

[Shri Narendra Kumar Salve]

trade one has to view things with a certain amount of pragmatism and realism. We cannot expect charity, favour and benevolence from other countries. Therefore, my question is, if it is a violation of the GATT agreement, what steps are you going to take to ensure that the British Government honours its commitment. My third question is, assuming that we fail in our representation etc., are we going to revoke the agreement we have entered into in August 1968 in terms of which we agreed voluntarily to curtail our export of white sheets and other sheetings which were finding a lucrative market in Britain as a result of which British goods were being hit. Then he said in a statement that this is being done at the request of the British Government. Now, are we going to retaliate in this manner?

SHRI DINESH SINGH : First of all, I am not aware to which statement the hon. Member is referring to when he says that we have said that this is a violation of the GATT agreement. So far as the question whether it is a violation of the GATT agreement or not is concerned, I would not like to go into it in the House just now. It is a matter which we wish to take up when the question arises, because we are hoping at this stage that it would be possible to find adjustments without recourse to GATT. Therefore, I would not like to commit government at this stage as to what our views are on this matter, so far as GATT is concerned.

SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR SALVE : I would clarify the position. I had expected this answer and so I want to keep the records straight. I apprehended that this stand might be taken. As I have already submitted to you, sometimes these commentators and spokesmen rush when the angels fear to tread. I have with me a cutting of *Times of India* where it is stated :

"commenting on the scheme at the concluding session of the Advisory Council on Trade in New Delhi today, the Commerce Secretary, Mr. K.B. Lall, expressed the hope that Britain would not take any action in violation of its commitments under GATT.

Under the General Agreement on Trade and Tariffs, member-countries of the developed world are not to take such measures to overcome their internal difficulties as may hit the export trade of developing countries."

SHRI DINESH SINGH : I was present at the meeting of the Advisory Council on Trade and what the Commerce Secretary has stated was that there was a statement by the United Kingdom Government where they said that the internal measures that they may have to take to tide over their economic difficulties would, so far as possible not affect the trade interests of the developing countries. That is why I do not want to go into it in greater detail except to say that we are doing our best to persuade the British Government to operate this scheme in such a way that the export interests of the developing countries are not adversely affected.

SHRIMATI SUCHETA KRIPALANI (Gonda) : GATT is not a mere statement of ideas and pious hopes.

12.14 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

Annual Accounts of Cochin Port Trust

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT AND SHIPPING (SHRI BHAKT DARSHAN) : On behalf of Shri V. K. R. V. Rao. I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Annual Accounts of the Cochin Port Trust for the year 1966-67 and the Audit Report thereon, under sub-section (2) of section 103 of the Major Port Trusts Act, 1963. [Placed in Library, see No. LT 2556/68.]

Citizenship (Amendment) Rules, Notifications under All India Services Act, and Report on the incidents at Indraprastha Bhawan

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA) : I beg to lay on the Table :

- (1) A copy of the Citizenship (Amendment) Rules, 1968 published in