रूवमेंट के लिए कुछ रुपया दिया है। इस में कहा गया है :

"We have now received permission from Government to set up our fibre conversion and product development project which will give us 6.4 million."

अगर स्लीचिंग करने से हमारे पाट का प्राव बढ़ जाये, तो अच्छा है। अग्न है कि कस्टीबेटर को क्या मिलता है। उन से कम कीमत पर पाट लिया जाता है और उस का दुगना और तिगुना बनाया जाता है। इस ट्रेड में इतना बंगलिया है कि अपने अपने लोग खड़ किये हुए है, जो पाट लेते नहीं है। उन्होंने पाट लेना बन्द कर दिया है।

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The hon Member may continue his speech after lunch.

12 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch till Fourteen of the Clock.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at six minutes past Fourteen of the Clock

[Mr. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair]

उपाध्यक्ष महोदय : श्री कृष्णा गोपाल सेन। आपको पांच मिनट में खत्म करना है।

श्री क० मो० सेन : सभ्री तो मैं पांच मिनट ही बोला हूँ।

उपाध्यक्ष महोदय : नहीं, दस मिनट हो चुके हैं। 5 मिनट में खत्म कर दीजिए।

श्री क० मो० सेन : तो उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, यह पार्लियामेंट जूट की बेल के बारे में यह बहस कर

जुट-बुलेटिन है। गवर्नमेंट पब्लिकेशन है—रीजनल आफिस (जूट डेवलपमेंट) मिनिस्ट्री आफ फूड ऐंड एग्रीकल्चर, गवर्नमेंट आफ इंडिया की। इस में यह कहते हैं।

"The need for ensuring a fair price to jute cultivators and a fair deal to the jute trade has been urged by the Jute Balers' Association. According to a spokesman of the Association, the Government of India has permitted the jute industry to import raw jute at a time when the fibre is available in plenty in the country."

अब देखिए, यह क्या बताते हैं, वह कहते हैं कि हम को और इम्पोर्ट करने दो। अभी की उन की जो मांग है वह 20 लाख बेल्ट की है और यह कहते हैं कि प्लेन्टी है :

"For this, a good deal of the country's precious foreign exchange has been spared by the Government."

It is stated that the authorities have fixed margins on purchases of raw jute by jute mills at prices much below the then ruling prices, making the market conditions favourable to jute mills"

उन पर तुरंत यह सीजिए :

"The raw jute cultivators have thus been denied the benefits of world prices of jute goods"

The trading capacity of jute balers is also reported to be suffering due to delay in the payment of sellers' value bills for raw jute against the terms of the contract."

अब वह लोग कहते हैं कि हमारे पास रुपया नहीं है। डे-टु-डे एक्सचेंजियर में हमारे पास रुपया नहीं है और यहाँ जो जूट मिल का रुपया है वह उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, जा रहा है स्टोन में।

"JUTE MILL TO INVEST IN STEEL MANUFACTURING"

In view of the diversified activities of the company and the prospects of investment, the Board of Birla Jute Manufacturing Company proposes to invest Rs. 30 lakhs in equity shares of Bihar Alloy Steels, a new company incorporated in 1965, it is reported. The shareholders of the Birla Jute Manufacturing Company have recently approved of the proposed investment, it is learnt. The company has been granted an industrial licence for manufacture of alloy steels including ball bearing steels, alloy tool steels and speed steels."

तो यह आप देखिए कि एक तरफ नो रुपया नहीं है और दूसरी तरफ जूट मिल का जो रुपया है वह दूसरी तरफ जा रहा है। इस में खरियत की वान एक हम देख रहे हैं कि बंगाल गवर्नमेंट ने, हमारे ज्योरिात बोस ने भी कहा है, एक कानून पास किया है। वह है क्या कि .

"The West Bengal Assembly passed the Bengal (Sales Tax) and Raw Jute Taxation (Amendment) Bill, 1967 on 30th March, 1967

While moving the Bill, Mr Jyoti Basu, State Finance Minister told that the Government was thinking adopting measures to protect jute growers from the clutches of the middlemen in the jute trade. The Minister said that jute grown in West Bengal had a good demand but the cultivators were exploited due to their poverty.

Mr. Basu also assured the House that problems arising out of force import of Thailand jute would receive necessary consideration of the Government."

इस तरीके से थाईलैंड का जो जूट मंत्राया जा रहा है, यह बिना सोचे-समझे

मंत्राया जा रहा है। अपने देश का जूट जननी पटवा नहीं है, बरबस पटवा गही है, लेकिन उन की तरफ से यह माग की जा रही है कि बढ़िया पटवा कीजिये, बढ़िया पटवा देना है तो उसके लिये साधन मुहिया कीजिये, रुपया मुहिया कीजिये, आज कस्टीबेटर को मिलता क्या है, बीडिंग का खर्च तक ती उसे मिलता नहीं है।

हमारा बिहार जो आज संकट से गुजर रहा है बाने दाबे के लिये मुहताज हो रहा है। ये लोग तो सरकार से रुपया ले रहे है, लेकिन कस्टीबेटर को क्या मिल रहा है, वह बेचारा ती गरीब का गरीब ही रह गया है। आप बढ़िया जूट के लिये कहते हैं, वह पैदा कर सकता है, लेकिन उसके लिये जुगाड़ तो कीजिये

"You can get at least 8 maunds of jute per bigha if you (i) Apply muriate of potash and superphosphate to the soil as you prepare the land; (ii) Use improved seeds; (iii) Sow jute in lines; and (iv) Top-dress the crop with ammonium sulphate or spray the jute leaves with urea solution, four to five weeks after sowing.

For a better income, take an early crop of white jute from your low-lying paddy land.

Leaf fall from jute plants will work as fertiliser and boost the yield of your subsequent paddy crop."

उसको जो आप इतनी बात बताते हैं, वह गरीब किसान कहां से साधे, वह कहां के मुहिया करे।

श्री शिव नारायण (बस्ती) : गवर्नमेंट से मांगो।

श्री क० जी० सेन : वही ती मैं कह रहा हूँ। हमारी जो हासत है वह दिन-दिन बढ़तर हो रही है और मिल वाले फायदा उठा रहे हैं, जो बातें मिल वाले आपके सामने रखते हैं, वह ठीक नहीं है।

[श्री क० गो० सेन]

धन परचेज की हालत को देखिये । एक तरफ तो जूट कमिश्नर है, दूसरी तरफ वे सब लोग हैं, आपके पास कोई मशीनरी नहीं है, बफर-स्टॉक काहिये, कारपोरेशन सब उसके हैं, जूट कमिश्नर तो एक तमाशा है । जूट कमिश्नर ने कहा है कि —

" Mills have also been asked not to buy raw jute as a group."

जूट कमिश्नर कहते हैं कि ग्रुप सिस्टम से न खरीदो, बीकली खरीदो, लेकिन वे जब जितना चाहते हैं, खरीद लेते हैं, चार बीक का एक साथ खरीदते हैं—जैसे उनका मन होता है, बैसे करते हैं

" They are, nevertheless, buying only bare requirements."

इस तरह से कहा आपकी बात रहती है, आपकी मशीनरी कहा है, क्या आप बता सकते हैं ।

हम यह देखते हैं कि हमारे कल्टीवेटर को हमेशा घाटा रहना है । इन लोगों ने तो अपनी एसोसियेशन बना रखी है, जिस में उन को फायदा होना है, उस के मुताबिक करते हैं, लेकिन हम लोगों को उस से कोई फायदा नहीं होता है । सरकार का कहते हैं कि दुनिया भर से कम्पैटिशन हो रहा है, हमारे फाइबर का काम बनना जा रहा है, लेकिन उस काम का बढ़ने का फायदा कल्टीवेटर को नहीं होता है, वह फायदा इन्हीं लोगों का मिलता है ।

हमारी विहार गवर्नमेंट ने एक चीज अपने यहां की थी, इसे हमारी काब्रैट गवर्नमेंट ने भी किया था कि दो रुपया का एक परचेज टैक्स लगाया था । इस के खिलाफ प्रोटेस्ट और टेडर्स की तरफ से रिप्रोजेन्टेशन बर्गरह भी हुआ, लेकिन लागू हुआ नहीं । अब इस टैक्स का भ्रसर भी टेडर्स पर न पड़ कर कल्टीवेटर्स पर पड़ा । मान लीजिये

कि भाव 40 रु० है, इस टैक्स के पड़ने के बाद वह लोग कहने लगे कि हम तो 38 रु० में लेंगे क्योंकि दो रुपया हम को टैक्स देना है । सरकार का उद्देश्य है कि टैक्स परचेजर को पड़े लेकिन वास्तव में वह पड़ता है कल्टीवेटर पर ।

मैं यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि अगर हमारा जूट जंगली है, खराब है, और यहाँ उसका भाव गिरा जा रहा है, कल्टीवेटर को उस का कोई लाभ नहीं हो रहा है, आप उस को बाहर बेजिये । आप मिल को इम्पोर्ट करने के लिये इजाजत दे रहे हैं, तो दीजिये, लेकिन हमारा पटबा भी एक्सपोर्ट कीजिये, उसका एक्सपोर्ट करने के लिये लाइसेंस दीजिये । आप उनके लिये मगाये या कुछ करे, वह जहन्नुम में जाये, लेकिन हमारा पटबा बाहर जाना चाहिये ।

आज प्रेमबाले लोग भूखे मर रहे हैं क्योंकि उन के पास काम नहीं है, उन की पटबा नहीं देते है एक्सपोर्ट होगा तो उनको भी काम मिलेगा । आप चाहे इस काम को एस० टी० सी० का मारफन कांजिय लेकिन उस का जो मुनाफा आपके वह कल्टीवेटर्स को मिले, उस प्रकार की व्यवस्था होनी चाहिये ।

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Mr. Sequeira. He will take only ten minutes.

Shri Sequeira (Goa, Daman and Diu) Not fifteen minutes?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: No, no. He may please try to finish in ten minutes.

Shri Sequeira: Some days ago I remember reading in the papers that the hon. Minister for Commerce was considering a compulsory export scheme I would like to suggest to him a nicer way of increasing exports. Whatever exports are made today, the incentives that are available are in the form of import entitlements or cash and these import entitlements

can be used for such uninteresting things, from the personal angle, as raw materials, components and such like things. I would like to suggest to him, in addition to the cash incentive presently available, giving a personal incentive to the exporters; it may be a very small one, but still it should be a personal incentive. I submit that, once this is done, the exporter himself will discover that he would like to have a car, perhaps a gun, or his wife might want a gown or his secretary might want an electric typewriter and things like that. If this incentive is given in the form of an exchange voucher which can be used freely for the import of any material or for travelling—and if this enables the ladies in this country also to be roped into the export drive, I submit to him that he will find it to be the most effective and the nicest compulsory export scheme that he can devise.

On exports from Goa, we will produce this year 7½ million tonnes of iron ore and every tonne of this will be exported. We are in free competition with the world and as the hon. Minister knows, as far as the purchasing countries are concerned, they are only interested in the c.i.f. price and that is dependent on the freight. Freight again is dependent on the size of the ships and the loading rate. While the world is loading big ships at a very fast rate per hour, we in Goa are loading small ships at a very small rate per day. On commercial considerations, there should have been a fast ore loading facility at Mormugao already nearing completion. But in fact, the project report for this facility is still lying in the desk of the Government. I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister to this, and to warn him that unless we are able to commence, and complete, this facility soon, we run the risk of losing almost the complete export of 7½ million tonnes, and the valuable foreign exchange that comes from it.

Then, on the question of export duties on iron ore, following devalua-

tion these duties were introduced and they were introduced at a flat rate per tonne. The result is that on the lower grades of ore, which have the same cost and are more difficult to sell, the exporters are at a disadvantage, and in regard to higher grade, they sometimes make an excessive profit. Incidentally, it is the STC that exports this higher grade and not private exporters. Several representations have been made by the exporters from Goa. I have no particular brief for these gentlemen; in fact, they all opposed me during my election; but I have read this representation. They asked for a pro rata export duty related to the price. This demand is a reasonable one and I would request the hon. Minister to please look into it and make an early decision because it has been pending for over nine months. Government feel that there are excessive profits in the import trade, and I submit to you that Government themselves have proved this in the STC. According to the last report published, the STC has made a profit of 33.67 per cent on capital employed. If this profit had been made on exports, I would have had no quarrel with it. However, I notice that almost 80 per cent of the business of the STC is in imports, and that also in commodities and materials which they monopolise. I request the hon. Minister to please look into this and examine on which of the import items he could cut down the price and still make a reasonable profit and help the price of the domestic products to come down.

I have just heard that the STC is thinking of taking over, on a monopoly basis, cotton import into this country. The textile industry was a very healthy one. The unqualified doctors in Government with their medication have turned it into an ailing body and in some cases into a sick one. I think the term 'sick mills' could not be more appropriately used. If they now insist, after having weakened the patient, that they should doctor also his food, I submit that they might succeed in killing

[Shri Sequeira]

the patient. The cotton trade is not a straight buying trade, there is a lot of skill involved. I do not believe that the skill is available with Government. I do not believe that they are likely to get it in a hurry. May I suggest to them that they should leave the cotton trade alone and keep their hands off cotton imports?

On the question of tea, we were the biggest exporters in the world at one time. In 1957, we had 45 per cent of total share of export and this has now come down to 34.8 per cent. Ceylon which had 30.2 per cent in 1957 has increased it to 39.2 per cent. Various reasons are attributed to this. One of them, according to the Tea Board itself is that our exports have been affected by increasing buying by those countries that have rupee payment agreements with us. I wish to ask the hon. Minister, why, when we are able to sell tea for free foreign exchange, with which we can buy the best equipment and the best material from wherever we can get it and at the best prices available to us, we should divert these commodities to a rupee payment country, when as a result of that we have to take whatever they can give us, and at whatever prices they quote.

Another question on tea is that we appear to be still tied to the British monopoly on tea, while our little neighbour Ceylon is teaching us a very nice lesson by reducing its dependence on Britain, and going out and developing direct contacts to sell its tea. As an example, our sales to the USA have decreased whereas those of Ceylon have increased. I suggest to the hon. Minister that we should learn from Ceylon and we should get out of British hands on tea exports. We should give preference to exports to free foreign exchange areas, and we should examine the possibility of selling packaged tea from India.

I have just seen the leaflet which Shri Joytirmoy Basu has brought out

in which he has given prices and other information, which shows that the major portion of the profit available on tea exported by us is going into foreign hands. May I now quote from the section on Tea Promotion in the Tea Board's report? The report says:

"The Tea Board is engaged in the uni-national promotion to project the image of Indian tea."

The report also says that:

"It is also engaged in the generic promotion of tea wherever possible in combination with other producing countries and local tea trade."

I would like to recommend to the Minister let the Tea Board discard these high-sounding phrases; let them develop direct sales contacts, not for the State Trading Corporation but for the enterprising private citizens of this country. Let them help to sell not only the image but also the substance, that we call tea.

Shri R. K. Amin (Dhandhuka): I thank you very much for the opportunity given to me to make two observations on the Ministry of Commerce. They emanate from the fact that there are two pre-requisites for the Ministry of Commerce, especially for one who heads the Ministry. They are, one, he should have business acumen and two, he should not act like Hamlet without the Prince of Denmark; he should play Hamlet with also the Prince of Denmark. I find the lack of these two pre-requisites in the Ministry of Commerce.

Sometime ago, when I asked a question about the way they put a hedge or control over forward trading and speculation, the Minister himself was not able to make a distinction between legitimate and illegitimate speculation. Probably he may not also understand what speculation is.

Similarly sometime ago when we met him in connection with the cotton control and requisition scheme in Gujarat which had adversely affected the State, the argument was 'simply because there is a law, we are implementing it'; although the law may not work in a right way, although it may not be in the interest of the cultivator, as well as the industry, yet we are implementing the law. The man with business acumen will not do it. He certainly will not operate it to its letter to the detriment of all concerned, although the spirit of the law must be observed. These considerations are lacking in the Commerce Ministry and that is why probably we are not following the right type of policy.

The experience of the last 15 years has clearly demonstrated that a new type of approach is necessary to all our commercial problems. Take, for instance, our foreign trade. We have the experience of STC. Nationalisation will not do because the State does not know how to manage import and export. We also tried to put physical control *via* quotas and other things and we have seen the results: the quotas are being sold at a premium. The advantage is never to the consumers. The pattern of growth that we are having in the country is quite lopsided. Industries which we do not require grow and develop in our country, e.g. air-conditioning, refrigerators and things like that. Under the import substitution scheme, they all develop in our country, while industries which are very essential to our economy like the chemical industry, the iron and steel industry and other types of industries do not develop. This is simply because of the physical controls which we have been implementing in our country.

The third alternative is to adopt the price mechanism. So far removal of control on cement has convinced you that the production is increasing, at the same time, the distribution is right. So far removal of control on iron and steel has also made people happy because they get the commodity when

they require it. The third step before you now is the removal of control on cotton. The sooner you do it, the better it is. If you maintain it any longer, probably it will not be in the interest of the grower, or in the interest of the traders, nor in the interest of the industry. Soon this lesson has to be learnt. Do not be in the state of to be or not to be; act with courage. Because two things have already convinced you that that is the right course to adopt.

I do not bother about whether export has fallen down in figures or not because our statistics are not the correct ones. Our export is not the total value recorded in our statistics. There is over-invoicing of imports and under-invoicing of exports. Therefore, you do not get the correct statistics. So a fall in exports or rise in exports for a particular year will not give you the correct figures.

Ask yourselves the question: Have we been able to manage with the STC? Have we been able to make it with physical controls? The answer is no. Then the only alternative that remains with you is the market mechanism. That market mechanism is having no control whatsoever and is allowing the rupee to float. Demand and supply will automatically decide which things should be imported and which, exported. But immediately if you plunge into that, probably you will have to face difficulties from the people as well as from outside. You should go step by step. You have taken the step of devaluation. Why not take the step of removing so many export duties and import duties, one by one and that of removing the STC and get it rid of the foreign export trade and the foreign import trade. Because, today you import so many commodities only because they come into your country cheaply and you have the inducement to use even though they are not required. If there is price discipline over it, probably you will import these commodities which you need most. In your export trade, if you follow that

[Shri R. K. Amin]

pattern, it will do you good. My own advice is: Be a Hamlet and take action as the King of Denmark; have courage and whatever your fifteen years of experience had convinced you, do it; you go forward and I am sure success awaits you.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I thought your academic discourse will continue a little longer. The hon. Minister

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Dinesh Singh): Mr. Deputy-Speaker I am most grateful to the hon. Members for the advice and criticism they have offered in connection with the Ministry over which I have the honour to preside. The amount of time that you allotted for this Ministry this year is in itself an indication of the growing importance of this ministry and the recognition of this Ministry as one of the major Ministries of the Government. In fiscal terms it is always easy to measure this Ministry. The total foreign business sometime after Independence was of the order of 1,816 million US dollars. In 1957-58, when this Ministry was separated from the larger Ministry of Commerce and Industry it had gone up to 3,358 million dollars and now this year the foreign trade will be of the order of 4,249 million dollars. This shows the growing business that is being handled by this Ministry. The report that we have submitted this year gives the functions of the Ministry and the organisational set-up. I need not go into it just now. In keeping with the growing importance of this Ministry we have endeavoured to make certain structural changes which we hope will lead to greater efficiency in the functioning of the Ministry. The tasks on which the Ministry is engaged are complex and varied covering a variety of economic activity at home and promotional activity abroad. To deal with this task efficiently, the work in the Ministry has been reorganised. Commodity officers and territorial officers constitute the focal point of this reorganisation. While the former are

responsible for taking feasible steps to secure increased exports of the products in their charge, the responsibility for surveying the prospects, fostering contacts and removing administrative difficulties rests on the territorial officers. Both these officers are served by service directors. These directors try to take care of the quality control, transport facilities, publicity, exhibitions, financial assistance and with securing reduction in import duties and non-tariff barriers. Under the system of performance budgeting which has been adopted recently, specific task and work targets are assigned to different sections in the Ministry and to other organs through which the Ministry functions. This method of work gives both a sense of direction and also provides us a yardstick with reference to which achievements could be measured.

Now, we have in this Ministry a number of public sector corporations. I know my friends on the extreme left of this House are extremely allergic to the public sector. My hon. friend sitting there just now propounded a most astounding theory and I was amazed to hear it. He said do away with controls. I understand that that is his policy. Then he says, do away with all import and export duties. How are we going to run this Government in this country, S.

An Hon. Member: Free trade.

Shri Dinesh Singh: Free trade, but where are we going to lead the free trade—no restriction, no control! Do away with STC and all the public sector enterprise! And then who will come to protect the hon. Member in a gherao? (Interruption) He wants us to sit here and only provide him with less protection in a gherao and leave him free to do what he likes!

An Hon. Member: Looting.

Shri Dinesh Singh: Looting also, as my hon. friend says. This is not

the way that we can function. We have got specific responsibilities, and I would like to say this, in all humility, to the hon. Members opposite, and those who are engaged in production and productive activities in this country; had they followed a policy, a progressive policy, even of capitalism that they talk about, maybe they would not have been in this difficulty today. We have been hearing for the last two days difficulties after difficulties. I know Mr. Pileo Mody is feeling very disturbed, but we have been hearing difficulties after difficulties, about mill closing, mills about to close, cotton textiles, the oldest industry in this country and employing a large number of people which, having lived in complete freedom for a long time, has become sick, and it has become sick because they have moved with the times! As long as there was a foreign government to protect their interests, so long they went along. But all that has changed now. We are living in an entirely new world in this country and ground us, and we have got to keep in tune with that.

Taking about the public sector that we have to deal with under this Ministry, there are six of them—the State Trading Corporation, the Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation, the Export Credit and Guarantee Corporation, Ltd., the Handicraft and Handloom Export Corporation Ltd., the Indian Motion Pictures Corporation, Ltd, and the Metal Scrap Trading Corporation, Ltd. All these corporations save the dual purpose of promoting overseas sales as well as giving a new direction to it, by developing new items and diversifying the existing pattern of trade. Had the private industry by itself gone into this diversification, maybe we would have suffered less losses in these public sector corporations. The hon. Members have taken keen interest in the working of these corporations and have made some very useful suggestions which we shall certainly bear in mind. But, as I pointed out, there are certain fundamental differences;

they do not like the public sector corporations; they are allergic to public sector corporations. We are rather fond of them, and we want to encourage them so that they would grow more and more to give more direct benefit to the people in this country.

Shri Pileo Mody (Godhra): May I make a correction? We are not against public sector enterprises. We are against public sector enterprises when they make losses and cost the country a lot of money. There is no allergy on our side. I think the allergy is on the other side. (Interruption)

Dr. Ramen Sen (Barasat): If the Swatantra party wants the public sector, it means that it wants the public sector to serve the private sector.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: May I tell the hon. Members that if they want some clarification on certain points, time permitting, certainly I would allow them. But now, at least do not disturb him. Let him continue.

Shri Dinesh Singh: I am grateful to the hon member for the clarification he has sought to offer. With his cooperation, I hope we shall be able to develop even more the public sector industries and public sector corporations . . .

Shri Pileo Mody: Profitably That is the main thing.

Shri Dinesh Singh: Yes, very profitably I look forward to his cooperation. Even profit was being objected to by some hon member from his side; he said it should not make a profit.

Sir, let us take the State Trading Corporation, about which there has been so much talk in this House. It started 11 years ago. In the first year, 1956-57, the trade was to the tune of Rs. 91.9 million, yielding a gross income of Rs 11 million and a net profit of Rs. 3.3 million. In comparison, the last balance sheet for 1965-67 shows a trade of Rs. 1519.9 million yielding a gross income of Rs. 616 million and a net profit of Rs. 16

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million. In these 11 years, the total trade of the STC has been of the order of Rs. 10079.5 million adding to the public exchequer in the form of taxation alone Rs. 198.1 million, yielding a total profit of Rs. 145.3 million. If we take the percentage of gross profits to direct trade for 11 years that the STC has been in existence, it has varied from 3.8 to 10.4 per cent, giving an average of 6.6 per cent. This, my hon. friend will appreciate, is not exorbitant. The House will appreciate that this is not a mean return. At the same time, the STC has not been indulging in anything which may be called profiteering. I do not know what is the experience of some hon members opposite, who have some experience of this trade. I think the profit performance of STC would compare favourably with any of the import-export houses they may be running. This is the performance of one of the public sector corporations under us, which has come in for quite a lot of discussion in this House. So I thought I should give some details about it.

One of the most important more responsibilities of this ministry, about which I am sure the House is deeply concerned, is the promotion of export. Unfortunately, from the very beginning, our balance of trade has been in a very favourable position. We have at different periods of time made many efforts to make adjustments and tried to bridge this gap. That has not been possible. I would say once again without meaning any disrespect or hurling any charges, let us look at this foreign trade. What does it mean? It means that we need for our use, for our industrial development and economic growth, a lot of things which we do not manufacture here. So, we import them. But how are they to be paid for? People should not forget that all those imports, for which Government may have temporarily got some credit from foreign countries, have got to be paid for by the goods which

industries in this country will manufacture. Unless they realise this serious obligation on them to manufacture and sell abroad at least upto the requirements of their imports, it will always lead to an imbalance in our economy and will eventually drive us down to a position where either we have to stop imports because we cannot get further facilities or we become constantly under the economic domination of one country or a group of countries. The choice is for hon. members to see.

As I said, I have not made it a secret to accept that devaluation has, especially in its early days, affected our exports. I have given figures in this House to show that we have suffered a shortfall in the export trade to the tune of Rs. 134.6 million dollars, when we compare the export figures of 1965-66 with those of 1966-67. I would not say all this shortfall has resulted directly from the change in the par value of the rupee. There have been even more fundamental factors at work. Two successive droughts reduced our agricultural production and seriously affected our trade based on agricultural commodities. It also fosters to import larger amounts of raw materials required for our own industries. Rise in prices of essential commodities of mass consumption also helped to put up our cost of production and made our goods more expensive and less competitive in world market. The benefit from the import entitlement in many cases was more than the benefit of devaluation. This fact contributed to restricting exports further. The shortfall in export in the first quarter following devaluation was of the order of 17 per cent. The following quarter improved export trade and the shortfall was reduced to 8.5 per cent. The following quarter improved the trade further and the shortfall was reduced to 9.00 per cent. The next quarter bridged this gap further reducing the difference only to 4 per

cent. With the prospect of better monsoon this year and resultant yield of agricultural produce we are hoping that the line of export trade would be considerably improved this year. The latest figures I have for the months of April and May this year are encouraging. Export sales have been higher than the figures of the corresponding months of April and May 1965 by 12.5 million dollars.

Shri Dinkar Desai (Kanara). Sir, is it proper for the Minister to give the figures in dollars and not in rupees?

Shri Dinesh Singh: I would have been very glad to give the values in rupees but because of the change in the par value of the rupee I would have been constantly asked whether they are pre-devaluation or post-devaluation values. I am giving the figures in dollars only as a matter of facility and the hon. Member need not have any worry on this account.

I am glad to inform the House that we have endeavoured to simplify export procedures. We seek to reduce administrative intervention and judgment to the barest minimum compatible with effective promotion. We also seek to focus attention on efficiency in production, in farm and factory efficiency, in marketing and efficiency in service which this Ministry provides for those who are engaged in export production and export sales. One of the basic factors inhibiting our export trade as also affecting internal prices is the poor yield of our cash crop. For example, we are the world's fourth largest producers of cotton. The total acreage under cotton crop in this country is more than that of any other country in the world. Yet our yield of per acre is about the lowest. Similarly, our yield of raw jute is much less than even that of Pakistan. We have sought the co-operation of State Governments ensuring that the producers of each crop are encouraged and assisted to reap a bigger and better harvest. With the help being given to provide the necessary inputs I think it will be possible for our farmers to do better this year.

One of the most important items to which the House has attached great importance is the diversification of our exports and moving from our traditional items of export into new items—industrial exports for instance. In the field of industry we are engaged in impressing upon the industrial entrepreneurs the absolute necessity in their own interest of adapting industrial products to the requirements of foreign buyers to reducing cost, of improving quality and of taking determined steps to seek and serve foreign markets. One of the main difficulties we have encountered in this connection is the rise in internal market, the consumption potential of our people. It is a very good thing. Therefore, there is not enough, should I say, realisation on the part of our industrialists to export to survive. They have not yet fully appreciated that if they do not export, at least export enough to cover their imports—I am not talking of limited commodity-wise but the industry as a whole—unless we bridge this gap, this economic prosperity, this economic opportunity, this liberalised import system that we have today cannot be sustained.

Now, some of my friends referred to the question of diversification of our trade. I should like to inform them that there is undoubtedly a more even distribution of our exports, geographically now than in the past. A reduction of the excessive dependence on our exports to the British market is reflected in a fall in the United Kingdom's share of our total exports from an average of 27.1 per cent over the First Plan period to 20 per cent in 1964-65. Some hon. Member said that at least 21 years after independence we should have acquired maturity to diversify our trade. I should say that perhaps he has not seen the figures. We have diversified our trade and percentage-wise our trade with the United Kingdom has been reduced. Of course, we have had very old trade contacts with the United Kingdom and we are continu-

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ing to trade with them, and I do not see any objection in trading with them provided we get the facilities of a good market to trade in the United Kingdom.

Though there has been an unfortunate stagnation in our exports to the European Economic Community, which we are making every effort to break, our exports to USSR, Japan, USA and UAR have increased significantly. Between the First Plan period and 1964-65 the share of USSR in our exports increased from 4 per cent to 10.1 per cent, that of Japan increased from 4 per cent to 7.6 per cent, and that of USA from 16.9 per cent to 18.5 per cent in terms of percentage. It would be interesting to note that our trade with the Soviet Union in the year 1961-62 was of the order of Rs 32.21 crores. In the year 1965-66 it went up to Rs. 92.97 crores, registering a rise of 185 per cent. Similarly, the trade with the United States in the same period went up by 28 per cent, while the trade with the United Kingdom fell by 8½ per cent.

Shri Vasudevan Nair (Peermade): Are you satisfied with the diversification?

Shri Dinesh Singh: It is very difficult to say at what point one should be satisfied. To my way of thinking satisfaction leads to stagnation and it is only one's desire to do better than in the present that leads to progress. I hope my hon. friend will pardon me if I say that I am not satisfied, without reflecting in any way on the working of the Ministry.

We have recently announced a new import policy. The accent of this policy is on production, on optimum utilisation of installed capacity. Greater production means more employment, more competition and, therefore, more reasonable prices and also an expanding surplus for exports. During the preceding licensing period after devaluation the import of raw materials, components and spares for

the use in production units had been liberalised 59 industries, accounting for nearly 75 per cent of our industrial production, have been placed on priority list. The producing units in this category are being enabled to meet to the full extent imports needed by them for maximising their production. Special attention has been paid to the needs and requirements of small-scale units engaged in priority production.

May I say once again that while we are making every effort to liberalise imports to provide foreign exchange input to the industry that this can at best be only a temporary measure unless it is matched by an increase in exports? I am repeating it again because I would like to have full support and co-operation of the members of this House in impressing upon them, our friends and our countrymen at large, that our country has to look abroad, it must have an export orientation; it cannot exist otherwise and that no effort should be spared to make our products more saleable abroad, to try to balance and not balance only but to have a surplus in our favour.

Shri Ranga (Shrikakulam): This function should be given to themselves, the Government, the exporter are conscious of it.

Shri Dinesh Singh: If they were conscious, as the Professor says, we would not be in this jam today... (Interruption) It is because of their consciousness—he is completely ignorant of it—that we are in this difficulty. Here are the figures which, I hope, Professor Ranga would appreciate. Today the trade balance is of the order of Rs. 8,497 million against us.

Having talked of the internal market and export, may I just once again say, at the pain of repetition, that I have already indicated to the industry and trade in this country that we should meet in groupings convenient to them,

either commodity-wise or in other convenient groupings, to find out what best we can do to promote exports. I have already had an opportunity of meeting some of them; others will be coming to Delhi and we hope that this will be a useful dialogue based on the realities of the situation and not on simple desires and fantasies which have led to all the confusion up till now largely on the part of parties to which some hon. Members opposite belong.

Shri Sheo Narain: Are you going to export all these Bhim Clubwallahs also?

Shri Dinesh Singh: Everything is for export

With your permission, Sir, I would like to say a few words on the current world economic trends. Almost seven years ago when the world community took a pledge to adopt policies and programmes for ensuring that the economic prosperity should not remain the privilege of a handful of countries and designated the present decade as the Development Decade, high expectations were aroused in the hearts of millions of impoverished humanity who have been seeking the right to lead a better existence. Unfortunately, the solemn pledges given and the pious intentions expressed at that time and since then, on which my hon. friends opposite place great reliance, have not been matched with corresponding action with the result that the economically less privileged countries of the world have seen their hopes and expectations slipping away and what was supposed to be a decade of development has become for them a decade of disillusionment. The terms of trade of the developing countries have been constantly deteriorating because of a combination on the one hand of a decreasing share in the expanding world trade and, on the other, of the deepening gap between their import requirements and export earnings. The development decade which aimed at a modest target of an annual

increase of 5 per cent in the national income of the developing countries has, to our disappointment, seen a declining trend in the rate of increase in the national incomes of these countries. All this has meant a severe setback to the plans of development of the developing countries. Our own programmes to provide to our people the minimum basic necessities of life and to seek a rapid improvement in their living and working conditions has imposed upon us certain obligations in framing our economic policies. Unfortunately, the standards of living in our country are so low as to make savings synonymous with sacrifices for the large section of people. In this venture we are conscious of the assistance received from our friendly countries and more privileged partners but I am constrained to remark that the flow of long-term capital to the developing countries has been continually declining. It is a matter of considerable disappointment to us that despite the recommendation of the First UN Conference on Trade and Development to the developed countries to transfer a minimum of 1 per cent of their national income for the development of the developing countries has not only remained a dead letter but that the ratio of resources transferred to the developing countries to the gross output in the capital exporting countries has declined from the figure of 84 per cent in 1961 to about 65 per cent in 1965. Our attention has been repeatedly drawn to the very rapid rise in the outstanding external debt of the developing countries.

Probably, my friends are feeling a little uncomfortable on this subject. But these are the realities which have been very clearly appreciated.

15 hrs.

Shri Pileo Mody: No, no.

Shri Dinesh Singh: The receiving countries do not get full benefit of the money borrowed by them and, more often than not, they have to pay prices much higher than the prevailing in

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the international market. It is the free trade. On the other hand, no such thing is available in the matter of repayment. While they insist that we buy from the donor countries at prices which they fix, which may be higher than world prices, the developing countries are not allowed to return in the goods and the commodities of their own country—free trade comes in—and they have to pay back in foreign exchange. This is the extent of free trade that operates about which Prof. Ranga said so much. I do not want to go into all the details of it. They are well known and these are discussed again and again.

The Kennedy Round of Negotiations is expected to yield some helpful results. I shall have an occasion to make a fuller statement on this subject on a later date. But the House will be interested to know that almost at this hour our representative will be initiating the final Act in Geneva, in UNCTAD and in GATT, and we are pleading for a generalised system of preferences to be accorded by a fluent economies for imports from the developing countries.

The Second United Nations Conference on Trade and Development is scheduled to take place in New Delhi between February 1 and March 5, 1968. This will be an event of special significance not merely because India will be providing host facilities for the biggest international conference to be held outside the United Nations Headquarters but also because we expect that this Conference will lead to concrete results for the promotion of international cooperation in the struggle against underdeveloped countries. To this end, preparations both on the organisational and substantive sides are going at full speed.

A number of questions were raised about commodities in which we are dealing in export trade. Tea was mentioned as one of the important commodities in which we are deeply interested. The figures have been given in this regard. We have discussed this

on many occasions as to why our exports in tea are falling.

Shri S. K. Taparia (Pali): Why?

Shri Dinesh Singh: It is an interesting question. It is because we are related largely for our exports through the United Kingdom market where we are no longer getting a reasonable return for our tea. What is happening is this. I think my hon. friend, Shri Jyotirmoy Basu had pointed out and published a document which gives the price of import of tea in various countries. A glance at it will already give the hon. Members an answer and they would not have to ask why. Nevertheless, what is more interesting is that the bulk of our tea industry is under what one may call sterling capital. In 1963, the total capital invested was Rs. 140 crores out of which the sterling capital was Rs. 95 crores and Indian capital was Rs. 45 crores.

Shri Vasudevan Nair: Why not take over?

Shri Dinesh Singh: An interesting thought.

While it is said that this tea industry is in a bad shape, and it is in a bad shape, and the exports are going down and everything else, surprisingly, the profits sent out of this country each year have not been going down. In 1961, it was Rs. 640 crores; in 1962, it was Rs. 530 crores; in 1963, it was Rs. 560 crores; in 1964, it was Rs. 680 crores. In 1964-65, it is Rs. 8 crores. In these five years, it is Rs. 3010 crores on profits alone; I am not talking of the capital that has been taken out; that is a separate issue. I am talking of profits alone. Interestingly, the capital has been reduced. If you look at these profits, you will appreciate that the capital investment has been declining, but the profits have remained fairly constant. It is a reflection...

Shri S. K. Taparia: What proposals would he suggest to increase the exports?

Shri Dinesh Singh: The proposals that I may have to suggest may be too

drastic for my hon. friends to appreciate. (Interruption) and, therefore, I reserve them for some other occasion. I would say here that at this stage we are anxious to encourage foreign investment in this country and that they should receive a reasonable return. Therefore, what we would like to tell them is that they should utilise this opportunity not to drain away these investments in these tea plantations, but to plough back some profits to improve the quality of tea and also its produce.

One other factor which, I think, is of great importance in tea is that today the bulk of our exports of tea is in bulk, in big chests, as such. This is used for blending abroad. The Darjeeling tea which we produce is one of the finest qualities of tea in the world and is used for blending in other countries. Our medium and coarse qualities of tea are facing more competition than the very good quality of tea with the result that our exports in these are falling. What I would like to see very much is some enterprising, young, free trader—perhaps to be selected by my hon. friend, Mr. Acharya, if I may address him—who would go into packaging of tea, sell blended tea from here, not in bulk but in blends, which will sell Indian tea, which will popularise Indian tea and which will get for us a more reasonable return on our exports. If Mr. Acharya fails, I will have to think of other drastic remedies.

Shri M. Amersey (Banaskantha): But the next day you will nationalise it. (Interruptions).

Shri Dinesh Singh: I am not saying anything. I am waiting for my hon. friend to take the initiative. I have not said anything. We have certain obligations in this country which will have to be fulfilled. If nobody comes forward, we will have to fulfil them... (Interruptions).

Shri Jyotirmoy Basu (Diamond Harbour): I would like to ask him whether he is thinking in terms of

setting up a corporation in the public sector for exporting package tea.

Shri Dinesh Singh: Now I should like to go on to the textile aspect of the industries with us. As I said a little earlier, it is one of our oldest and largest commodities and industries. The main difficulty has been, as I pointed out a little earlier, that the yield of cotton in our country is very poor, with the result that we have to import a lot of cotton. Curiously enough, the bulk of the imported cotton is not used for exports, it is used for providing some of my friends with very fine shirts that they wear and also trousers...

An hon. Member: Trouser is tery-lenc.

Shri Dinesh Singh: It is mixed with it, as the hon. Member knows.

The whole point in this business is this. We are short of cotton and we have a large number of cotton textile mills. What have we to do with them? Some hon. members said that we have a large number of cotton mills, they are sick, they are weak, all sorts of interesting names have been bandied about. It will be interesting to find out how they fell sick, how they have become old and weak or whatever else they might like to call...

An hon. Member: It is because of the poison you administered.

Shri Dinesh Singh: The poison that has been administered in the last two months has not killed anybody. My Ministry is only giving every possible encouragement to this rather slackening industry because the profits have been drained away; they have been invested in various other things; they have not been ploughed back... (Interruptions). If the money had been ploughed back, if there had been renovation, if there had been changing of looms etc. why should they have to scrap it today? One does not have to go into this question to give an answer.

[Shri Dinesh Singh]

The answer is there. You just go and look at the machinery and the answer is there. It is junk. How has it become junk? Surely, it was not purchased junk.

Shri S. K. Tapuria: No money left for renovation, by my hon. friend.

Shri Dinesh Singh: Let him not tell me that they had purchased junk. In free trade, they would never have purchased junk.

Shri S. K. Tapuria: We had no money for renovation.

Shri Dinesh Singh: The hon. Member says that there was not enough money after running them. That is not quite true. As the hon. Member knows, they have made very reasonable profits from the industry. I have during this short association with my hon. friend and others found out how this is working, which it would be even more embarrassing to discuss here.

Shri S. K. Tapuria: Let him please do; if he does that, I shall be happy.

Shri Dinesh Singh: We shall have an opportunity of discussing that on another occasion. But my point is that we have a lot of these textile mills. What are we to do with them? Whenever these mills close down, we are asked to take them over. The hon. Member opposite talked so much about private enterprise. Listening to him sometimes does give an entirely distorted picture. We had occasion to take over a number of these old mills or sick mills and mills which had to be closed down. Three of them were returned back with profits.

Shri S. K. Tapuria: How much money did he pour into them?

Shri Dinesh Singh: We are, therefore encouraged to think in terms of setting up a textile corporation where we shall not be asked to return these mills back when they start running well, but we shall keep them and take

them over at prices which will not be inflated but at prices which will be decided by the Bill that we may bring before this House; and we may also think in terms of setting up new textile mills under this corporation to give an example to the private sector about how to run a textile mill

श्री इसहाक साम्भली (घमरोहा) : यह बीमार मिलें प्राइवेट सेक्टर में हैं।

[شون استحقاق سہیلی - یہ بیمار ماہوں پرائیویٹ سیکٹر میں ہیں -]

Shri S. K. Tapuria: He will help us in the process, I am sure.

Shri Dinesh Singh: Some of my friends had raised two other matters of importance which I should like to refer to in this context of the commodities, and one is about rubber. My hon. friend opposite knows that we are deeply interested in promoting the production of rubber. Unfortunately, the rubber production in this country does not meet our demand today. The total production of rubber, that is, both natural and synthetic rubber, in 1963-64 was 45,562 tonnes...

Shri Ranga: I think recently there was too much production.

Shri Dinesh Singh: No, it was not too much at all. Nobody has claimed it. In 1963-64 the total production was 45,562 tonnes as against our consumption of 73,000 tonnes. Even today, the total production after taking into account synthetic rubber comes to 76,600 tonnes as against our requirement of 96,000 tonnes.

I was very heartened to hear the hon. Member say yesterday that he would increase the present production of natural rubber from 54,000 tonnes to about 74,000 tonnes. I look forward to the fulfilment of the promise that he has made and I shall be very glad to give all possible assistance that

we in the Central Government and in my Ministry can give to him.

Now, we come to the question of the price of rubber, which I am sure is agitating the mind of my hon. friend.....

Shri Vasudevan Nair: I represent my people; it agitates them

Shri Dinesh Singh: That is why it is agitating his mind. The main point is how we assess the price. For this, we have laid down that there would be the machinery called the Tariff Commission which would advise us on the fixation of prices of these commodities. The Tariff Commission has gone into this matter and has made some recommendations which are under our consideration. I do not know how the hon. Member got some figures yesterday that he quoted were the recommendations of the Commission. I am in no position either to confirm or deny them. I can only say that some of the factors that the hon. Member and his colleagues who came to see me had mentioned, namely, the price of land, the small growers, in which we are also deeply interested shall be taken into consideration in determining the price. One of the main difficulties that arises is that there is a certain amount of gap between the productivity of the small grower and that of the large estate; if we were to fix a high price, then tremendous profits may be made by the large estate owners which I am sure my hon. friend would not like to happen.

Shri Vasudevan Nair: I may inform him that the plantation tax has been increased from Rs. 8 to Rs. 25 already.

Shri Dinesh Singh: He has already taken away all the profits that should have come to us.

Anyway, the main point in this is that before fixation of the price of rubber, we shall discuss this matter; in fact, we have already been discussing this matter with officials of the Kerala Government as also of the

Rubber Board, and I have written to the Minister of the Kerala Government that I shall be very glad to discuss this matter with him before we finalise. So we shall do that.

Some points were raised about jute. It is one of our major industries.

An hon. Member: Declining.

Shri Dinesh Singh: Everything is declining....

Shri Piloo Mody: The first honest admission of fact.

Shri Dinesh Singh: I was not saying that it is declining, but the interest of the hon. Member is declining.

We are fully conscious of the difficulties that are being faced by the jute industry. The hon. Member himself had pointed out that on the one hand, the jute industry wants more inputs, more financial assistance, and on the other, there are reports of the jute industry having invested their funds in other industries. So all that has to be really gone into. But I may say that we have already raised the price of jute this year; the support price has been fixed at Rs. 40 per maund. That will help the growers.

Shri P. G. Sen What about jungle jute?

Shri Dinesh Singh: So far as the cashew industry is concerned, we are conscious of the fact that processing facilities may be set up in Africa and elsewhere. We shall certainly go into the question of promoting its production in other parts of the country also and in promoting its export as much as we can. Perhaps it would be a good idea to curtail some of our own consumption of cashew and divert it to export. We shall have to look into all this.

I now come to one of the matters which has agitated my hon. friend very much, and has also agitated

[Shri Dinesh Singh]

some sections of the house. These are the charges that have been levelled against officials of my Ministry, connected offices and also some of the corporations with us. It is very difficult for me to say that there is absolutely nothing wrong in any establishment, as indeed nobody can say that there is nothing wrong in any other establishment. But I would like to assure the House that we shall make every possible endeavour to find out any irregularity that may have taken place in this Ministry or in the attached offices or in the corporations with which we are dealing. I should like to assure my hon. friend that I shall be with them wholly in going into any of these matters that they may wish me to do. But one thing we should bear in mind... (Interruption). Prof. Ranga trusts nobody anywhere. What can I do? My point is: so far as this question is concerned, we should not be carried away in taking names here and in bringing charges, however genuine they may be. Because these people are not here to defend themselves. We are here on their behalf. I would welcome Members coming to see me or giving me information in this House without necessarily as the first stage bringing in personalities. It tends to discourage many people who are trying to do quite an honest job and also to curtail initiative and restrict people's functioning. On the whole it has the tendency that leads to a certain amount of lethargy and functioning in a purely bureaucratic manner which is not liked by anybody. I have some facts and figures about certain specific matters raised here and I shall endeavour to give them briefly because time is running out. Each and every case brought to my notice will be gone into in keeping with the rules and regulations. Some specific charges were brought up and some remarks were made about the textile commissioner's office and other organisations. The specific charges had already been referred to the CBI for investigation and we await the results; then they will probably go to the vigilance commission or whatever the case may be.

There are also a number of cases in which people against whom the charges were established had been prosecuted. It is not a matter which any of us wish to shield; it only creates problems for us if attempts are made to shield people. But the facts must be presented in a manner in which it helps investigation. If some charge is brought to our notice without any publicity, it helps us in investigation, there is the element of surprise in making an investigation. Without this it becomes a little more difficult. I do not wish to discourage any hon. Member or deprive him of his right to discuss this matter in this House. But sometimes it is more advantageous for us to go into it elsewhere.

One of the cases that has come up again and again in this house is that of sulphur. I find everybody's face lighting up immediately. I think it was Mr. Manoharan who spoke length about the import of sulphur others also referred to it. I would like to take the House into confidence about the facts. The world supply position of sulphur was such that we who had a long term contract with the suppliers were hard hit. We had been obtaining our requirement of sulphur from the USA and the purchase was financed by the AID funds. Due to some differences between the Government of the United States and the SULEF, consortium of sulphur exporting firms in the US these purchases could no longer be financed from US aid, SULEF agreed to supply only 200,000 tons in 1967 and we had to make up the difference of 220,000 tons in 1966, and 400,000 tons in 1967. The decision to canalise the import of sulphur through the STC was taken on 28th June 1966 in view of the world shortage and rising prices which put the actual user in India in the poorest bargaining position. This canalisation policy was modified after sometime to permit of the import of quantities exceeding 5,000 tons by actual users under same conditions. The STC has been very successful in getting sulphur at competitive prices.

including 50,000 tons on rupee payment from Poland. There were obvious advantages in canalisation with a flexible policy adopted in regard to actual users whose allocation exceeds 5,000 tons, the position of sulphur supply in the country is not as bad as it might have been. It has to be admitted that the canalisation also resulted in lowering of import prices. Actually, the first publicity to sulphur has arisen only from one deal made with Oval Industries for the import of 360,000 tons in August, 1966. The firm had a contract with sulphur producers and it produced some documents to show that they had contact with mines from where they could get sulphur. The firm had contracts with sulphur producers. Some doubts about them arose. I am giving now only a brief account as I have already had occasion to discuss this matter in detail in this House. I may say that even in the original contract with the firm, there were clauses which were inserted to show that we do not suffer any loss; they had to show that they had sulphur and they had to produce bank references and all that. I may say that the deal has been highly published because it did not materialise. I hope you will appreciate that in any promotional work that one goes into, not all that materialises. Any hon. Member who has had to do anything with import and export will realise that a large number of deals they make, do not materialise and there are occasions when there are losses also. But on this deal at least, we have not suffered any loss. The company had agreed to pay us Rs. 75,000 which we had claimed as total expense that may have been incurred in this deal, and because of that, there is no loss. I would like the hon. Members to appreciate that there may be other cases, there may have been certain irregularities, and I have said that I shall be very glad to go into them, but we should not discourage the promotional activities of our corporations. These are genuine promotional activities, and they will find place in any balance-sheet of any firm, pro-

gressive or well-to-do firm. (Interruption).

Shri Ranga: The firm with which we deal must be a solid one, and not a bogus one, as they say.

Shri Dinesh Singh: Sir, I have a number of points; about various other points that have been raised, I have got something to say, but as the time is run out, may I say that we shall have all this looked into and any hon. Member who is interested will be informed, and if you wish that any other investigation should be made, I shall be glad to report to this House.

May I once again thank the hon. Members for their kind and patient hearing and for the interest that some of them provided in making this debate so lively. I hope that I can count on their co-operation in the working of this Ministry.

Thank you very much.

Several hon. Members rose—

Shri Narendra Singh Mahida (Anand): I have not spoken on this Ministry. I just want one information.

Shri Pilo Mody: Just one question.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Please resume your seats. The Minister has given a considered and reasoned reply on almost all the points. All the points which were touched by hon. Members were covered. He has said at the end that as there was no time, he could not cover certain other points. From those who have raised those points, he would welcome any communication and then he would try to satisfy them. If I give permission to Mr. Mody, I cannot make an exception. If the whole House agrees, I am prepared to make one exception, but I do not think the House will agree. (Interruption). We have got Private Members' Business. Mr. Mody will excuse me.

Shri Pilo Mody: I will be very short, Sir. Just one question. The hon. Minister has made a very entertaining and informative speech. I would like

[Shri Piloo Mody]

to ask him just one question. In spite of the fact that the hon. Minister has all the wisdom and the expertise, and has succeeded other hon. Ministers with the same wisdom and expertise, and in spite of the fact that they have invented their own philosophies, made their own policies, formed the Government for 20 years, and have made most of the money, may I know why we are in this mess and at the bottom of the international ladder?

Shri Dinesh Singh: May I say one word? It is perhaps because of the negative attitude of some of my friends.

Shri Narendra Singh Mahida: I just want to put one question about the export to West Asian countries. I have not spoken on the demands.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I am sorry, Mr. Mahida. Then I will have to allow so many other members.

Shri Ranga: The Minister did not say a word about the fate of the handloom weavers and export of handloom products.

Shri Dinesh Singh: My colleague, the Deputy Minister, has dealt with it yesterday.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I will put all the cut motions together.

All the cut motions were put and negatived.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question is:

"That the respective sums not exceeding the amounts shown in the fourth column of the order paper, be granted to the President, to complete the sums necessary to defray the charges that will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March 1968, in respect of the heads of demands entered in the second column thereof against Demands Nos. 1 to 3 and 110 relating to the Ministry of Commerce."

The motion was adopted.

[The motions for Demands for Grants which were adopted by the Lok Sabha, are reproduced below—Ed.]

DEMAND NO. 1—MINISTRY OF COMMERCE

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 29,43,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1968, in respect of 'Ministry of Commerce'."

DEMAND NO. 2—FOREIGN TRADE

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 26,28,25,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1968, in respect of 'Foreign Trade'."

DEMAND NO. 3—OTHER REVENUE EXPENDITURE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 12,75,32,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1968, in respect of 'Other Revenue Expenditure of the Ministry of Commerce'."

DEMAND NO. 110—CAPITAL OUTLAY OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 16,37,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1968, in respect of 'Capital Outlay of the Ministry of Commerce'."