

Is it the pleasure of the House that leave as recommended by the Committee may be granted?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Yes.

MR. SPEAKER: The Members will be informed accordingly.

11.49 hrs.

#### ELECTION TO COMMITTEE

GENERAL COUNCIL OF INDIAN SCHOOL OF MINES, DHANBAD

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE (PROF. S. NURUL HASAN): I beg to move:

"That in pursuance of the provisions contained in rules 4(ii) to (iv) and 15 of the Rules and Regulations of the Indian School of Mines, Dhanbad, the members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, two members from among themselves, to serve as members of the General Council of the Indian School of Mines, Dhanbad, subject to the other provisions of the said Rules and Regulations."

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That in pursuance of the provisions contained in rules 4(ii) to (iv) and 15 of the Rules and Regulation of the Indian School of Mines, Dhanbad, the members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, two members from among themselves, to serve as members of the General Council of the Indian School of Mines, Dhanbad, subject to the other provisions of the said Rules and Regulations."

*The motion was adopted.*

13 hrs.

#### DEMANDS\* FOR GRANTS, 1976-77— Contd.

##### MINISTRY OF COMMERCE—Contd.

MR. SPEAKER: The House will now take up further discussion and voting on the Demands for Grants under the control of the Ministry of Commerce. The time left for this Ministry is 3 hours and 50 minutes.

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND HOUSING AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI K. RAGHU RAMAIAH): The Deputy Minister will intervene at 1 O'clock. The Minister may be called at 3 O'clock

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Muruganatham.

\*SHRI S. A. MURUGANANTHAM (Tirunelveli): Hon. Mr. Speaker, Sir, on behalf of the Communist Party of India, I rise to express my views on the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Commerce for the year 1976-77.

While welcoming the rise in our exports by 14.6 per cent during 1975-76 as compared to 1974-75, I would like to inform the House that during the period 1972-73 to 1974-75 our exports had risen by 100%. I refer to this because that the increase in exports during 1975-76 should not lead us to any complacency; constant efforts are required to maintain the tempo of exports.

While the exports have been going up, the imports have also been going up. During 1973-74 the imports went up by 58 per cent, in 1974-75 by 51 per cent and in 1975-76 by 58 per cent. On account of this factor, the trade gap in 1975-76 is estimated to be of the order of Rs. 1400 crores. If our economy is to develop at a faster rate, then steps should be taken

\*The original speech was delivered in Tamil.

for increasing the exports and for reducing the imports. I am sure that the Government will bear this in mind during 1976-77.

Sir, on April 14, 1976 the Government announced the Import Policy for 1976-77. You know, Sir, that so many concessions have been given to the importers in the hope that this would give further fillip to our exports. I am afraid that these concessions will be exploited to the full by the monopoly industrialists. This may lead to increase in imports which in turn would affect seriously our balance of payments position. Here, I would like to remind you what happened in 1966. We devalued the rupee with the fond hope that our products would be able to compete at competitive prices in the world market; the idea was that a drop in the export prices of our goods would fetch a larger share in the world market. We gave several concessions also in the import policy of that year. But, all this did not lead to a favourable balance of payments position; in fact, the trade gap got widened during that year. The Government should ensure that such a situation does not recur during 1976-77.

During 1975-76 the value of our exports was Rs. 2690 crores. Out of this, the share of the public sector undertaking, the S.T.C., is only Rs. 752 crores. The share of public sector in the total exports of our country is just 27 per cent; 73 per cent of our export trade is in the hands of the private sector. All of us are aware of the malpractices indulged in by the private sector; it is common knowledge that the private sector resorts to under-invoicing and over-invoicing, which ends in black-marketing and black money. That is why the Communist Party of India has, time and again, emphasised the need for nationalising the entire import and export trade. I would like to reiterate that immediate steps should

be taken for nationalising the entire import and export trade of our country.

During 1975-76 the exports of the following commodities have declined: Cashew kernel by 20 per cent; oil cakes by 32 per cent; marine products by 64 per cent; jute goods by 27 per cent; handloom goods by 15 per cent. Here I have to point out that the export of mill clothes has gone up by 49 per cent. What is the reason for the fall in the export of cashew kernels? We should, if necessary, not hesitate to import cashew kernels from other producing countries for the sake of maintaining our exports. We are producing 50 per cent of raw cashew-nuts in our country and we are importing 50 per cent of raw cashew-nuts from Kenya and other African countries. This has created the situation that cashew-nut cultivation has become seasonal. The production of raw-cashew-nut within the country should be increased. The Kerala Cashew-nut corporation has stressed the need for bringing in 25000 acres more under cashew cultivation. In particular, the Corporation has suggested that cashew cultivation should be taken up in Andaman Islands. I have to regretfully say that the Central Government have not accepted this suggestion. The Commerce Ministry should not wash off their hands by saying that this is in the jurisdiction of the Agriculture Ministry. As the cashew-nut is a valuable foreign-exchange earner, the Commerce Ministry should persuade the Agriculture Ministry to take up this project seriously. We will not only achieve self-sufficiency in cashew-nuts but also will generate further employment opportunities besides giving employment throughout the year for those who are already engaged in this industry.

The export of coir products has suffered a set-back on account of severe competition from China and Ceylon. We have to explore new markets for our coir products.

[Shri S. A. Muruganantham]

You know, Sir, that recently three Taiwanese trawlers were captured on Tamil Nadu coast in the Bay of Bengal. The captain of these trawlers stated that he had come so far away from Taiwan because of the tastiest fish available in the Bay of Bengal. When people come to the Bay of Bengal for this purpose, we find that the export of our marine products has gone down. I would like to know the reasons for this fall in the export of marine products.

During the last two, three years, the price of raw jute has been going down. It is even less than the support price announced by the Government. The production has also gone down because the producers are not getting remunerative prices. The West Bengal Government has requested that the support price of raw jute should be raised. The Jute Corporation should also directly purchase raw jute from the producers. These steps must be taken immediately in order to ensure that the producers get remunerative price and that the jute cultivation is not abandoned. The Jute-mill owners retrenching the workers I demand that all the jute-mills must be nationalised immediately.

Next to agriculture in our country, 30 lakhs of people are engaged in handloom industry. The 20-point Economic Programme has stressed the need for finding an early solution to the problems of handloom weavers. The Government constituted a Study Group under the chairmanship of Shri B. Sivaraman. This Study Group has given many worthwhile recommendations. I would like to know how many Intensive Development Projects have been set up. Similarly, the House must be informed as to how many export production centres have been set up so far. The Study Group has recommended an outlay of Rs. 40 crores for this purpose I want to know how much money has been

spent under these schemes. The hon. Minister should also inform the House about the time-schedule for implementing the recommendations of B. Sivaraman Study Group. New markets abroad are to be explored for handloom products. In foreign countries there is great demand for crapes. New designs are to be evolved for handloom cloth. The Office of the Development Commissioner for Handloom has been located in Delhi. I would like to point out that the Branch Offices of the Development Commissioner should be located in the States having concentration of handlooms. In all the handloom production centres, design centres should be established.

The export of tea in 1975-76 has come down to 138 million kilograms from 144 million kilograms during 1974-75. What is the reason for the fall in tea export and what steps have been taken to augment the export of tea?

So far as Tamil Nadu is concerned, the export of leather and leather products plays a vital role. At the moment the leather industry in Tamil Nadu has been facing a serious crisis. It is said that under the Leather Development Fund, a common facility centre will be established by the S. T. C. in Tamil Nadu I request that this should be done immediately.

The Cotton Corporation of India should make direct purchases from the producers and the mills should be given cotton at remunerative prices. The Cotton Corporation should then ensure that the people get yarn and cloth at fair price. I would like to emphasise that the Cotton Corporation plays its due role in helping all the people concerned in the textile industry as also the consumers.

Sir, the price of natural rubber has been falling. According to today's newspapers, the price has further

fallen. Steps should be taken for augmenting the export of natural rubber. The multi-national monopoly type manufacturing companies do not consume much of natural rubber. They are importing more and more of synthetic rubber. The import of synthetic rubber should be cut down. All these multi-national type manufacturing companies must be nationalised immediately. The production of natural rubber should be increased and it must be ensured that the producers get remunerative prices.

The Government must take over the Couvery Mill in Cauvery town and also the Valajabad Mill in Tamil Nadu. All the sick textile mills lying closed in the country should be nationalised.

Here I would like to refer to another strange phenomenon. While the imports from west European countries have been going up, the imports from East European countries have been gradually declining. In 1974 the imports from East European countries were of the value of Rs. 828.8 crores; in 1975 it came down to Rs. 256.9 crores—a fall of Rs. 71.9 crores. From Rs. 402.1 crores in 1974, the imports from West European countries have gone up to Rs. 555.8 crores—an increase of Rs. 153.7 crores. What is the reason for this changing trend?

We are earning foreign exchange of the value of Rs. 350 crores or so every year from the export of tobacco, tea, coffee, cardamom, pepper, cashew kernel, coir products, which are produced in Southern States. I find that adequate investment is not made for augmenting the production of these foreign exchange earners. I request that if necessary even a portion of foreign exchange earned must be ploughed back in producing these foreign exchange earners.

Sir, in conclusion, I would refer only to one important issue. I feel that all the 17 Export Promotion Councils,

comprising mainly of private sector industrialists have become white elephants for the public exchequer. This is proved by the fact that there has been steep fall in the export of many commodities. I want that the public sector institutions like the Trade Development Authority, the Directorate of Exhibitions, etc., should be strengthened further and if necessary these Export Promotion Councils can even be wound up.

With these words I conclude my speech.

SHRI PATTABHI RAMA RAO (Rajamundry): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I congratulate the Minister, his Deputy and the Ministry for the nice Export-Import policy that they have adopted this year.

MR. SPEAKER: Please come over near the mike, so that you are audible to the House.

SHRI PATTABHI RAMA RAO: They must make some suitable arrangements, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: The Reporters are not able to hear you.

SHRI PATTABHI RAMA RAO: Mr. Speaker, Sir, let me first congratulate the Minister, his Deputy and his Ministry for the excellent import-export policy they have adopted this year. Our export earnings are quite high, and particularly the sugar export has brought us a good amount of foreign exchange. I congratulate the Ministry for the way they are conducting the export policy this particular year. The import policy also has been quite good and there are many incentives given. I am sure the export and import policy will prove a great success in the coming year.

I also congratulate the Ministry for the way they are encouraging the handloom sector. This year they have announced that coloured sarees and bordered dhotis should be taken away from the mills and should be left reserved entirely for the handloom sector. This was the cherished

[Shri Pattabhi Rama Rao].

aim of Shri C. Rajagopalachari. About a quarter of a century ago he enunciated this policy, when he was in charge of the administration in Madras, but the then Central Commerce Minister, Shri T. T. Krishnamachari, did not accept that policy. Now, after a quarter of a century, we have come to brasstacks with this problem. I am happy that the present Commerce Minister, Professor Chattopadhyaya, has announced that these two sectors, namely, dhothis and sarees are entirely reserved to the handloom sector.

Handloom is an important sector in our country, next only to agriculture, where lakhs of weavers are engaged. Now when so many lakhs of people are without work, this will certainly give them a good opportunity for their livelihood. I am sure they will be able to make some earning out of this policy. My only request is that this policy should be scrupulously adopted and that there should be no violation of this policy. In that case, the handloom sector will certainly be able to produce such good cloth that it would be good for export and we will have very valuable export earnings from this sector.

While speaking of the textile industry, I must say that this industry particularly the mill sector and the yarn mills in particular are in dol-drums now. The price of cotton is rising day by day very steeply. I can understand it if this increased price is advantageous to the grower but it is not. The stock of cotton is held by the middlemen, and they are enjoying

the benefit of the rise in price of cotton. We want cheap cloth and cheap yarn, but how can we get it when the cotton price is soaring high? So, there must be a way found out for checking the steep price rise of cotton and also to ensure that the grower does not suffer but gets his due. Just as in the case of sugarcane and paddy, they must get some support price. Over and above that, the price must be controlled so that it would not affect the price of the cloth, which will hit the common man. I understand that the textile mills have got huge stocks of yarn and some of the mills could not even get credit from the banks to meet their demand, to purchase cotton. They are finding it difficult to manage the mills. So, a way must be found to supply them cotton and yarn to the weaver at a reasonable price. Otherwise, I am sure, this will affect the common man, whose need for cloth is as much as that of food. It is a most important need and if this is to be met, we must see that the cotton price does not go beyond a particular limit. If particular varieties of cotton are not available in sufficient quantities in the country and the middlemen are quoting high prices for the little stocks available with them, we must import such varieties, instead of following a blind import policy, and see that a reasonable balance is maintained and that cheap yarn is given to the weavers and cheap cloth is made available to the common man.

I think the Ministry for all the good that they are doing and I congratulate it once again.

श्री राव सिंह भाई (इंजीर) : श्रीमन्, मैं माननीय मंत्री जी और उप मंत्री जी को बधाई देना चाहता हूँ कि पिछले वर्षों में औद्योगिक उत्पादन प्रवृद्धि न होने पर भी एक्सपोर्ट करने में और इम्पोर्ट में भी इन्होंने बहुत साहस और बुद्धि का परिचय दिया है। कार्य-क्षमता के आधार पर और ईमानदारी के आधार पर मैं यह कह सकता हूँ कि पिछले दिनों में इस मिनिस्ट्री ने बहुत कुछ प्रवृद्धि काम किया है और यही नहीं बल्कि बेईमानों को निकालने और अच्छे लोगों को ला कर बिठाने में इन्होंने एक अनुकरणीय काम किया है वरना ये 103 मिले कभी की बंद हो गई होता। कैंसे ये मिले चलनी हैं और कितना इनमें पैसा लगा है, यह मैं जानता हूँ।

दूसरी बात यह है कि इन्होंने जो इम्पोर्ट पालीमी डेकलेटर की है, उस को देखते हुए ऐसा लगता है कि छोटे छोटे उद्योगों को बड़ा प्रोत्साहन मिलेगा और हमारा औद्योगिक विकास भी प्रवृद्धि हो सकेगा। अभी हाल ही में जूट के तैयार माल के बारे में जो एक्साइज ड्यूटी का निर्णय लिया है, कपड़े पर वर्ग मीटर के बजाय मूल्य पर एक्साइज लेने का वह एक सराहनीय काम है, इस में कोई शक नहीं है।

श्रीमन्, इस के साथ साथ जो नेशनल टेक्सटाइल कार्पोरेशन की मिले हैं और उन के बारे में आप ने जो यह डेकलेटर किया है कि कन्ट्रोल क्लाय उन के द्वारा नहीं बनाया जाएगा, यह भी एक बहुत सुन्दर बात आप ने की है। अगर कन्ट्रोल का कपड़ा उन के द्वारा बनाया जाता, तो वे मिले जो अभी चल रही हैं, वे भी बंद हो गई होती। हैन्डलूम्स द्वारा साडी और धोती बनाना और किलो द्वारा कन्ट्रोल का कपड़ा न बनाना, यह एक ऐसा कदम है जिस में कमजोर मिलों को बड़ी मदद मिलेगी क्योंकि वडे पल्ले के कपड़े में कमाई ज्यादा है और छोटे

पल्ले के कपड़े में कमाई कम है। इस तरह से दूबती मिलों को बचाने का एक सुन्दर तरीका यह भी है। इस में कोई शक नहीं है कि आप ने बहुत ने अच्छे काम किये हैं और एक एक चीज की मैं क्या तारीफ करूँ। आप ने जो यह एनाउंसमेंट किया है कि विद्यार्थियों के द्वारा 103 मिलों का कपड़ा देहानों में बेचा जाएगा और उस की जमानत न ले कर उन के प्रोफेसर और प्रिंसिपल का प्रमाणपत्र ही काफी है, यह भी एक सराहनीय कदम है क्योंकि यह एम्प्लायमेंट को हल करने का एक तरीका भी है और माल को खपाने का भी तरीका है और इस में शहरो और देहानों की बीच जो खाई है, वह दूर होगी और इस के अलावा यह विद्यार्थियों को निकाल देने का भी एक तरीका है। इन सब बातों को देखते हुए ऐसा लगता है कि श्री चट्टापाध्याय और मिह माहव ने शांति में इन सब बातों को मोचा है और इनने अच्छे निर्णय लिये हैं।

इस के अतिरिक्त मैं यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि कुछ ऐसी बातें हैं जिन के बारे में माननीय मंत्री जी को गहराई से अध्ययन करना पड़ेगा। पहली बात तो यह है कि टैक्सटाइल इन्डस्ट्री, जूट इन्डस्ट्री और टी इन्डस्ट्री, ये ऐसी इन्डस्ट्रीज रही हैं जिन का विदेशों से पैसा कमाने में बहुत बड़ा हाथ रहा है लेकिन क्या कारण है कि माल दो साल में और माल दो साल से ही नहीं बल्कि पिछले कई वर्षों में इन का एक्सपोर्ट कम होता जा रहा है और जितना एक्सपोर्ट कर के हमें इन से पैसा कमाना चाहिए उतना पैसा नहीं कमाया जा रहा है बल्कि हो यह रहा है कि इन का एक्सपोर्ट नहीं हो रहा है और एक्सपोर्ट कम होने के साथ साथ इन का उत्पादन भी घटता जा रहा है।

मेरा निवेदन है कि हमने स्पिडलज की संख्या बहुत बढ़ाई है। 1951 में 1 करोड़ 10 लाख स्पिडलज थी, 1964 में 1 करोड़ 46 लाख। 1975 में इनकी संख्या 1 करोड़ 89 लाख हो

[श्रीराम सिंह भाई]

गई। लेकिन एक बात अखरने वाली है। इस अनुपात से प्रोडक्शन क्यों नहीं बढ़ रहा है, यह एक विचारणीय सवाल भी है। 1964 में 4 अरब 65 करोड़ 35 लाख 90 हजार मीटर कपड़ा पैदा हुआ। लेकिन 1975 में केवल 4 अरब 31 करोड़ 60 लाख मीटर ही पैदा हुआ यानी 1964 के मुकाबले में 1974 में 33 करोड़ 75 लाख 9 हजार मीटर कपड़ा कम पैदा हुआ। लूमज भी बढ़ी है। यह हो सकता है कि परिमाण में थोड़ी बढ़ी हों। लेकिन स्पिंडलज बहुत ज्यादा बढ़ी है। इधर तो उत्पादन कम हुआ और उधर एम्प्लायमेंट भी कम हुआ है। 8 लाख से घट कर साढ़े सात लाख के करीब ही एम्प्लायमेंट रह गया। इस की तो समझा जा सकता है और एम्प्लायमेंट में जो कभी हो रही है इसको हम रोक भी नहीं सकते हैं आधुनिकीकरण जैसे जैसे होता जाएगा उसे वैसे यह कम होता जाएगा। हमें विदेशों के साथ कम्पीट करना है। इस वास्ते यह बात तो समझ में आ सकती है। लेकिन यह उत्पादन क्यों कम हो रहा है। 1975 जनवरी में 36 करोड़ 90 लाख मीटर था जोकि जून में इसी साल यह 30 करोड़ 20 लाख मीटर रह गया यानी 6 करोड़ 70 लाख मीटर की एक ही महीने में इस में कमी आ गई। यह विचारणीय सवाल है। हमारी कोशिश यह है कि उत्पादन बढ़े, एम्प्लायमेंट बढ़े और इस हेतु हम रैसा भी लगा रहे हैं और छूटें भी दे रहे हैं। फिर क्या वजह है कि उत्पादन कम हो रहा है। मेरा खयाल है कि एक बात पर आपने विचार नहीं किया है। हमारी टक्सटाइल इंडस्ट्री बाबा आदम के जमाने की है। इसकी उत्पादन क्षमता घट गई है। सवा सौ साल हो गए हैं, लेकिन वही मशीनें हैं, वही बिल्डिंग है, वही ले आउट है। ब्लो और कार्डग्राउंड फ्लोर पर है और वाइंडिंग डिपार्टमेंट और फ्रेम डिपार्टमेंट को उन्होंने दूसरी मंजिल पर रख छोड़ा है और साइज डिपार्टमेंट भी ग्राउंड फ्लोर पर रखा हुआ है।

माल को स्पिनिंग के लिए, फ्रेमिंग के लिए ले जाएंगे सेकिंड फ्लोर पर फिर वह नीचे आएगा रिग डिपार्टमेंट और फिर वहां से वाइंडिंग डिपार्टमेंट में दूसरी मंजिल पर जाएगा, फिर उतर कर ग्राउंड फ्लोर पर आएगा। इस वास्ते इस तरह की जो चीजें हैं इन पर भी विचार करने की जरूरत है क्योंकि इस प्रकार उत्पादन खर्च बढ़ता है।

अमरीका में सेंट परसेंट आटोमैटिक लूमज है, इस में भी 80 प्रतिशत से अधिक हैं। दुनिया में कोई ऐसा देश नहीं है जिस के यहां पचहत्तर और पचास परसेंट से कम आटोमैटिक लूमज हों। हमारे यहां नाम मात्र को 17 प्रतिशत ही है। प्रति स्पिंडल जहां दुनिया के देशों में दस आउस उत्पादन होता है वहां हमारे देश में टेक ओवर के बाद, राष्ट्रीयकरण के बाद भी तीस चार आउंस ही होता है। ऐसी अवस्था में हम विदेशों के मुकाबले कहां टिक सकते हैं। यह सोचने का सवाल है। हमको ग्रांथ बंद करके मशीनरी का नवीनीकरण और आधुनिकीकरण करना होगा। केवल नवीकरण से काम नहीं चलेगा। सिंह की जगह चन्द को लाकर बिठा दें उससे काम नहीं चलेगा। व्यापार में दुनिया के देशों के सामने हम टिक सकें। देश में अपने पैरों पर खड़े हो सकें इसके लिए आधुनिकीकरण करना होगा, इसके सिवा चारा नहीं है। लेकिन आपके पास मशीनें बनाने की इतनी क्षमता नहीं है। स्पिंडल और लूमज को आप देखें। आपको लगभग 80 लाख स्पिंडल और 1 लाख 12 हजार लूमज प्रतिवर्ष बदलनी चाहियें। इसके मुकाबले में आपकी

टैक्सटाइल मशीनरी का निर्माण करने की क्षमता क्या है, बार पांच लाख सिंगल प्रतिकर्ष की ही है। उस हिसाब से आप इसको बचल भी नहीं सकते हैं। इसमें एक नहीं है कि हिन्दुस्तान में टैक्सटाइल मशीनरी बहुत अच्छी बन रही है, उसकी क्वालिटी के अन्दर कोई शिकायत नहीं है। लेकिन इसकी क्षमता को आपको बढ़ाना पड़ेगा और एक हिसाब से बढ़ाना पड़ेगा कि प्रति वर्ष हमें कितनी सिंगल को बढ़ाना और बदलना है कितनी सूम्ज को बढ़ाना और बदलना है, वह हम कर सकें। हमारा उत्पादन रेट भी कम है और उसका कारण यह है कि हमारी मशीनरी की कैपैसिटी जो उत्पादन करने की है वह जितनी होनी चाहिए उतनी नहीं है।

आज टैक्सटाइल इंडस्ट्री की बहुत बुरी हालत है। बोड़ी बहुत मिलों को आप छोड़ दें। लेकिन ग्राम तौर पर तीन पैसे पर मीटर से लेकर 1 रुपया पर मीटर बाजार के अन्दर लास हो रहा है। आपके रा-मैटीरियल के भाव तो कम हुए हैं। पहले काटन प्राइस टोटल कास्ट पर 55 परसेंट होती थी, आज 45 परसेंट आ रही है। रा-मैटीरियल की कीमत कम हुई लेकिन उत्पादन खर्च कितना बढ़ा है? इसीलिए रा-मैटीरियल की कीमत कम होने के बाद भी कपड़े के भाव बढ़े हैं। आप चाहें तो मैं प्रति मीटर प्रति साल के कपड़े दे सकता हूँ। 1972 में धोती बोर्डे की कीमत 14 रुपए 60 पैसे थी, अक्टूबर 1973 में 18 रुपए 12 पैसे हो गई और अक्टूबर 1975 में यह 21 रुपए 85 पैसे हो गई। यानी रा-मैटीरियल के भाव बढ़े हैं लेकिन कपड़े की कीमत ज्यादा बढ़ी है एक-एक क्वालिटी के घेरे पास भाव है। कपड़े के भाव बढ़ जाने के बाद अभी

क्या हुआ है? इस साल के मार्च महीने में काटन के भाव बढ़ने लगे हैं, चिल्ल-पीं मच गई है। टैक्सटाइल मिल के धारिक चिल्लाने लगे हैं।

आज इसे चिल्ल-पीं कह सकते हैं लेकिन 1972, 1973 और 1974 में इन लोगों ने जो साने की इंटें बनाई, वह कहाँ गई। टैक्सटाइल इंडस्ट्री ने इन वर्षों में खूब कमाई की लेकिन न उसे मिलों में लगाया क्या न मशीनरी में लगाया गया, उसे ये आपस में बांट कर खा गए।

टैक्सटाइल इंडस्ट्री में बहुत मिस-मैनेजमेंट है, इस बारे में गवर्नमेंट का प्रिन्टेड पोया मेरे पास है। अगर मैं इसे यहाँ बताने ईंटों ना हाउस को आश्चर्य होगा कि इसमें क्या हाल हो रहा है।

मैं आज ही 10.30 बजे इंदौर में आया हूँ मैंने कल ही इंदौर में देखा कि एक क्वालिटी के कपड़े का भाव 3 रुपए 14 पैसे मीटर है, लेकिन नेशनल टैक्सटाइल कार्पोरेशन गवर्नमेंट की बाड़ी है, इसके मैनेजर जो हैं उन्होंने मार्किट में वह 2 रुपए 60 पैसे मीटर के हिमाब में बेचा है। यह कम कीमत पर क्यों बेचा गया है? इसका बाजार में आपन काटन का भाव 3 रुपए 14 पैसे प्रति मीटर है। यह गवर्नमेंट की मिल है, जिसको आपने टेक ओवर किया है। 18 करोड़ रुपया मजदूरों का बेन और प्राविडेंट फंड का बाकी है। यह टेक ओवर 1973 में किया गया है, लेकिन अभी तक कमीशन नहीं बैठा है जो यह निर्णय करे कि यह प्राविडेंट फंड कैसे चुकाया जायेगा। बहुत से मजदूर मर गये हैं, जिन के परिवार बालों का क्या नहीं लगेगा कि वे कहाँ चले गये हैं। समय में नहीं आता कि कब कमीशन बैठेगा और कब निर्णय करेगा कि मजदूरों को मुआ-



[श्रीराम सिंह भाई]

बजट में से कितना मिलना चाहिये। सन् 1973 के बाद आज 1976 चल रहा है, लेकिन अभी तक कुछ नहीं हुआ है। उन्होंने मिलों में वे ही प्रबन्धक बना कर बैठा दिये गये हैं; जो समझते हैं कि हमारे बाप-दादा की कमाई की ही मिल है। कोई उसको देखने वाला नहीं है। मेरे पास उन मिलों का यह एक दस्तावेज है, जिस पर गवर्नमेंट की मुहर लगी हुई है। सरकार ने मेरे यहां एक मैनेजिंग डायरेक्टर को भेजा है, वह सरदार जी बड़े शानदार आदमी हैं, वह डंडे से बात करते हैं, जवान से नहीं। वे एक मिल में गये और कपड़े की कुछ गांठें तुड़वाईं। उनमें पाल फ़र्टिक्वालिटी का था, लेकिन गांठों पर मैनेजिंग डायरेक्टर का मूल्यांकन लिखा हुआ था। वे गांठें किसको दी जातीं? जो मुद्दर लगवाने वाले हैं, उन्हीं के किसी भाई-बन्धु को सैरुड डायरेक्टर के भाव पर दे दी जाती। मिल को तो सैरुड डायरेक्टर का पैसा चुकायेंगे और खुद फ़र्टिक्वालिटी का पैसा लोगों से वसूल कर लेंगे।

सरकार ने जो 103 निवेशों अपने हाथ में ली हैं, वे किस लोगों के अधीन रखी गई हैं? जिन्हें अधिकारियों ने 103 निवेशों को इशारा है और उम्मीद प्रत्याशा किया है, उन्हें ही प्रबन्धक बनाकर बैठा दिया है। मैं एक निवेश का निष्कर्ष देना चाहता हूँ। वह अच्छा बनाने वाली प्रारंभिक बड़ी मिलों में से एक थी। लाभ 1953 में यूनाइटेड इंडिया ने उनको 26 लाख रुपये के शेयरों में खरीदे। लेकिन उमिल के प्रबन्धक ने एक साप में ही उनका बुरा हाल कर दिया। लाभ 80 लाख रुपये तो मजदूरों के प्राविडेंट फंड के और लगभग 31 लाख रुपये ई० एस० आई० के—एक करोड़ रुपये से ज्यादा मजदूरों की रकम हो गई। उस मिल को 84 लाख रुपये के करीब मुद्रावृद्धि दिया जावेगा। उसको पैसा देते समय पहले तो रिजर्विटी लोन को चुकाया जायेगा और

उस के बाद मजदूरों को कुछ मिलेगा। लेकिन इस प्रकार तो मजदूरों को एक पाई भी मिलने वाली नहीं है। सरकार द्वारा लिये जाने से पहले वह मिल इतने दिनों तक मजदूरों की रकम—80 लाख रुपये उन के प्राविडेंट फंड के और 31 लाख रुपये ई० एस० आई० के—से चली।

ई० एस० आई० मजदूरों के लिए है और मजदूर उस के लिए पैसा कटाते हैं। लेकिन चूंकि मैनेजमेंट ने रकम जमा नहीं कराई है, इस लिए उन लोगों को ई० एस० आई० से कोई फ़ायदा नहीं मिला है।

लेबर मिनिस्टर ने यहां कानून पास कराया कि कोई रिट्टेचमेंट, ले आफ़ और क्लोज़र नहीं होगा। लेकिन आज प्राइवेट सेक्टर में यह हाल है कि नस्टीट्यूट की लिस्ट में मजदूरों को नहीं रखते हैं और जो आदमी छुट्टी ले कर जाता है, उनकी मशीनों को बन्द रखते हैं। वे कहते हैं कि इसके लिये कोई कानून नहीं है।

हम लोग गला फाड़ फाड़ कर कहते हैं कि गो-स्लो नहीं होना चाहिए, उत्पादन में वृद्धि होनी चाहिए और एम्प्लायमेंट के और अवनतर पैदा करने चाहिए। लेकिन जो एम्प्लायमेंट उत्पादन को गिरा रहे हैं, उनका क्या होगा? मजदूर राज को यह विचार कर के सोता है कि सुबह काम पर जाऊंगा, लेकिन उसको उत्पादन गिराने के नाम पर मीसा के अन्तर्गत गिरफ्तार कर के जेल में डाल दिया जाता है। लेकिन जो मिल-मालिक उत्पादन को गिरा रहा है, उसको मीसा के अन्तर्गत क्यों नहीं पकड़ा जाता है? मैं ने इस बारे में चीफ़ मिनिस्टर्स और लेबर मिनिस्टर महोदय से कहा लेकिन कोई सुनने वाला ही नहीं है। अगर इन 103 मिलों के निजी क्षेत्र वाले एक आधे प्रबन्धक को मीसा में बन्द कर दिया जाय, तो उस के रिजल्ट स्पष्ट दिखाने देंगे।

में मे बताया है कि कारपोरेशन की मिलें दूसरी मिलों के कन्ट्रोल का कपड़ा बनाने को लेती थीं और दशकों को एक नैना प्रिन्सिपल टैरर बनानी देती थीं। लेकिन कई मिलों ने दलाली का डबन पेमेंट किया है। एक पेमेंट तो एक लाख रुपये से भी ज्यादा की है। जो बैंक के द्वारा नहीं बल्कि क्लिष्ट द्वारा दिया गया है, और ऐसी पार्टों का दिया गया है, जो अस्मिन्ब में ही नहीं है। इन तरह से लाखों रुपये की प्रकृग लफरी की गई है।

इन 103 मिलों को नुकसान इन्वि नहीं हो रहा है कि मजदूर काम नहीं करने हैं। प्रकर धादमी में बुद्धि नहीं होगी, ना काम बन जायेगा, लेकिन बेईमान धादमी के होने से काम बनने वाला नहीं है। इन लिए पहले तो बेईमान धादमियों को निकालना जाये। मैं कहता हूँ खेत को गाय खानी है तो खाने दीजिए लेकिन पाडा नहीं खाने पाए। गाय खाएगी तो दूध नो देगी।

तो ये जो भारी बाने हैं मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से प्रार्थना करना हूँ कि वे इन पर ध्यान देंगे। वे बहुत ज्यादा ध्यान देने हैं, मुझे भी है और जो कोई चीज नहीं इन के सामने रखिए तो तात्कालिक निर्णय भी लिए गए हैं, इस में कोई शक नहीं है। इसलिए यहाँ मैं डाउम के सामने यह रख रहा हूँ कि ये बाने रिफाई पर घानी चाहिये। क्योंकि प्राज प्राइवेट सेक्टर के लॉग या इम्प्लायर ऐसे हो गये हैं कि वे सोचते हैं कि कोई हमारा काम मरोडने वाला नहीं है। मेरे यहाँ तो बहुत प्रचार बन रहा है कि राम सिंह बाई लोक सभा में तिनने दिन के हैं। कल बुलाव जाएगा तो नहीं रहेंगे। मैं बुलाकर भाऊ बा नहीं भाऊ लेकिन मेरी पार्टी रहने वाली है और मैं मैशन में रहने वाला हूँ इन में कोई शक नहीं है। मेरा देन पहले है, उरद्विन और एम्प्लायमेंट पव्लो बीच है। मैं मंत्री महोदय से

एक निवेदन करना चाहता हूँ कि आप टेक्सटाइल इंडस्ट्री और जूट इंडस्ट्री पर ध्यान दीजिए। इन की मशीनरी की हालत इनकी खराब है कि जो उत्पादन पर स्पिंडल हमें चाहिए वह मिन नहीं रहा है और हर रोज यह भावों का अमेन्स खडा करने हैं। इन महीने में 15 मार्च से लेकर अभी तक 500 रुपये से 800 रुपये काटन के भाव बढ़ गए और ये बिल्लाने लगे। लेकिन 1975 में नहीं बिल्लाने थे जब भाव घाघे रह गये थे तो यह पारी बीपारी ऐसी है कि इन्हें आप को काने को जरूरत है। इसलिए आप इन पर अकरो तरह में विचार कीजिए।

इन शब्दों के साथ मैं माननीय मंत्री जी का आभार मानता हूँ और अध्यक्ष महोदय का भी आभार मानता हूँ कि उन्होंने मुझे बोलने का अधिक समय दिया।

SHRI S M BANERJEE (Kanpur):  
Mr. Speaker, Sir, I shall confine myself only to the Cut Motions I have moved, Nos 8 to 13

I know, the hon Minister is aware of the sad plight of the textile and jute workers throughout the country, and I would like to bring to his notice some more facts about textile units and one of the jute mills in West Bengal

The Kharda Jute Mill as the hon Minister is aware, is remaining closed for a long time. The workers are rotting in the streets. The Government of India took a decision to make an inquiry and investigate under the Act to enable the Government to take it over. In the meantime, what has happened is that the employers have gone to the Calcutta High Court, and that has created some trouble for the

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Government, for this Ministry, to take over this mill. I have received letters from the Union representatives that the Government counsel, Mr. Sinha, has told the trade union representatives that, if the Government applies under section 18A of the IDR Act, the Court can take up the matter quickly and give its decision. I do not know the implications of it. The hon. Minister is aware of it. He is from West Bengal and he is fully aware of these things. If this is the only snag, when I am sure the hon. Minister will apply his mind and see to it that the said provision of the Act is applied so that the case may be expedited and decided and the mill taken over and the sufferings of the workers come to an end.

I would now refer to the two textile mills of Kanpur. I was extremely happy when the hon. Minister assured me—not only me but also the other friends in the other House—that Government had taken a final decision regarding taking-over of the two textile mills in Kanpur, namely, the famous Lakshmi Rattan Cotton Mills and the Atherton West Mills Ltd. He said that he had to amend the Schedule because in the Schedule only 103 names were mentioned and once the Government takes a decision to bring the other mills also within the purview of this Act, the Schedule has to be amended. I would only like to remind him of his solemn promise on which nearly 10,000 workers are living. They are living in the hope that one fine morning they would get the news that the mills have been taken over.

In the meantime, what is happening? Shri Ram Rattan Gupta and certain other interests and agencies are working in the direction to see that the mill is not taken over. He is telling that the assets are less and liabilities are more and he is trying to establish that once again he has to take over this mill and run this mill. I know, the hon. Minister has said that under no circumstances, these

mills will be given over to those who spoiled and ruined these mills. The other day I got a letter from Dr. Rajendra Kumari Bajpai, Labour Minister, who is equally concerned about the opening of these two mills in Kanpur. She wrote:

"I have received your letter regarding take-over of Laxmi Rattan Cotton Mill and Atherton West Mill, Kanpur by the National Textile Corporation. During my last visit to Delhi, I had also met Shri D P Chattopadhyaya and had requested him to get this matter expedited. I hope, it will be done soon."

This letter is dated 27th April, 1976. It means that the State Government is equally concerned because it is a headache to them.

The workers condition has reached now a particular stage, where you cannot even pity them. They have consumed their own share of the provident fund. The employers have not deposited their share. These workers are unable to get anything in advance and a situation has come when they have to sell whatever they had to feed their children. I would request the hon. Minister to assure this House when this particular amending Bill is to be introduced in this House. A decision has been taken and I congratulate him for that. I know that he had to fight hard for it. The National Apex Body had recommended it and the other committee which was formed also had recommended this.

I do not say for a moment that the other mills should not be taken over. If there are 12 closed textile mills, in the larger interest of the suffering humanity and the larger interest of the workers, those mills should be taken over. If the question of loss comes, there are many things where the losses may be more, but after all these 20,000 or 30,000 human lives are more precious than some crores of rupees which the Government is bound to lose.

In this connection, I would also request that the entire set up has to be changed. It is said that the National Textile Corporation with 103 mills under its fold has sustained a loss. This is a false propaganda by the vested interest and those who want these mills to be given back to the employers. There may be some mills which are running at a loss, but generally these mills have come up very well. I know some mills which were almost reduced to junk and scrap, have come up well and are giving profit also. I know about two mills Muir mill and New Victoria mill, they had management difficulties. You should put proper people there and put technocrats there. Unfortunately, the General Manager of a mill at Kanpur had never visited any department of his mill. The entire building was on the verge of collapse and he did not know that until it actually collapsed. Such men, who have nothing to do with the process of production and who simply sit tight in air conditioned rooms are not required to run these mills. That is the difference, why the private employers say that they were managing these mills better. They were not managing these mills better they were having profit motive always with them. The profit motive may not be with us, but service motive should always be there.

I assure the hon Member on behalf of the workers that they will do their best because they have suffered for years in the hands of those employers who robbed them, exploited them and cheated them. It is they, who wanted the Government to take these mills over. They will not lack in cooperation. They will cooperate in every way. I would request the hon. Minister to appoint some sort of a Commission with experts to find out why these particular mills have suffered losses. It is not the job of the Apex Committee? In it only for the Apex Committee to go to Kanpur for two days? What will they do?... (Interruptions). I hope the hon Member

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there supports me because he has got more experience than myself. That is why this committee or commission is necessary in the larger interests of running of the National Textile Corporation.

There is another textile mill, Kaveri Mills in Tamil Nadu. Here a decision was taken. The Tamil Nadu Government never wanted to run this. Now the DMK Government is no more there. Now the Advisers are there. The Government can possibly intervene. Workers there are really starving. The other day my friend, Mr. K. T. K. Tangamani who is the leader of our Group in the Tamil Nadu Assembly was here during the AITUC meeting. He explained how much the workers there are suffering. I think he might have met the hon Labour Minister as also the Commerce Minister. I would request and urge upon the Minister that this mill should be taken over.

About foreign markets and to the yarn supply position I hope the Minister will throw some light and also on improving the working of the National Textiles Corporation.

Another mill the Kanpur Jute Co., I know this mill cannot be taken over. But what Mr. Alok Jain is doing, I do not know. I am told Mr. Alok Jain, son of Shri Shanti Prasad Jain, has been given an amount of Rs. 5 crores to run the jute factory at Kanpur and a plywood factory in West Bengal and also the Sawai Mathapur cement factory in Rajasthan. Has it been ascertained by the Industry Ministry as also by the Commerce Ministry that this money will not be used for cultivating roses or film artistes? I am told he has got a rose garden worth Rs. 3.5 lakhs which is not accessible to anybody unless he gets a recommendation from some artiste. I do not know but everyone says that Alok Jain is an admirer of film artistes. I am also an admirer of film artistes though they are not

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accessible to me because I have no rose garden. But this money should not be given to him unless these three units start functioning. 7,000 men are there in Sawai Madhopur cement factory. 1500 men are working in Kanpur Jute Udyog and an equal number of employees are there—Dr. Ramen Sen will bear me out—in West Bengal plywood factory. They are practically on the verge of starvation. I would request the Minister and assure him once again on behalf of the All India Trade Union Congress that the workers will do their utmost to see that the National Textile Corporation or any unit taken over by the Government is a success. Success will depend on co operation from both the sides because we know that once we do not succeed we will give a handle to the reactionary forces to beat us with and make our slogan of socialism aborted. We know in our sister industry the banking industry what reactionary forces are operating. So I would request the Minister to introduce the Bill at the earliest so that there will be no further delay because more delay means more starvation and more suicide cases in Kanpur and other places.

With these words I support the Demands of the Commerce Ministry.

SHRI NATWARLAL PATEL (Mehsana) I am thankful to you for giving me this opportunity to speak on the Demands for Grants of the Commerce Minister.

The Commerce Ministry has to play a very important role in the progress of this country and for the last two years the working of this Ministry is quite satisfactory. According to me, they have played a most important role especially in the progress of the country.

I would like to make a few points to the hon. Minister regarding the working of the Cotton Corporation of India. The Cotton Corporation was

set up to go to the rescue of the farmers when the cotton prices were going down below the cost price.

The Cotton Corporation of India has forgotten its objective—whether they should make purchases from the open market when the prices are coming down or they should make purchases when prices are going up. Generally, the Cotton Corporation of India is never found purchasing cotton from the open market when the prices are coming down. Last year there was a tremendous fall in the prices of cotton and we had requested the hon. Minister, authorities in the Ministry, especially the authorities of the Cotton Corporation of India to enter into the market and purchase cotton. They did not do so. They failed miserably. Ultimately, our growers had to suffer a loss. When we ask the authorities of the Corporation, they say, they agree to purchase cotton from the open market but they have not got adequate funds. I would like to know when you have set up this institution—the Cotton Corporation of India—why do you not arrange for adequate funds for them to enable them to purchase cotton when the prices are coming below the cost price?

This year, I feel, the prices of cotton have gone a little bit up. According to me I must say, there is no tremendous increase in the price of cotton. Still however, about 300 mill owners have started weeping before Shri Chattopadhyaya. The mill owners have a strong lobby in this country against the growers who are millions in number. The mill owners have started weeping before the Ministry that the price of cotton has shot up like anything. I would like to urge the hon. intelligent Minister Shri Chattopadhyaya and his colleague not to be influenced by them. I am sure the hon. Ministers have got the interest of the growers at heart. According to me the prices are a little bit high. You shall have to com-

pare the prices of cotton of this country with the prices of cotton prevailing in other countries. According to the information available with me, I can say, that the prices of cotton in other countries have shot up by 60 per cent whereas the prices of cotton in our country have shot up hardly by 15 to 20 per cent. An increase of 15 to 20 per cent is not a tremendous increase in the price of cotton. Still, however, the mill owners have demanded some import of cotton from abroad. I would like to urge the hon. Minister not to come under the influence of these people, otherwise this would adversely affect the interests of the growers, as the prices would come down if you import cotton from abroad.

You must be aware that last year the prices were below the cost price and the farmers suffered a lot. Ultimately, this year the prices have gone up to some extent because of the crop condition. I do not know what the estimate of the hon. Minister and the Ministry is regarding the position of cotton growth in the country. According to me, the position regarding cotton crop is not as satisfactory as it was last year. When our farmers are not getting a remunerative price, when they are not getting at least a good price to make both ends meet, naturally it will affect the coming crop. I would say that the prices, whatever the cotton growers are getting to-day, are the most reasonable prices. There is no increase in the price according to me and we should see that there should not be any adverse effect on the prices of cotton.

The mill owners in this country, I know, have got a very big lobby. They know the ways and means to influence the Ministry. But I understand that Shri Chattopadhyaya and his young colleagues are socialist people. They always care more for the growers in this country and, therefore, they would not be influenced by these people. I would re-

quest the hon. Minister and the Ministry to be alert about the campaign that is being started by the mill owners in this country.

Something is being said about the National Textile Corporation. The National Textile Corporation is also functioning well. I cannot say that the functioning of the Corporation is not satisfactory.

I will bring this matter to the attention of the Hon. Minister. There must be close coordination between the NTC (National Textile Corporation) and the CCI (Cotton Corporation of India). I don't know why they are more eager to purchase cotton from the private trade than from the CCI. I do not know why they do not want to purchase from CCI which gives support to our farmers. All these things show that there is no proper co-ordination. God alone knows why this is going on like this. Last year I got some opportunity to speak on this issue and I brought this to the notice of the Minister and requested him to look into the matter. So far as NTC is concerned, it works under direct guidelines of the Ministry. Of course they have got their own views. I don't say they are completely guided in everything. But every now and then they have got to come before your Ministry. They have to act with the help, with the guidance, of the Ministry. There are some guidelines given to the National Textile Corporation. I would urge upon the Minister to give them one specific guideline regarding purchase of cotton from CCI. They should give preference to cooperatives. In Gujarat, out of 16 to 18 lakhs of bales, 9 lakhs are from co-operative sector alone, more than 60 per cent. But still they do not want to purchase cotton from cooperatives. If they purchase from cooperatives it will be good because they will ensure good quality and also reasonable price. So, I would plead with the Minister to make some changes in-

[Shri Natwar Lal Patel]

gard to the purchase procedure and they have to make changes in the functioning of the NTC. Guidelines may be given to NTC to purchase cotton if available from CCI and if it is not available with them, to purchase from cooperatives. If only this is not available there, they could go in for private traders. By going to private traders they are oftentimes cheated they are compelled to pay higher price. Otherwise, I have nothing to say against the NTC.

I congratulate the Minister and his colleague on the performance of this Ministry, especially, in regard to the functioning of the STC. The STC has progressed well over the years. In 1973-74 STC's exports were 270 crores and imports were 215 crores. In 1974-75, they were 556 crores and 232 crores respectively. In 1975-76 these were 756 crores and 211 crores respectively. From these figures we can see that the performance of the STC has been excellent.

13.00 hrs.

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

I wish this Corporation should progress well. When I say something about this Corporation, I must thank the Chairman, Shri Vinod Parekh and his colleagues working in this Corporation for their nice and excellent performance in the State Trading Corporation.

I have nothing to say about this. I am, however, grateful to you, Sir, for giving me this opportunity to speak on the Demands of the Commerce Ministry. I support the Demands of the Ministry of Commerce.

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, in this commerce of ideas between the hon. Members and the Government side, I am sure, it is the Government side that is the beneficiary.

Some of our ideas and proposals have received added value at the hands of the hon. Members and we are grateful for this.

Sir, of the vast expanse covered by the hon. Members I propose to confine myself to a segment of it, the segment with its bright spots as also its dark ones, I mean, the N.T.C. Mills including their commodities that are in trouble. I propose to do so because any communication acquires deeper significance, when we share along our hopes, our fears too.

I also firmly believe that the hon. Members would be able to give us their valuable advice in areas where we need it most.

So far as N.T.C. is concerned, the fog still hangs heavy. But, the recent months have shown an indication of its thinning out. Whereas we were groping in the dark in the past, perhaps, we can now discern some straight path which may lead us to light. My optimism is based on as hard facts on which our common despair is. It is a hard fact that in the year 1975-76, the N.T.C. is going to incur a loss of about Rs. 60 crores. It is also a hard fact that while the monthly losses in the N.T.C. in March 1975 were of the order of Rs. 75 crores, by the end of this year, they will be of the order of Rs. 35 crores. It is also a hard fact that the utilisation of spindles to-day by the NTC is above the average of the private sector. It is also a hard fact that this sector of the textile industry, in spite of its bad shape and bad image, would contribute Rs. 10 crores of foreign exchange and sell its products abroad. It is also a hard fact that the expenses variable as well as fixed could be reduced by 7.5 per cent. It is also a hard fact: that those who go and purchase the N.T.C. cloth will know that the quality is consistently improving.

Sir, I do not claim that all this has been due only because of our efforts. The market forces have contributed this; the availability of cheaper cotton has contributed this; the removal of controlled cloth obligation has also contributed this. At the same time, while in the same period, when the private sector mills were showing various degrees of malaise, the N.T.C. could achieve these results. This is something which, if not worthy of praise, is certainly of satisfaction to us. And that too when about 10 per cent of the NTC machinery is in a scrap condition and another 20 per cent is at the lowest level of productivity and when it contains a 10 per cent of excess labour—aged labour. Further, Sir, it was under the constraint of reduced working capital supply—the banks which were committed to supply Rs. 62 crores deducted Rs. 23 crores of working capital being areas before nationalisation.

Sir, while modernisation is taking place, out of Rs. 175 crores of requirements only one-sixth we have been able to supply to the NTC. With these restraints, I suppose, if we do not get laurels or praise, certainly, Sir, our criticism can be mellowed perhaps with a tone of understanding too.

Sir, the hon. Member, Shri Patel, made a point about the purchases from the public sector. Of the various steps that the NTC has recently taken, this is one of the important steps that it has taken. Cotton purchase is one of the core of the textile industry. It constitutes 45 to 60 per cent of the cost of yarn of cloth. Till now the NTC mills were in the clutches of the private sector supply and these people did play havoc with quality and sometimes with price. That is why NTC took a firm decision that the purchases will be made from the public sector and within a year it had its effect. While in the beginning of the year the purchases from the private trade were to the tune of 80 per

cent and from the public sector only 19 per cent, by the end of the year—that is quarter ending March—it is 90 per cent from the public and cooperative sector and only 10 per cent from the private sector. Sir, so far as the purchases from cooperatives in Gujarat is concerned, this is a suggestion which we would look into.

Sir, it is true that effective management and control of so many units spread all over the country cannot be exercised without most streamlined and modern information system, I am happy to inform the hon. Members that the NTC has evolved a most modern information system by which it can monitor on the micro level the functioning and the cost analysis of the various units.

Sir, another innovation that the NTC has done in the idea of buying from the public sector is that of centralised purchasing of bulk commodities like dyes and chemicals by directly contacting the manufacturers and getting discount on bulk purchases. This had an effect on reducing the cost. About Rs. 4 crores had been provided last year for aged labour who had reached the superannuation age and about Rs. 6 crores this year.

**SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYYA**  
(Serampore): Will they be paid off their dues?

**SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH:** The Compensation Commissioner, as was mentioned by Shri Ramsinghbhai Verma, has now been appointed. He will go into the claims of provident fund etc. of the pre-nationalisation period. As for the post-nationalisation period, the provident fund has all been paid; there are no arrears on that account.

As regards modernisation, schemes costing about Rs. 57 crores have been sanctioned by NTC and Rs. 4.30 crores have been sanctioned for power generating sets, because we had ex-



[Shri Vishwanath Pratap Singh]

perience of power cuts which severely affected production of NTC. Machinery worth Rs. 23 crores has already reached and machinery worth Rs. 14.57 crores has been ordered.

About marketing, already, as hon. Members have mentioned, a very healthy thrust has been made in this direction in opening outlets. Apart from servicing the consumers, we have also got rid, at least in some way of the clutches of wholesale dealers. They knew that because NTC had no outlets, we would have to go to them and they could force their terms on us. Now we have got outlets. If they do not agree to our terms, we have our openings where we could sell our products.

It is true that in spite of all this effort, however much resources may be marshalled, as has been suggested by hon. Members, unless the administrative machinery is toned up, marshalling of resources cannot produce results. In this respect, the point is well taken. Whether it be negligence or corruption, this is one thing which will not be tolerated in NTC. It has been made very clear that those who cannot perform or give results will have to quit and those who perform will be duly recognised.

The offer by Shri S. M. Banerjee—he is not here—of co-operation of the workers is very welcome. We have established bipartite bodies in all subsidiaries except in Gujarat, which we hope we also be doing soon. This co-operation of the workers is really our asset. We have the fullest assurance and confidence that this co-operation will really help NTC in giving its results.

While evaluating the functioning of the NTC, one basic point should not be forgotten, that it is a part of the textile industry. The nationalised sector of the textile industry is not exempt from the vagaries of the forces prevailing in the textile industry as a

whole. If there is any difficulty in the textile industry, it is bound to be reflected in the working results of the National Textile Corporation; and that too, it is that part of the industry which was the weakest which had come to a grinding halt, because that was the way we chose them to be when we nationalised.

In this context, if we consider that NTC has been able to cut its losses by 50 per cent, that it could come in spindle utilisation up to the average of the industry, that it could keep its social obligations and employ 1,60,000 workers, that it could provide this country with one-fifth of its cloth requirements, I think there is no place for despondency and there is place for hope. Though the night is still dark and dense, dawn may not be far away.

SHRI CHAPALENDU BHATTACHARYYA (Giridih): Is it darkest before dawn?

SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH: If it is darkest, may be the twilight is very near. But I assure you that howsoever long the night may be, our vigil will be sleepless till day-break, and I hope that we come back within this year to announce to this House that the NTC has come out of the red and has broken even (*Interruptions*).

Hon. Member Shri Vayalar Ravi mentioned about the problems of cashew industry. If we assess the capacity of the factories installed and the availability of nuts, the problem comes out in bold relief. If we take the capacity of only those factories which are allowed to import, it comes to about four lakh tonnes. The availability of nuts, indigenous and imported, is 2.10 lakh tonnes. So, the availability is fifty per cent of the installed capacity; that means that nuts available are sufficient to run the industry only for six months.

Imports of nuts have been adversely affected by some recent developments. Where we could get 170,000 tonnes per

year, today we could get only 140,000 tonnes because the East African countries have also perhaps seen the light of the day and installed their own manufacturing units and are processing cashew nuts themselves. Further China has also entered the market and consequently the market has shrunk. Besides, because of the push up of the prices it is becoming more and more difficult to negotiate economically viable prices at which we could get those nuts. The only answer to all these is indigenous production.

The cashew plant takes about 5 to 7 years to come to bear fruits. We have now two options: either a larger area of plantations or to increase production of the existing plants. Perhaps both will be necessary. In this respect the Plantation Corporation of Kerala has already identified land where cashew could be grown. CCI also within its resources is agreeable to advance loans for starting new plantations. I am sure the agriculture ministry is also seriously seized of this problem and in times to come we would be able to make an effort and a break through in cashew plantation.

The new order about paying Rs. 250 as maximum price for cashew to which hon. Member Shri Vayalar Ravi referred yesterday has come to our notice recently and we are in correspondence with the Kerala Government on this point.

The point about shellac was raised by Mr. Horo yesterday, as also the prices that were offered to sticklac growers. About shellac, two basic points have to be accepted and understood. One is that the world demand is limited; this is a commodity which is susceptible to be substituted by synthetics. If we take the exports of India and Thailand, the only two producers of shellac in 1965-66, it was 34,550 and in 1973-74 it was around 13,000—14,000 tonnes. This year we could reach up to 8673, that is India's figures, compared to last year's 7332. This is the quantum of rise in our exports of shellac; that was done at

the cost of reducing the price by half. Even after reducing the price by half, we could not push up further the sales of shellac. It is a hard fact that the world demand is limited and when there is surplus production in India and Thailand, it is bound to bring a crash in prices.

SHRI CHAPALENDU BHATTACHARYYA: How is it that the shellac market was allowed to crash? Is it that in U.S. the position is so bad that we cannot recapture our market, because of Thailand's competition the price of stick lac has come down from Rs. 26.0 per Kg. to Rs. 1.0. Because of the low price, kusum and other stick lac rearing trees will be cut down in the adivasi belt areas. In any case why not introduce cashew growing trees there, so that there is increase in their purchasing power?

SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH: Sir, this displacement of markets was mainly due to synthetics. I can give an instance here. The gramophone record which was being made by shallac and lac has now been totally replaced by the synthetic products and this has been the reason for shrinking market. Last year, the prices did crash but just now the hon. Member quoted that its price was Rs. 26.0 per Kg. Well it was never Rs. 26.0. It was Rs. 20.0 at the peak and that was in 1973-74. That was an abnormal year, there was a short crop both in India and in Thailand. Then the oil prices shot up. The synthetic products became uneconomic and there was a high demand—push in the prices. Thereafter it did fall to Re. 1.0 per Kg. and that is why the shallac was canalised and S.T.C. was asked to go into buffer operation. In West Bengal and in Bihar there were arrangements. While the stick lac was gathered by the State Agencies, the seed lac was purchased by the S.T.C. At the field level, only State could operate and the S.T.C. could only procure seed lac which is purchased at Rs. 3.0 per Kg. Now, it is ensured that the stick lac growers will get Rs. 3.0 per Kg. at least. Even at the height of the prices,

[Shri Vishwanath Pratap Singh]

we cannot sell shallac at this price in the International market. So, the realistic price of shallac that we can sell in the international market is not so much as mentioned by the Hon'ble Member. But we can ask them what should be the seed lac prices. Certainly the Government desires that the international prices should go up and we can also pay more to the growers, and ensure a fair return to the growers. In this respect, I want to submit only two points regarding further efforts being made. All exporters have been required to purchase 40% of seed lac from the STC stocks. It is a buffer operation to protect the seed lac growers. Further, the production in Bihar and West Bengal is estimated to be about 33,500 tonnes. 50% of this will be purchased by the STC. I think these measures will ensure a fair return to the growers.

Regarding rubber, day before yesterday Hon'ble Member, Shri Ravi, had made a very forceful plea. It is a tribute to the rubber growers of India that while we were importing rubber, now we have become absolutely self-sufficient. This year, the off-take was lower, as reported by the tyre industry and rubber industry and that they were facing difficulties in the market in selling their products and they have accumulated stocks. At the same time, while off-take was lower, the production was higher this year. This has caused a surplus which we assessed to be 5,000 tonnes. Later on the assessment was about 11,000 to 12,000 tonnes. But apart from the surplus, there was another malady in this. That was the surplus which was not distributed normally between the various people in the trade—the growers, the dealers and the manufacturers. While the manufacturers were expected to hold stocks of 2½ months, they have stocks with them for hardly a month or so. This has created a very serious problem at the growers' level, because rubber being a perishable product, the Government decided that the STC should

purchase and export rubber. Till now the STC has purchased about 2,000 tonnes of rubber and has also exported the same.

The basic constraint in the export of rubber is that the international price is higher than the Indian price of rubber. Those international prices are coming up—as I know, Mr. Ravi would say immediately—but still, they are lower than the Indian price. This means a loss when we sell rubber. This is our financial constraint. Regarding further export, the Ministries of Commerce, Industry and Finance are seized of this problem; and some decision could be made shortly. However, a solution to this problem is the long-term stabilization mechanism for rubber; and towards this also, the Government's attention has been drawn; and the latter is giving its attention i.e. as to what mechanism could be evolved. Mention was made yesterday about IMPEDA and the export of marine products. I am glad to inform this House that we have this year reached the highest record in marine products export. We have exceeded even our original target. Rs. 105 crores were the target for the export of marine products. We have achieved Rs. 124 crores, which is a rise of 81.5% over last year. Volume-wise also, we have done 54,000 tonnes, which is a rise of 20.6% over last year's performance. Though this has mainly been in the shrimps, we could diversify into cuttle fish, into squids and canned sardines which are being exported to Gulf countries. Frog legs which had received a set-back have again perhaps jumped back—which

is the quality of a frog-leg—from Rs. 1.40 crores to Rs. 4.92 crores.

**SHRI CHAPALENDU BHATTACHARYYA:** I hope the ecological balance will not be upset, thereby increasing the number of mosquitoes.

**SHRI VAYALAR RAVI:** (Chirayinkil): Canned sardines are being exported because of some kind of incentives.

**SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH.** There has been a reduction in canned products, for two reasons. In the case of frozen Canned shrimp, for instance, there was a high unit realization. There was a diversion of raw material. While we gained on one front, there was a slight loss on the other, and because prices went up, it became uneconomical on the canned side. But the total gain being there on that side, there has been a total gain. To increase our marine products export, a very important measure has been taken, it is the opening of the cold-storage, foundation for which was laid by the hon. Minister of Commerce recently at Cochin, which has a capacity of 1,000 tonnes. Another cold storage is proposed, which has a capacity of 5,000 tonnes, at Calcutta. Also, to improve the quality of marine products and to see that they come up to the standards of the international consumer, an in-built inspection scheme has been introduced. Trawlers are necessary to exploit our deep-sea resources. Thirty trawlers from Mexico have been imported, along with des.gn. From Norway, 2 survey ships, along with the equipment to make such ships in our own yards, have been imported. Yesterday, a point was raised about the scheme of research regarding the toxic content of marine products, with the help of the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre. I am glad to inform that the scheme has been cleared on the 21st April 1976; and the money will be made available for this scheme.

In regard to coffee, again, we have made a record export this year, viz. of

Rs 64 crores. It is usually said that our share is too low. It is true that our production is only 2 per cent of the world production; but the share in world export, value has been increasing. In 1969, it was 1.5 per cent; in 1975, it is 2.1 per cent. It is not a very large figure, but the increase in our share has been 33 per cent. I would like to inform the House about an important international development that took place in November 1975. It was the International Coffee Agreement, on the basis of which quotas are going to be fixed.

There are two alternatives either a country could have its quota fixed on 1968-72 performance or two years after the coming into force of the Coffee Agreement and that will come into force on 1st October 1976. These two years are going to be very important for us in the fixation of quota, and if some tightening of belt is found necessary the nation should be ready for the same.

In spice another record has been made by cardamom exports by Rs 18.24 crores. Both in volume and in value this has been one of the highest records so far.

Tobacco also has recorded the highest export earning of Rs 833 crores, this year, which is the highest so far achieved. An important development in tobacco is the Tobacco Board, which came into existence on 1st January 1976. Two delegations of the EEC are here and fruitful discussions and consultations are going on. The Chairman of the Board joined in April 1976. The basic thing is how to ensure that the grower gets a fair return for his crop. For this purpose, action platforms have to be constructed. This requires quite a heavy financial outlay, but I am sure this year some encouraging headway will be made, with the Chairman and the Tobacco Board now being there to take care of it.

[Shri Vishwanath Pratap Singh]

Coming to handicrafts, in the field of carpets a very big thrust is being made. In carpets the production is over Rs. 40 crores, 90 per cent of which is exported. With the base of weavers that we have, we feel that we have reached the saturation point. To increase the base of weavers this year 120 centres are going to be opened, apart from the 41 existing in the country, for the giving of training to the weavers.

SHRI RANABHADUR SINGH (Siddi) Will these be hand-operated or machine operated?

SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH Hand woven.

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI Have the States agreed to this?

SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH This is a Central scheme. Unlike handlooms, there is no counter-proposal for carpets.

SHRI NATWARLAI PAEL (Mehsana) What about the steeply rising cotton prices and their impact on the cotton mill owners? (Interruption)

SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH I can console the hon. Members, but I cannot distort facts.

Whether it be coffee, cashew, cardamom or marine products, these are the products which come from the sweat and toil of the teeming millions, and that too who live at a subsistence level perhaps in the rural economy. And the foreign exchange earned by them is a net saving because the import content, except for fertilizer perhaps, is almost nil. This vast sector of people give to this country so much of the much-needed foreign exchange, and that too, not only by catching on inflation in the world market but also by increasing the volume of production, which goes a long way in helping our economy. We are really indebted to

them for their contribution to the national economy. This year the world trade volume fell by 5 per cent, but our trade volume increased by 7½ per cent.

These goods, if we are to give them a generic name, are renewable natural resources. They are renewable, but they are perishable, and because they are perishable, whenever there is an increase in productivity, the benefit generally does not go to the producer. It goes to the developed countries which purchase the commodities. This has been our experience, and this is also our problem.

The experience of the commodity boom of 1974 and thereafter is something to which we have to give serious thought. In 1974 the prices of agricultural commodities reached the highest peak after the world war, but by March, 1975, the magic was over. For some of the commodities in which we were interested like jute, the commodity boom did not come into existence. This high instability of agricultural commodities is something for our serious concern. Even in this situation, the benefit, if we take the balance sheet, went to the developed countries because the profit earned by the highest realisation on commodities was more than offset by the high prices of the manufactured goods which we bought from them. Even in agricultural commodities it was the developed countries which could supply the foodgrains which we were importing. Even in these commodities, they were the gainers in essence and the real resources went to? We have to look into this aspect more closely and more concerted action will have to be taken in this regard. We will have to look into this fluctuation of prices. Whether it is cyclic due to nature's vagaries or due to low elasticity of demand and supply, we will have to look into the equation of the prices of commodities to the prices of manufactured goods because in this equation lies the question of the transfer of the real resources from the developed to

the developing countries or *vice versa*. I am sure that this UNCTAD meeting, to which the Indian delegation is going, headed by our Commerce Minister, will focus attention on some of these problems of the developing countries which are serious but yet unresolved.

With these words, I express my thanks for the valuable suggestions made by the hon. Members.

श्री मकर दयान सिंह ( जनरा ) :  
माइका के बारे में इन्होंने एक सन्दर्भ नहीं कहा।  
वह श्री एक मेजर एकस्पॉर्ट प्राइम है।  
यही इस के साथ डील करने हैं।

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The Deputy Minister has only intervened and the senior Minister is yet to reply. So, if ever you have any question, you wait till that time. Otherwise, there is a break in the debate. He is only passing on certain information. Let us carry on with the debate.

SHRI CHAPALENDU BHATTACHARYA (Giridih): While rising to support the Demand for Grants of the Ministry of Commerce, I would like to draw attention to the many components of the internal economic situation and the international operation of many imponderable forces by which our balance of payments position has become slightly worse than it was before.

Internally, of course, we are steadily developing capacity in steel making, in coal production, in manufacture of fertiliser and also the capacity utilisation has increased in engineering, in alumina and aluminum production as also in copper and iron ore. They will have their effect during the last three years of the second development decade between 1977-1980. But during these 3-4 years, we will have to keep our finger crossed. The Commerce Ministry and the Export Promotion Agencies will have to be alert on their toes all the time. In West Asia, it is not a success story and they failed, relatively speaking, to take advantage of the opportunity of export promotion in petro dollar countries. Our share of

income in petro-market could have been effectively high. We want to charge price for feasibility reports to petro-dollar countries, whereas U. S. and EEC countries are giving them free. Things are improving this year. There has been generally an awareness of the problems and we hope things would look up. Unless we give our technical expert teams sufficient foreign exchange to go in delegations in this region and secure orders and a larger share of the market, we cannot stand against the highly developed competition unleashed by US and EEC countries.

The depressing factors about the FFFs (fuel, fertiliser and food) are over or going to be over very soon and that would effectively improve the basic balance of payment position of the country itself. This is a reflection of the internal economic growth and internal economic confidence that this growth has generated in India.

Internationally, between UNCTAD II and III, the lot of the third world including India has worsened through fluctuations in currency itself. The monetary crisis caused the third world a loss of \$500 million dollars. We have now the second phase of monetary crisis. America's currency is getting revalued. So is the case with German Mark whereas British sterling is sinking, dragging with it Franc. This slightly revalued our rupee. Our capacity to mount export offensive is, to that extent, impaired.

Now, Mr. V. P. Singh has spoken about the UNCTAD IV conference shortly to open up in Nairobi to discuss key issues like commodity market stabilisation, correlation of prices of manufactured and primary commodities, technology transfer and debt relief by the developed world. On the basis of past experience, we cannot be sure that anything concrete will emerge and we have continuously to strive to set our house in order to be able to protect Indian economy from the impact of the imbalances which are developing in the developed world itself.

[Shri Chapalendu Bhattacharyya]

So, now, that sort of an old monetary crisis has again gripped Europe and will have its impact over our Indian trade for no fault of ours. We have to be alert and up and doing. The Ministry of Commerce has to chalk out a critical path for the next five years and see that, in spite of efforts by developed economies to queer the pitch, we can maintain our own.

Specifically, while we press for tariff reduction, non-tariff barriers—we have had a reasonable success on that account, to the credit of the Commerce Ministry and we should work to the extent we can for stability of world currency. A revision of shipping code is urgently called for. The third world the developing world, uses 60 per cent of shipping but commands hardly 10 per cent of the shipping itself and the shipping freights are going up all the time. That has, however, created an opportunity for us because India, in some cases, so far as petro-dollar countries are concerned, as also Burma, Malaysia and Indonesia, have favourable freight zone. Unfortunately, we have not been able to take adequate advantage of the favourable freight zone. If you will permit me to say, with 1 million tonne of saleable steel in stock, with 10 million tonnes of coal lying at the pitheads, we are unable to mount an export offensive.

For instance, in engineering capacity, we have done very well in some cases; in primary commodity like tea also, we have done very well. But my point is, we can do much better. Even on the basis of the present export capacity, if the exporting agencies are alert and up and doing. For example, in engineering industry, on one shift work basis, Burn, Braithwaite, Jessop, Britania, Taxmaco, Bridge and Roof, Mokmeh Britannia and other small units, all these could fabricate additionally 2,500 tonnes of steel per month. A tonne of raw steel would bring us Rs. 1200 whereas a tonne of

steel fabricated would get us Rs. 4,500 to Rs. 5,500. We are going to do it partially as regards sponge iron is concerned, converting iron ore into sponge iron and then exporting it. A study has shown that if we are permitted to mix, blend the teas, we could get 50 per cent more out of tea exports. These are good things as far as they go. But a drive has to be launched.

I have been crying hoarse about exporting 5 million tonnes of coal. What is the constraint? The port handling machinery is not there. Well, the Commerce Ministry should arrange priority and get the port handling machinery at the quickest possible time and get the coal exported. That itself will pay for re-structuring of the coal mining industry.

Similarly, I have been pressing for manufacture of oil drilling rigs, off-shore and on-shore, on India's eastern region because we could export it to Burma, Malaysia and Indonesia taking advantage of the favourable freight zone.

We have hardly made any move in this matter. So, what is required is coordination by the different Minister for a wide-spectrum effort in the export drive—a co-ordination between Heavy Industries, the Ministry of Commerce, the export agencies and the Ministry of Steel and Mines, and of Energy for promoting these exports.

As regards stick lac, there had been a crash in price from Rs. 26/- to Re. 1 and now it has again rebounded to Rs. 3/- per k.g. I submit that the crash had been from nearly Rs. 26/- per k.g., if my memory is not betraying me. Any way, so far so good and Rs. 3/- is now the price for stick lac per k.g. But what about the closed 400 and odd hand-made shellac factories in the Districts of Singhbhum, Ranchi and Purulia in Bihar and West Bengal? These

shellac factories are closed in the interests of three machine-made shellac factories. These are hard facts.

I thank the Ministry of Commerce for relaxing a little in regard to mica control. This has created some hope which was not there; but they took two years to come to a decision and to evaluate the performance of the MMTC and MITCO and, all the time, the Commerce Ministry and the Members of Parliament were being taken for a ride and all sorts of figures were cooked up and given, which presented a false picture altogether, while the malaise or malady which had seized the mica industry went un-noticed. But, at long last, I hope this relaxation will lead to a revival of the mica industries where 60 per cent of the workers are still without employment.

I support the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Commerce.

**MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER:** Shri Dinan Bhattacharyya, This is extra time for your Party and you should not take more than ten minutes.

**SHRI DINAN BHATTACHARYYA** (Serampore). Before I start, I must ask the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs to see that at least some person sits here. What is this? It is becoming mere fun!

Sir, I stand here only to oppose the policy of the Commerce Ministry in respect of the jute industry. I express my deep concern over the method that is being adopted by this Ministry to solve the so-called crisis in the jute industry. In the Report also it is mentioned that in 1975 the jute industry passed through a crisis. Everybody knows that the jute industry depends mainly on exports and it is a basic industry on which the whole economy of the eastern part of India depends very much. It is the experience of people in our part of the country that the jute magnates who were previously all Britishers, minted money like anything, and now they have been Indianised; but

although the Management's colour has changed, the method and the tactics adopted to loot our people have not changed. They are looting the jute growers. I do not know how, knowing full well that our rural economy depends, to a great extent, on jute production, prices are fixed far below the remunerative level. The inputs for production of jute have increased, but in spite of repeated representations given from West Bengal, Bihar, Tripura and even Orissa on prices of raw jute, nothing tangible has come out. Even this year they have fixed Rs. 135/- per quintal. If my memory is correct, the jute growers there were demanding that at least Rs. 100 per maund should be fixed as the price of the raw jute throughout that part of our country, but, for reasons best known to the Ministry, that has not been done. I remember, once a veteran Congressman in this House announced that, if the jute growers did not get a proper price, they would be compelled to convert the area for growing some other cash crop and not jute. In that case, India will lose foreign exchange. Even today jute is a big foreign exchange earner. But the jute growers are being exploited; the producers as well as the workers in the jute mills are being exploited, in the sense that they are not getting the dues which they should get.

In the meantime, Government have set up a Committee with Shri Bose Mullick as its Chairman, and the terms of reference—I do not know how Devi Babu could give his consent to the same terms—are:

(i) nature and extent of difficulties faced by the jute industry on account of the high cost of production.

(ii) the low prices of jute goods and poor offtake and measures necessary to improve the offtake, ensure reasonable prices of jute goods, reduce the cost of production and improve the economic viability of the industry.

(iii) the needs of the units for modernisation, replacement of the



[Shri Dinan Bhattacharyya]

machines, and sources for the required funds.

These jute mills—and the jute product—have a long history. Modernisation has taken place so many times in the Fifties. Before that in West Bengal, more than three lakh workers were working, but now you will hardly find two lakhs of workers there. Where have the one lakh workers gone? They are not the people only from West Bengal part; they come from Bihar, Orissa, Uttar Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh. But, as a result of modernisation, for which Government took the major burden of financing and helping the jute magnates, the total number of workers has been reduced by at least one lakh. Now, again, the question of modernisation has come.

Just before setting up this Committee, the Minister himself announced and asked the jute mill owners, jute mill magnates to reduce the cost of production. Where is the way? The employers in their own way very naturally will adopt measures by which the number of workers will be reduced by increasing work load and the process has already started. I know that from 20 per cent to 50 per cent, the work-load has increased in each and every jute mill. From the facts that we gather, we find that in the meantime, the Bose Mullick delegation after their return from USA suggested that if the industry could cut the price of secondary backing by 2 cents to 2.5 cents per square yard, it could not only recover the lost market but also expand the usage of jute in this particular area after 1976 when the US economy was expected to revive. Then where is the crisis?

14.00 hrs.

The financial concessions in the meantime given by the Government of India are much more than what Shri Bose Mullick had suggested. So, what is the necessity of this Committee again? What is the purpose of this

Committee, if it is not to adopt some measures to reduce the strength of workers in the mills. And there is no such item in the terms of reference as to determine the cost of one quintal of raw jute for a jute grower and what should be its reasonable and remunerative price. That is not there in the terms of reference.

My point is that the Minister must be truthful enough to at least state in this House, what the purpose of this Committee is. Is it to revive and to bring to life the condition of the jute mills or to help the jute mill owners to amass more profit? That question must be answered. In this connection, I will quote what has been reported by the well known columnist, Shri Ranajit Roy in the *Business Standard*, Calcutta edition on 3rd December, 1975:

“Whether the audited balance sheets of the companies concerned have shown it or not, the jute industry, ever since its inception a century and a half ago, has always been about the highest profit-yielding industry in the country. Those who trade in raw jute and jute goods have prospered no less. These profits have come at the cost of the jute farmer. Even for such an industry the years 1971 to 1974 were from all accounts extraordinarily good ones. . . .”

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You have posed the question. Let the Minister reply.

SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYYA: . . . This year's measures along with the other steps taken from the previous year promise to turn 1975 into the industry's cost fabulous year so far.”

So, my question is: is it a fact that the jute mill owners are facing a crisis, a real crisis? Or is it only a propaganda by the powerful jute lobby to paint that this industry is in danger thereby paving the way for more concessions from government and increase the work-load?

Another point and I have finished. Half a dozen jute mills have been closed and some more mills will be closed to port in the country that there is a crisis in the industry. I say it is not true and in this matter also a committee has been set up a bi-partite committee to look into the issue of lay off etc. I do not know actually if this bi-partite committee is a mere hoax. If it is a bi-partite committee, then why were the CITU people excluded? Why were not they included if they want to go into the condition of working of the jute mills and why is the CITU which is a major union in the jute industry excluded? Is it not for only this reason that CITU is critical of the Govt stand? With this I will remind the Minister regarding the Khardah jute mill which has been closed for a year now. He assured us that it will be taken over. In the meantime the management went to the court. Even then he assured the workers that positive steps will be taken to take over the jute mill. I will request him to assure the House as to actually what is the position.

श्री मूल बन्द डगा (पाली) उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, श्री कृष्ण देव पहलू ने मेरे वाणिज्य विभाग के डिप्टी मिनिस्टर साहब का जो आश्वासन मुना, तो बहुत प्रसन्नता हुई। मेरा बान यह है कि हमारा वाणिज्य विभाग बहुत संतर्कना और जागरूकता में काम कर रहा है और मेरी समझ में ये दोनों ईमानदार मंत्री जो अपना काम करने हैं, उस में बाकल कोई शिकायत नहीं है, लेकिन भ दो तीन बातों की तरफ आप का ध्यान दिवाना चाहता हूँ।

एक आपकी रेड डूक बिकलनी है और इम्पोर्ट पालीसो हर साल निकलती है। अभी मैं ने 10 दिन पहले एक आर्टीकिल पूनविषम साहब का पढा था और मैं यह कह सकता हूँ कि जहाँ बंद बांधों को पढना और समझना आसान है, वहाँ आपकी जं

पालिसी निकलनी है, उस को पढना बड़ा मुश्किल है। आप दोनों तो प्रोफेसर हैं और बड़े विद्वान हैं, आप उस को पढ सकते हैं और समझ सकते हैं, लेकिन मेरे जैसा दिमाग के आदमी के लिए उस को समझना बड़ा मुश्किल है और जब ऐसी बात है तो आप समझ सकते हैं कि एक माध्याम आदमी के लिए उस का क्या परिणाम निकलेगा। मेरे जैसे आदमी का दिमाग उस को पढने और समझने में काम नहीं करता है।

एक बान मझे यह कहनी है कि आप का जो विभाग है, उसमें बहुत मारे बोर्ड बने हुए हैं। 22 बोर्ड आप के विभाग में हैं। उत्तर प्रदेश में इनके बोर्ड नहीं हैं और बंगाल में भी इनके बोर्ड नहीं हैं। आप के यहाँ कहीं आल इण्डिया ट्रेड्युम बोर्ड है, कहीटी बोर्ड है और कहीं काफी बोर्ड है और न जाने कितने बोर्ड हैं। उनकी मारी व्यवस्था को लेकर आप चलते हैं और साल के 365 दिन आप उनकी मीटिंगों को एटेंड करने हैं और उन में डील करने हैं।

एक बान मैं यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि जो इम्पोर्ट पालिसी और एक्सपोर्ट पालिसी के आप के आफिसर्स हैं उन की तरफ आप देखिये। अभी एम० टी० सी० की नारीफ की जा रही थी। वहाँ कौन चक्कर लगाना है। चट्टोपाध्याय साहब तो सीधे निकल जाते हैं, अपने आफिस में गए घटी बजाई और काम शुरू कर दिया। वहाँ पर हिन्दुस्तान के एक कोने में हमारे कोने में रहने वाले लोग अपना समय और अपनी दौलत ले कर आते हैं और यहाँ आपके कार्यालय में चन्द्रनोक और जसलोक में पता नहीं कहा कहाँ चक्कर लगाते हैं। वे किस लिए चक्कर लगाते हैं? वहाँ लगने वाले लियाजन् आफिसर कौन हैं। ये जो आप के डिपार्टमेंट में काम करने वाले कर्मचारी हैं।

[श्री मूरचन्द डापा]

जब नौकरी से अलग हो जाते हैं तब वे आफिसर लाने जाते हैं। हिन्दुस्तान में जितनी भी इंडस्ट्रीज हैं उनमें आपको ये आफिसर मिलेंगे। चाहे इम्पोर्ट लाइसेंस हों या एक्सपोर्ट लाइसेंस हों उनके लिए ये ही दौड़-धूप करते मिलेंगे। ये लोग आपके आफिसिज की हिस्ट्री जानते हैं।

उपाध्यक्ष जी यह ठीक है कि डूब का जला छाछ को भी फूंक फूंक कर पीता है। ये लोग इतनी गड़बड़ करते हैं कि सबवान इनकी रक्षा करे। मैं आपको इसकी इंस्टॉलिज दूंगा कि ये किस तरह से आपके यहां चक्कर लगाते हैं और किस तरह से इन लोगों को आपकी बातों का पता होता है। आप इस बात पर गौर फरमायें कि आखिर ये लोग करना क्या चाहते हैं। मैं आपको लिख कर इंस्टॉलिज दूंगा कि एस० टी० सी० कितनी गड़बड़ करती है। इन बारीकियों में जाना बहुत मुश्किल है, यह मैं मानता हूँ। फिर भी आप देखें कि मैं कई साल तक इनका चक्कर लगाता हूँ कि मुझे स्पेसिफिक टाइप का पाउडर चाहिए लेकिन मुझे दूसरा रोटन टाइप का पाउडर मिलेगा। अगर मैंने इनसे कोई समझौता कर लिया है तब बात दूसरी है।

आपकी एक्सपोर्ट पालिसी है। आप बहुत अच्छा एक्सपोर्ट टूट कर रहे हैं। जो मर्चेंट्स एक्सपोर्ट करते हैं उनको इंसेंटिव के लिए आप रामेटीरियल इम्पोर्ट करते हैं। आपने कहा था कि मैन्युफेक्चरर का जो नाम बताएंगे उनको देगे। कभी कभी आपके स्टेटमेंट अखबारों में निकलते हैं कि हम नामिनेशन का प्रस्ताव नहीं रखेंगे। जो इम्पोर्ट मर्चेंट्स हैं उनको हम लाइसेंस दे देंगे। वे चाहे मैन्युफेक्चरर को दें

या बोपन मार्केट में दें। 1966-67 में आपने ठीक सबझा है। लेकिन मेरे विचार में है कि जब मैन्युफेक्चरर के कंट्रोल में आ जाता है तो वह उसकी डिमांड डिक्लेट करवाता है।

मैंने स्टैनलेस स्टील के बारे में कहा था। हिन्दुस्तान की गवर्नमेंट आज भी स्टैनलेस स्टील इम्पोर्ट करती है। क्यों करती है? मैंने रसोमिशन की तरफ से एक मेमोरण्डम सिजबाया था और उसमें यह कहा था कि दुर्गापुर अलाय स्टील में स्टील पड़ा हुआ है, हमारे यहां इन्वीजिनस थानर्स मौजूद हैं, हिन्दुस्तान की मशीनरी आइडल पड़ी हुई है, हम हिन्दुस्तान में स्टील बना सकते हैं फिर भी आप स्टैनलेस स्टील इम्पोर्ट क्यों करते हैं? इसका रोजन क्या देते हैं—

It is regretted that it is not possible to revise the decision already taken in this regard."

बड़ा सुन्दर जवाब है, यह एन एम० पी० को जवाब दिया है। या हमारे रामचन्द्रन साहब का जवाब है उन्का यह कहना है दीज आर दी रीजंस मेमोरेण्डम 15 पेज का और उन्होंने जवाब दिया दो साइन का। कितना जल्दी काम करते हैं, इस एफीसियेंस को तारीफ करनी चाहिए। दुर्गापुर अलाय आपका माल पड़ा हुआ है, हम बन सकते हैं। अगर चट्टोपाध्याय साहब और विश्वनाथ प्रताप सिंह कहें कि वे की बात नहीं है और वे संजीवनी मुझे दाय दें तो मैं चुप रहूंगा। लेकिन मैं एक बात चाहता हूँ कि आप अपने बड़े बड़े आफिसर्स को बुला कर पूछिए कि जब हमारे यहां मौजूद है फिर आप इम्पोर्ट क्यों करना चाहते हैं।

मेंने मेनोरेण्डम दिया है उस मेनोरेण्डम का बकाय प्रप वीरिये।

एक्सपोर्ट के मामले में आपकी तारीफ होनी ही चाहिए। लेकिन मैं आपका ध्यान कुछ दूसरी बातों की ओर दिलाना चाहता हूँ। पी ए सी की 1975-76 की रिपोर्ट को आप देखें। उसमें कहा गया है :

"Out of over 3000 trade fairs taking place in the world, India participated in hardly 40."

तीन हजार फेयर हुए लेकिन आपने 40 में ही भाग लिया। इस पर कमेटी ने कहा है :

"The Committee regret to note that the Indian Council of Trade Fairs and Exhibitions has failed to enlarge its membership which has fallen from 77 in 1964-65 to 17 in 1974-75. The Council has also not been able to generate interest and enthusiasm among the chambers of commerce and industry. During evidence, the Chairman of the Council attributed this apathy to their being in the main internally-oriented and commodity-oriented. The Committee wish Government to combat this alleged apathy and achieve a genuine involvement of the Chambers of Commerce and Industry."

आपके फेयर्स का जो मामला है इस पर डिटेइड रिपोर्ट है। इसको आप देखें।

एक और बात है। एशिया फेयर 1972 में लया था। यह तय हुआ था कि इसपर 5 लाख रुपये खर्च करना है। आपने बजट में ने नी लाय कर दिया। कोई संकलन नहीं ली। उसको डिमालिश कर दिया गया। फिर कहने लगे कि 1974 में 22.74 लाख नए बचाने ३३३ I.S.—7

के लिए चाहिए। इस पर कमेटी ने कहा है :

"The Committee find that the actual expenditure of the Trade Development Authority on its participation in Asia 72 Fair amounted to Rs. 9.89 lakhs as against the estimated expenditure of Rs. 5.60 lakhs. The Committee concede that some increase in expenditure was inevitable because of the decision to increase the floor area from 8000 to 11000 sq. ft. The Committee are surprised that while CPWD was able to construct pavilions for Ministry of Works and Housing, Ministry of Defence and Dept. of Tourism at a cost of Rs. 43 per sq. ft. the expenditure on construction in the case of TDA shot up to Rs. 47 per sq. ft. The original pavilion built by the TDA at a cost of Rs. 6.41 lakhs for Asia 72 was demolished in March 74 because it was a temporary structure and shortly thereafter a construction of a new pavilion estimated to cost Rs 22.74 lakhs was undertaken by TDA."

सारी रिपोर्ट को आप पढ़ेंगे दैन यू विल नो व्हेर भी स्टैंड।

एक अंतिम बात मैं राजस्थान के बारे में कहना चाहता हूँ एस टी सी का इम्पोर्ट एक्सपोर्ट आफिस वहां भी खुलना चाहिए। जयपुर भी भारत में एक जगह है इसका भी आपको ब्याल होना चाहिए। वहां भी गोडाउन है। जो कुछ भी इम्पोर्ट होता है वह आप दिल्ली से लेते हैं। जयपुर में भी आफिस और गोडाउन खोल कर वहां जो लोग बिजनेस करते हैं उनको फायदा पहुंचाया जा सकता है।

SHRI BANAMALI PATNAIK (Turi): I associate myself with the feelings and sentiments expressed in the House congratulating the hon. Minister of Commerce and his Deputy for the creditable performance rendered by

[Shri Banamali Patnaik]

them. It is a very difficult task to have trade balance and they have tried to maximise, to increase, our export trade and to bring down the import trade. Unfortunately, because of the international crisis, there was a spurt in the prices of food, fuel and fertilizers, and so the import bill has gone up. We are really glad that they have been trying their best to increase our exports.

Sir, I do not want to repeat what has already been stated by my other colleagues. But, I want to bring to the notice of the hon. Minister one or two facts. It was said that some import and export offices should be opened in Jaipur. I wish that there should be some subsidiary or attached office of the Chief Controller of Imports and Exports in different States. I find that only three States namely Orissa, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan have no such office. What is the harm in opening the same in those States? This may encourage the small industries or importers and exporters if this is done.

There should be some subsidiary office in each State so that they will be able to look into the trade and commerce requirements in the States. Unfortunately, in Orissa, there is not even an exchange or control cell of Reserve Bank or State Bank. There is not even any arrangement for this purpose as a Foreign Trade post office. I took up the matter with the Ministries of Finance and Communications and they have agreed on principle to open up the offices. If this is done, the backward States will be able to get more and more of imports and exports potential. In Orissa, there is enough scope for the STC to export some things. A request was made for opening a branch of the STC there so that they will be able to tap the export potential in Orissa. The artisans too will be encouraged thereby. They purchase garden umbrellas from the artisan for Rs. 60 or so and sell it elsewhere for Rs. 700 to 800. The poor artisan does not get the real price

for the product. The agents are done in such a way that only the middlemen are benefited and not the poor artisans. Take, for example, umbrella, shawls etc. The artisans are not encouraged at all. Unless the STC has a branch and unless there is an export house set up there by the State Government, these goods cannot be exported from there.

Similarly, in regard to dyeing of saris etc., at Sambalpur there is no demand in the market for it because there is no proper organisation for the purpose. The artisans are not encouraged and they do not know the design that is needed in the outside market. Should this not be the duty of the STC to look into the design aspect and encourage the artisans so that they can prepare the saris in such a manner that there is demand in the outside market. Otherwise there will be no demand for this product at all. It is necessary to encourage these people.

Coming to the marine products, I am glad that there is an increase in the product. There is an office for the purpose located at Calcutta. I come from Orissa which has a long coast. This year, there is going to be a fish catch which will be worth Rs. 10 crores. They have also exported the marine product. But, where is the office in Orissa? Who is going to do that? It is not the fishermen who are getting the benefit but some one else. The trade should be organised in such a manner that they are able to sell the fish at a better price. In Puri, it is sold at Rs. 20 a kg whereas it is sold elsewhere at Rs. 60 a kg. Who is suffering? It is the poor fishermen who are suffering. There must be some agency and there must be some office at least for the marine products to take care of the fishermen. Of course, two fishing harbours have been set up. There must be some other organisation to help the fishing industry which ultimately benefits the fishermen who are now losing very much in the catch.

Coming to non-edible oil, the Minister has been kind enough to agree that he will do something with regard to export of sal oil. Orissa is the place where there is so much scope for the production of non-edible oil like kusum, mahua oil etc. This is not used for edible purposes but this can be made use for our export. That is not being encouraged at all. For that purpose, if there is some office of the Chief Controller of Imports and Exports, they will come in contact with the local people about the prospects of the export. The people are mostly tribals. They cannot get a better market for the produce unless you have an office there.

I must congratulate the Minister for the organisation set up in Orissa for the export of iron-ore. So far as iron ore is concerned there is competition. By organising this office, at least, we will be able to earn foreign exchange so far as iron ore export is concerned.

Orissa and Bihar which are the major provinces which export iron-ore and this is a very good beginning for organising market outside just as oil producing countries have come together so also the iron-ore exporting countries should come together so that there is no cut-throat competition.

Sir, with regard to chrome I would like to say that it is a very rare mineral and is used in various industries. There should be a total ban on export of chrome because of the limitations of our chrome mines.

Then, Sir, I am in complete agreement with Mr. Dhamankar in regard to the distribution of viscose filament yarn or artificial silk. The distribution of this yarn should not be left in the private hands. It should be distributed through the Textile Commissioner. These private agencies play a havoc as they distribute whenever they like and do not distribute whenever they do not like. It is a very whimsical affair. There are a large number of art silk weavers. They are not able to get their quota. If these

people go to Bombay nobody listens to them. I myself had written a letter to Mr. Doshi but no reply has been received by me.

Sir, I would also like to say a word about nylon yarn. The fishermen need it for netting purposes but they are not able to get it in the open market. They pay an exorbitant price and purchase it in the black-market. It should also be distributed through the Textile Commissioner with various State agencies. Proper quotas should be given to the States by the National Textile Corporation so that the fishermen do not suffer by paying exorbitant price in the black-market.

I would also like to say a word about State Trading Corporation. I want that STC should expand its activities. But, Sir, in Orissa a large number of industries have been established for the purpose of exports. There is one Emkay industry which produces sacchine. Sir, this unit had written to the STC and the STC asked for their sample. They sent the sample thrice but there is no response. The State Director of Industries as well as myself have also written to the STC but no reply has been received from them. Now, if this is the affair of STC how shall we be able to encourage the small-scale industries for the purpose of export. Actually, this is an industry which will substitute imports, as such there is no reason why it should not be encouraged. Also, there are small-scale units set-up from the export angle in the small places. These people are not able to come to metropolis and hover around the STC and CCIE. The CCIE and STC should try to help these units otherwise there is every fear of their being closed down.

Sir, everybody has congratulated Prof. Chattopadhyaya for making it possible to export a large number of items but I would like to say that he is also importing some items which are not mentioned here in this book. He is importing a large number of hippies and also exporting a large

[Shri Banamali Patnaik]

number of intellectuals. I do not know whether his Ministry deals with it or not but the import of hippies has become a nuisance in Puri sea-beach area and it should be stopped. The export of intellectuals should be stopped so as to make our industries grow further.

श्री बाबूराज अहिर्बार (टीकमगढ़) :

उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, विदेश व्यापार विभाग की यांवों का समर्थन करते हुए मैं अपने सुझाव प्रस्तुत कर रहा हूँ। विदेश व्यापार विभाग ने जो देश के अन्दर आयात किया है और जो देश के बाहर निर्यात किया है उसमें उन्होंने काफी प्रगति की है। इसके लिए मंत्रालय तथा उसके सभी अधिकारी बधाई के पात्र हैं। मैं मंत्री महोदय का ध्यान सब से पहले उस और दिलाना चाहूँगा जो आपके बीच सूत्री शांति कार्यक्रम के अन्दर है, जो कि बुनकरों और हथकरवा पर काम करने वालों के लिए विशेष रूप से निर्धारित किया गया है। वह यह है कि इस दुर्बल वर्ग के लिए विशेष रूप से सूत उपलब्ध कराया जाएगा। लेकिन इस बारे में मैं माननीय मंत्री जी का ध्यान दिलाऊँगा कि पिछले 8-10 वर्षों से मैं बराबर इस बात के लिए प्रयत्नशील हूँ कि हमारे बुन्देलखण्ड के पिछड़े इलाकों में जितने भी बुनकर रहते हैं उनको कमी भी सही दाम पर सूत नहीं मिलता है। सूत उनको कहां से मिलता है? व्यापारियों से जो मिलों से सस्ता सूत खरीदते हैं पर उन को बड़े महंगे दामों में बेचते हैं। साथ-साथ यह भी है कि वे इतना अच्छा कपड़ा बना लेते हैं, बड़िया साड़ी, बड़िया चादर, इस के अलावा टेरीलिन और टेरीकाट के कपड़े भी वे अपने हथकरवा से बनाते हैं लेकिन उनके कपड़ों की बिक्री का मार्केट कुछ भी नहीं है। नतीजा इसका यह होता है कि वे फिर उन्हीं व्यापारियों की मदद

में जाते हैं किन्तु वे सूत खरीदते हैं। वे उनसे कहते हैं कि तुम अपना कपड़ा रखे जाओ, हम देखेंगे। 4-5 रुपए मीटर उनसे वह कपड़ा वे खरीद लेते हैं और फिर उसी को 15-16 रुपए मीटर बेचते हैं। उन बेचारे गरीब हथकरवा वालों को अपने पेट के लिए, अपनी रोजी रोटी चलाने के लिए उनकी मदद में मजबूर होकर जाना पड़ता है। इसके लिए बराबर सरकार का ध्यान दिलाया गया। लेकिन उन के लिए कोई प्रबन्ध न हो सका।

कपास के दाम के बारे में यहाँ चर्चा की गई कि कपास के दाम गिरते जा रहे हैं। कपास पैदा करने वाले को बहुत कम मूल्य उमका मिलता है और इधर बुनकरों को सूत सही दाम पर नहीं मिलता है तो आखिर बीच में गड़ बड़ कहां है? कपास मस्ता और सूत महंगा—यह क्यों हो रहा है। इसके बारे में मंत्री महोदय को देखना चाहिए क्योंकि जो बुनकर है, जो हथकरवा या पावरलूम पर काम करने वाले कारीगर हैं उनकी संख्या बहुत कम है। बड़े-बड़े मिल मानिक तो लड़ लेते हैं क्योंकि उनके पास करंटों और लाबों रुपये की सम्पत्ति होती है लेकिन बोड़ीपूजी लगाने वाले जो हैं उन के पास कोई सम्पत्ति नहीं है।

मैं ने अपने क्षेत्र में कुछ लोगों को कर्ज दिला कर उन को पावरलूम की मशीनें खरीदवाई थीं। तो उन को मशीनों के लिए तो पैसा भिज गया लेकिन लागत पूंजी (निधि कैपिटल) के लिए उन के पास पैसा नहीं है। अन्त में उन को सरकार ने नोटिस दी कि तुम जो जो पैसा भिज था

मशीन के लिए वह धुन ढूँढ कर दो नहीं हो  
सुन्दारी मशीन, सुन्दारि मकान भी सुन्दारी  
शरीरों में लीनाम कर दी जायेंगे। मेरा  
निवेदन है कि सरकार उन को पैसा न दे  
कर धुन ही किसी प्रकार कर्ज के रूप में दे  
दे ताकि वे उस से कपड़ा बना कर आस को  
बेच दें और उसी से उनका पैसा चुकता होना  
रहे। हम दिना में सरकार को कुछ करना  
चाहिए। साथ ही साथ जो कपड़ा वह तैयार  
करते हैं उन के लिए जैसे आस के कोम्पारेटिव  
स्टोर हैं, कन्स्यूमर कोम्पारेटिव स्टोर हैं,  
सुनर बाजार हैं, इन में उन का कपड़ा खरी-  
दना चाहिए क्योंकि इन के लिए कोई माँट  
न होने से वे सड़कर मिर पर रख कर धूमने  
हैं और जब कोई लेने वाला नहीं होगा है तो  
सस्ते दामों में उनको उने बेचना पड़ता है या  
जो व्यापारी है या नाहूतार हैं उनकी शरण  
में उनको रहना पड़ता है जो सस्ते दामों में  
उन का कपड़ा खरीद लेते हैं। सरकार को  
इन तरह ध्यान देना चाहिए और बुनकरों की  
इस समस्या को हल करना चाहिए।

हमारे मध्य प्रदेश में विनासपुर के अंदर  
कोना का बड़ा भारी उद्योग है। वहाँ  
कोना इनकी बड़ी तादाद में और इसना अच्छा  
बनता है कि मिरक के मुनाबले उन का  
कपड़ा तैयार होना है। लेकिन जो उसके  
कारीगर हैं गाँवों के अन्दर वे भी इसी  
प्रकार से बड़े व्यापारियों के हाथ में कसे पड़े  
हुए हैं। यहाँ यह माल एकसपोर्ट होता है,  
विदेश को जाना है लेकिन जो आरक्षण है  
बीच वाले वे दलाली खाते हैं। अच्छा हो  
एन० टी० सी० सी० सी० सी० सी० सी० सी० सी०  
उसको बनवाने के लिए सरकार उन से सीधे  
उन का पैसा खरीदे और जो उसकी जाति का  
कठिनाई या दूसरी समस्याएँ हैं उनको  
किस प्रकार हल किया जाय इन के बारे में  
किस विचार करें।

आस ने 103 मिनी का राष्ट्रीयकरण  
किया और इन बात की बड़ी घोषणा की गई  
कि गाँवों के रहने वालों को उचित मूल्य पर  
सस्ता कपड़ा बिलाएंगे। लेकिन सस्ते कपड़े  
की हालत यह है कि पहले शुरू-शुरू में इस  
तरह का खराब कपड़ा इन्हीं बनाया कि जब  
वह कपड़ा कोम्पारेटिव स्टोर में या सस्ते  
कपड़े की दुकानों में गया तो किसी ने उनको  
खरीदा नहीं। वह कपड़ा पानी या चाय  
छानने के अलावा किसी काम का नहीं था।  
यहाँ पानिथांट में सवाल उठा तो मंत्री महोदय  
ने घोषणा की थी कि अब अच्छा कपड़ा दिया  
जायेगा। मैं यहाँ पर विश्वासपूर्वक कह  
सकता हूँ कि पिछले 6 महीने में सस्ते कपड़े  
की दुकानों पर केवल एक प्रकार की छींट ही  
छींट आई है। अब उन कपड़े का क्या  
इस्तेमाल हो सकता है? ब्याउल, पेटोकोट  
या साड़ी भले ही बना लीजिए लेकिन देहातों  
में जो लोगों के काम में आने वाला कपड़ा  
है जिसे से कि पानामे, कमीजें,  
मरदानी तथा जनानी धोती जोड़े वगैरह  
बन सकें उन तरह का कपड़ा बिल्कुल नहीं  
मिल रहा है जिसे की वजह से वहाँ पर जो  
मार्केटिंग फीरेजान और कोम्पारेटिव  
सोपायटीज हैं उनकी सारी पूंजी डूब  
रही है। मिनी से कपड़ा डिस्ट्रिक्टस में  
अपेकन फीरेजेशन के द्वारा जाना है जो कि  
उनको मार्केटिंग कमेटीज को दे देनी है।  
आज हालत यह है कि लाखों रुपयों का कपड़ा  
पड़ा हुआ है, उनकी पूंजी खत्म हो रही है  
और दूसरी तरफ लोगों को उनकी जरूरत  
का कपड़ा नहीं मिल रहा है। तो सरकार  
को इस बारे में भी ध्यान देना चाहिए और  
इस सम्बन्ध में अपने प्रतिनिधियों  
(अधिकारियों) को भेजकर इस बात का पता  
लगाना चाहिए कि किस क्षेत्र में किस प्रकार  
का कपड़ा गाँव वाले इस्तेमाल करते हैं और  
फिर वहीं पर उसी तरह का कपड़ा भेजना  
चाहिए। मिल जाने तो यही चाहते हैं कि  
किसी तरह से देहात के लोग कह दें कि  
इस तरह का कपड़ा हमको नहीं चाहिए ताकि



### [श्री नाचूराम महिषार]

मिल बालों को सुपरफाइन कपड़ा बनाने की छूट मिल जाये। कोलं घोर मीथिबन कपड़ा बनाने पर तो मिल बालों पर प्रतिबन्ध है कि उनको उस पर कीमत देनी पड़ेगी लेकिन जहां तक सुपरफाइन कपड़े का सम्बन्ध है, उन पर कोई प्रतिबन्ध नहीं है, बेसवभाते काम बसूल कर सकते हैं। इसलिए मिलों की तरफ से यह चाल चली जा रही है कि बटिया से बटिया कपड़ा बनायें जिस को लोग पसन्द न करें। जब लोग उनको खरीदेंगे नहीं तो वे सरकार से कहेंगे कि इस कपड़े को कोई खरीदता नहीं है, अब हम को सुपरफाइन कपड़ा बनाने की छूट दी जाये। इसलिए मैं चाहता हूँ कि इस बारे में माप जांच करवाये, स्टेट गवर्नमेन्ट से रिपोर्ट मंगवायें कि किन क्षेत्र में किन प्रकार के कपड़े की मांग है। घोर फिर उस क्षेत्र से उन तरह का कपड़ा भेजे। दूसरी घोर मगर मिल मालिक इन तरह की चालाकी करें तो उन के खिलाफ कानूनी कार्यवाही होनी चाहिए ताकि वास्तव में जो सरकार की मंशा है उसकी पूर्ति हो सके।

इन शब्दों के साथ मैं इस मन्त्रालय की मांगों का समर्थन करता हूँ।

SHRI D. BASUMATARI (Kokrajhar): I heartily join the sentiments expressed by the hon. Members in congratulating our Dr. Chattopadhyaya for his encouraging performance in regard to exports and imports; I feel that the right man is in the right place; he should further see to it that the position improves further day by day.

I want to draw his attention in regard to Assam. Assam is a state where all the women are weavers. All these weavers are sitting idle for want of yarn. Assam government has been trying to replace the indigenous shuttle with the flying shuttle

one. The other day I had an occasion to take with me one design representative from Canada; she was surprised to see the beautiful designs woven by the tribal women in the villages. We have mohalla committees and they have constructed big houses and it is in that place that they weave cloth. They are in occupation of some land unauthorised, where they produce jute and paddy etc. With the permission of the government and the official who accompanied me, namely, the deputy commissioner, six societies were each allotted ten to five bighas of land. That way, they have been encouraged and only one thing is that yarn should be supplied to them. Government is introducing co-operative societies; they are including all the population in the co-operative societies; co-operative societies are coming up like anything. The question is only of supplying yarn to them. I have been hearing hon Members saying that they grow cotton in their states.

Cotton is not grown in our region. Jute is grown in our region. Here I would like to draw the attention of the Minister to the fact that only in Assam attractive specimens of silk like muga, endi and pat are produced. Nowhere these products are produced. Cloth manufactured from these products, that is, muga, endi and pat, is very durable and it lasts for 10 to 15 years. The Canadian lady was very much surprised to see these things made out of these products and she asked "why don't you encourage the manufacturers to export these things made out of these products".

Here I would like to point out that there is no proper facility available, like the office of the Import & Export, whom the local manufacturers of these goods can contact. If such an office is located in Gauhati, the manufacturers will be able to contact them to explore export possibilities.

Now, there is another point which I would like to draw the attention of hon. Minister here. This is about wild animals. In Assam elephants and rhinos are in good number. In those days, Rajahs and Maharajahs used to purchase them for the sake of luxury. Now, there is no Maharaja or Raja, all are common people. So, there is nobody to purchase these animals. But at the same time, we do not export these attractive animals. I heard that export of these animals is going to be stopped because there is an Act in regard to the preservation of wild animals, I would request the Minister to consider export of these animals. It is not that we cannot protect them if we export them. If we export them, they will be protected in a better way and along with them we can send the Mahouts and Phandis, who are tribal people, to look after them and train them in foreign countries. In this way, we can earn foreign exchange also. Already some tribal people have gone to foreign countries with their animals. Therefore, I would request the Hon'ble Minister kindly to consider export of these elephants and rhinos to foreign countries, to comply with demand of the foreign countries.

There is another point. In Assam more than 55 per cent of the total production of tea is produced and a large quantity of jute is also produced. These commodities earn good foreign exchange. But when we compare the share of the State, it is meagre. I would therefore request the Minister to help the poor States like Assam to allot a larger share of the foreign exchange earnings so that there is encouragement to produce more in consultation with Finance Ministry.

The tourists should also be encouraged to visit the State. There

are a number of attractive spots in Assam which can attract tourists. I would again stress the point that a branch Office of the Import and Export Department should be established in Gauhati so that the local people may contact them for the purpose of exporting elephants and rhinos and cloth made out of muga, endi and pat. The people of Assam do not know the procedure of export and import business and only by opening one such office, they will come to know these procedures.

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA (Tumkur):  
Sir, I rise to support the Demands of the Commerce Ministry and say a few words of appreciation about the performance of Prof. Chattopadhyaya and his colleague in bringing about qualitative and quantitative changes in our exports. But this is not enough and they will have to introduce qualitative changes in the administration also. Of course, he has announced the export policy regarding various items. The STC also is developing our exports and showing various results. I appreciate the way the Chairman and the Secretary are operating, but still there is some tact and intelligence required to operate international trade. They have to go deep into the markets of the international world. I say this because in spite of their careful and cautious operation, the STC have sustained heavy losses due to bungling in the rice deal. We are losing a very good market which is being captured by Pakistan. This is what the *Economic Times* says under the heading "STC bungling costs dear."

"Gross mishandling of basmati rice exports by the STC have resulted in a net loss of Rs. 3 cross in foreign exchange. The rice deals have fluttered the official devecots and a departmental inquiry has been initiated by the Chairman of STC, it is learnt. A special committee of top STC officials and a representative from the commerce

[Shri K. Lakkappa]

ministry are conducting an inquiry into the goals. STC has been getting very unfavourable prices for recent export deals in basmati rice, partly because of its belated entry into the oil-rich Gulf markets...."

It is most unfortunate that we could not have the imagination to catch the trade in the Gulf States where we can find flourishing markets. We are even barring domestic consumption of basmati rice and exporting it, but still we are sustaining losses! That is how the STC is handling it. So, your staff and administration must see to it that there is a qualitative change in handling exports. The Ministry has to make special efforts to capture markets in the Gulf States where petro-dollars are operating. The trade expansion to that area has not taken place sufficiently.

There are various items produced in South India, including Karnataka, which can be the biggest attractions in other countries. Efforts have not been made to open offices and organisations in the South to organise the export trade, except one branch which has recently been opened in Bangalore after a long time. That is not enough to meet the needs of the situation, and encourage growth of export of various items for earning more foreign exchange. There is a decline in cashew trade in the south and in Karnataka, it has almost come to a halt. Only certain market operations are going on in Kerala, but not in Karnataka. Even with regard to see products, there is no organisation to boost up the exports so that Karnataka may be benefited and ultimately the country may get more foreign exchange. In Karnataka, we are encouraging the growing of bananas, mangoes and various other items, but unfortunately there is no effort to find international markets for them.

The market survey has not been made, and even the STC has not taken up, in a big way, the organization of these items, in spite of the good atmosphere for growing various items, i.e. those which you cannot grow in the North. The southern region has completely been neglected by the Ministry of Commerce. I represent the Cardomom Board. We are unable to control the 'gatzmala' disease which is one of the many diseases. Figures for various years have shown this. This year, there has been a certain increase in exports, but the disease I mentioned is still taking advantage of the situation and is coming in a big way in the marketing of cardomom.

The Cardomom Board is not properly constituted and represented. As far as the organization of cardomom trade is concerned, the pool marketing system has also not been accepted by this Ministry. I cannot understand why this Ministry has rejected the proposal made by the Cardomom Board for making research and applying the same principles as are being followed in the case of the Coffee Board. The pool marketing system has been denied. There are hardly any reasons given for the non-acceptance of this system. Acceptance of this pool marketing system will ultimately help the grower. Unfortunately, this request was turned down when Mr. Shah was the Minister of Commerce. I am told that the reason has been reported only to a few persons in Bombay who are operating in the cardomom market; to help those people, the pool marketing system has been denied. (Interruptions). These are very important policies that we have to decide. I do not know how the constitution of the Spices Development Council has been made; it is meant to deal with the various items that we are exporting to various countries, including the Middle-East which is the biggest spice consuming area. We

are not taking interest in growing spices. Even the Spices Development Council has hardly met after it was constituted. How is the Ministry of Commerce not aware of all these things? We in the South are interested in growing certain items and are also interested in marketing them internationally. But these items have been completely neglected.

Now about the functioning of the MMTC and MML. You want to have a good market; and the MML is doing an excellent work. It is catching the imagination of the market in Japan. Australia is competing in this field; but in spite of it, this organization is doing very good work. It is a State organization and encouragement is not being given to it by your Ministry; and the MMTC is coming in the way of its functioning. This should be stopped; and you should see that encouragement is also given to the utilization of the mineral deposits in Karnataka; other items should also be encouraged.

Therefore, may I conclude by saying that I hope he will formulate a strategy, which will provide a new vista of economic development in this country. India is a big country in Asia. You must see how in a big way we can operate as a developing nation, in regard to internal development as well as external control over the economic situation. You should have confidence in this House and you must announce a new strategy in your speech.

There was a study report which referred to the adverse effects of over-invoicing of exports and under-invoicing of imports and how through legislative, administrative and organisational efforts this problem can be attacked. I hope our Minister knows the problem and that he will evolve a new strategy of a dynamic policy, the guidelines of which he will give in the course of his reply to the debate.

SHRI D. D. DESAI (Kara): Sir, I would like to congratulate the hon. Minister for Commerce for his performance on the export front and his boldness in the export-import policy, which he has enunciated last month. He could have been still bolder. I would request him to raise his sight now to an export figure of Rs. 10,000 cores, or even Rs. 20,000 crores. This would not be impossible in a country of our size with its resources and technological base. We have made a break-through. The hon. Minister has to be congratulated for having done so. But I would also like him to take advantage of the break-through and carry it to its logical conclusion, which means that we can easily consider a figure of Rs. 10,000 cores within the next two or three years.

There are many things which we would like to do to achieve this. One of them would be to make it a little more easier for foreign travel, because to know what the customer wants is the best way of our increasing the exports. I remember the position of Japan soon after the second world war. It was deeply in debt with a heavy debit balance, so far as foreign exchange was concerned. At that time, lots of them started touring all over the world, studying what the customer countries wanted, what their competitors are making and how much and in what manner they could supply those things to those countries. So they were able to create a new industrial structure at home which could produce to customers needs and sell things at a cheaper rate, which had a tremendous impact on its economy.

I can safely say that our Commerce Minister is in a good position to partially, if not wholly, eliminate our unemployment problem. Recently, he had been to the Middle East and some other countries. He knows that even a small country like Kuwait is remitting to India Rs. 50 crores to 60 crores, because of those Indians who have gone there in search of employment. This is not a brain drain but more or

[Shri D. D. Desai]

less an invisible export of our surplus personnel, which we can safely do, when the unemployment back home is of a tremendous nature.

Training programmes would be one of the ways of taking care of it. We have a big agricultural base, which is a big advantage. I would strongly urge upon him to think of increasing agricultural productivity to take care of the increased volume of export of many of our goods, be it cotton or jute, or any other commodity. In jute there is some limitation, but then there are sugar, groundnuts and hundreds of other products which are required in the world, for which export possibilities exist.

15.00 hrs.

In the field of the general scheme of preferences; many of the quotas go to the Western countries indirectly. For example, the quotas of the backward or developing countries are exploited by Hong Kong, Singapore, Taiwan, Korea and the Philippines. They are being used not by the local people there, but by the multi-nationals and big manufacturers of west which establish their manufacturing divisions in these countries and export to the developed countries. But our country unfortunately does not even know what quota we have got. Of course, it is there on paper, but the publicity which is necessary for taking advantage of it is unfortunately not there.

The Minister has been kind enough to provide finance for the exporters, but it is only against letters of credit, and not against orders. Because of the recession, sometimes foreign firms find it too costly to obtain letters of credit as they have to deposit the equivalent of 30 to 40 per cent in a bank account for getting it. All that they do is to issue the order. So, if we can get finance against orders, that would be a great help.

The procedure in respect of duty drawback, cash assistance etc., has

been made considerably easier, but there is still a lag of about one month or so. If it can be reduced to a week or a few days, that would help our exports, because lack of cash is an impediment in producing goods and exporting them at competitive prices.

Then there is the issue of working, manufacturing or developing various products for the international market like diamonds, natural silk and so on. In Israel, for example, they have put up huge establishments for diamond cutting. This is a facility which does not exist in India. Similarly, in sericulture, for a hectare we can get Rs. 7,000. There is a limit to the export of rayon, nylon etc., but the demand for natural silk is greater. Our export has gone up from Rs. 12 to Rs. 15 crores, but it can be easily improved to Rs. 300 crores if we can only establish sericulture through mulberry trees which grow practically in every part of the country. Thousands of unemployed youth could be absorbed and skilled and unskilled people can also be used in the various processes. Temperature required is between 20 to 25 centigrade for small area which could be easily established in any part of the country with limited equipment. That is not much of a problem.

Mr. Daga was saying that there were so many commodity boards, but for oilseeds no board exists. This is one of the items in which price and volume fluctuate. After four years, they have established the Tobacco Board, but then, Gujarat which produces 20 per cent of the tobacco in India, and is the second largest tobacco producing State, does not find a place in that Board. The Minister promised me that it would be done with the passing of the Bill.

Recession is there Let us make use of it. The country is passing through recession and deflation. These are two great advantages we should exploit to the fullest. Which country at what cost could provide recession and deflation of this nature like us? This is a great opportunity for us to export anything. In all parts of the world,

today, Indian goods are cheaper. But, unfortunately, we do not know what to make and what customers want. And that is why I requested a large number of Indian to travel all over the world, to study the market, come back home and produce goods which are wanted according to the specification and at reasonable prices. That could only be a way out for increasing exports or utilising our recession and deflationary facilities.

Unless and until the Minister takes personal interest and see to it, things cannot be improved. I have a list of boards where he could take good care of these things. Unless and until he does it, I am afraid, things would not go fast; and probably, these things could not, for that matter, be done here, but I would like him to check up these things on his return from UNCTAD where he is due to go, and I feel that he would not be able to do a lot of things at UNCTAD. Recently, regarding cotton, a lot of things are said openly, and, as the growers representative, I had to present their case. The Minister may investigate and find out any place in the world where cotton is cheaper than in India. There is no place in the world where cotton is cheaper than in India. If we had surplus, which he had to measure, then he should permit exports three items alone, oil, food and fertilization of cotton textiles and its needs of Cotton. Surplus cotton should be exported.

The same thing applies to other agricultural commodities where the surplus should be allowed to be exported after providing the buffer stock which the country considers an inescapable requirement. Unless this is done, I am afraid, things cannot go fast. With these words, I support the demand.

**THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (PROF. D. P. CHATTOPADHYAYA):** I will first express our gratitude on behalf of myself, my colleague and my official colleagues for the kind

words that have been said for the performance of the Ministry. I do not know whether we entirely deserve this. I can assure you that we will try to deserve this.

Various points have been raised and I hope you will be kind enough to appreciate that all those points cannot be touched. But right at the beginning, I would like to mention that the points which I would not be able to refer to here are not for that matter be taken unimportant from our point of view. We will bear that in mind and do whatever possible under the circumstances.

Frequent references have been made to the balance of payment position, trade deficit and other allied subjects. It is well-known that under the present circumstances and because of the nature of our own economy, we have been more at the receiving end of inflationary world situation than at the giving end. So, although we have been trying to export more and more of the exportable surplus which we had, yet due to circumstances beyond our control, we have had to import more than what we could export. If you look at the import figures you will find that in 1971-72, our import was of the order of Rs. 1824 crores. But by 1974-75, it went up to Rs. 4,468 crores. It is more than hundred per cent rise. In 1971-72, our export figure was Rs. 1,608 crores and in 1974-75, it went up to Rs. 3,304 crores. Our deficit last year was Rs. 1,164 crores. I would like to mention that three items alone, oil, food and fertiliser, accounted for 59 per cent of our import bill.

As I said, right at the beginning, we had little or no control over the compelling items from import point of view. This year also, our import bill had been going up. But in the last three months of the financial year, 1975-76 we are observing a steady relatively downward trend. We might say, we have been perhaps successful in reversing the steadily upward

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trend. In absolute terms, compared to our import of the previous year, in the last three months of the financial year 1975-76, the import figures have been less. We hope this trend will be steady and our deficit will be lowered.

A reference has been made that perhaps we have not been able to cash on the opportunity and scope offered by the affluence of the Middle-East countries. That is not correct factually. In fact, our exports to Middle-East countries, particularly, oil rich Middle-East countries, have steadily gone up in the last few years. In the year 1973-74, as late as that, our exports to Middle-East, and Nigeria, oil rich countries, were to the tune of only Rs. 165 crores. In 1974-75, that is, within a year, the exports have gone upto Rs. 461 crores. It is nearly 180 per cent rise and, we hope, the exports this year will go up further.

The broad feature of our deficit is this. We import mostly capital goods and, as a result of inflation, their prices have gone up very high. It is true, in respect of items that we export, because of inflation, we could cash on their higher price value. But the items of our interest from the export point of view are not that much influenced or have not been that much influenced because of inflationary situation as the capital goods prices have. Secondly, in respect of the two primary commodities which are not capital goods and which we have been importing, namely, food and oil, peculiarly enough and, from our point of view, unfortunately enough, their prices have gone up very high. Therefore, both on the counts of capital goods and these two primary commodities, we had to foot an unprecedentedly a very high import bill. The items which we are exporting did fetch a higher prices but not that much higher in comparison with the prices

of items which we are importing.

We are now on what might be said to be the threshold between the developed and developing countries, contrary to what we had been doing a decade ago, now the semi-processed, semi-manufactured and manufactured items all three taken together, account for almost 50 per cent of our export or may be little less. In another ten years' time we hope that we will move to the era of exporting more manufactured and semi-manufactured items and less of raw materials and primary commodities. This is the result or spill-over effect of gradual industrialisation of our economy and broadening of our export production base. Therefore, in the context of our changed economy....

SHRI B. V. NAIK (Kanara): Did you say ten years?

PROF. D. P. CHATTOPADHYAYA: Yes, because already, of all the developing countries, excepting the OPEC, India is the only country where the percentage of export of manufactured and semi-manufactured and semi-processed items all taken together account for as high a figure as 50 per cent. So, this is a very good trend, reflective of the development of our economy. Therefore, in the context of these problems and prospects taken together we are drawing up a sort of export strategy, as it might be called.

There are some broad features of this strategy. One is the strengthening of the production base of export-oriented industries. We don't think that industrial production as such can generate export production, export is not an automatic spill-over effect of industrial production rise. Therefore, in its wisdom, the Government of India set up an Export Production Department in the Commerce Ministry so that a new thrust is given to export production as slightly distinguished from industrial production as such. And this year, as you know, another

Department, the Textile Department, has been set up in the Commerce Ministry and this is also in keeping with the nature of the potentiality of the industry which alone accounts for 22 per cent of the total industrial production of the country. It seems it has a very big export potential and I think it has been a correct decision that this has been given to the Commerce Ministry. So, in addition to the Foreign Trade Department, the Export Production Department and the Textile Department will be adding to our objective of what I call the widening and diversifying of our export production base.

The second feature of our export strategy is the simplification of the procedure for issuing import licences and relaxing export regulations, and this has been very clearly spelt out in the Import policy which I had the privilege of laying on the Table of the House a few days back.

The third thing is the payment of compensatory support and draw-back of customs and excise duties through commercial banks and we have decided that compensatory support in cases which on scrutiny, are found to be deserving, are to be given on a steady basis and not on an *ad hoc* basis, and wherever possible—and I hope it will be possible in most of the cases—the compensatory support which will be made available will be made known well in advance so that the producers and manufacturers can plan their production well ahead of the actual production.

Fourthly, we have, in the case of customs duty and import licences, given some relaxation and, fifthly, there is liberalisation of export control regulations. Sixthly, there is grant of credit for a longer period and on concessional terms, both at the pre-shipment stage and post-shipment stage and we are also, in this connection, actively considering the setting up of either a specialised Cell within the IDBI for export financing or of an independent Export-Import Bank.

I say 'or' because both these alternatives have been engaging the active attention and consideration of the Government of India. But we do believe that, like export production, export financing deserves a separate, specialised attention.

The seventh element is liberalisation of release of foreign exchange for visits abroad. It is true that some hon. members have pointed out that, in some cases, the facilities of liberalisation have, perhaps, been abused. But if we start presuming that all the people who are wanting to go abroad for promotion of exports are dishonest and, therefore, we become extra-cautious, our procedure will defeat the very objective that we have in view. We shall check the matter, we shall scan the post-audit later on to see what they do or what they have done, but I think this facility is called for.

The eighth element is, we are also organizing more trade fairs and commercial publicity. One hon. Member has mentioned that the number of fairs organized has gone down. As you know, in the last two years, financial discipline was enforced in different Ministries and, therefore, this particular section of the activities of our Ministry was subjected to the policy of stringency and austerity. But now we are coming back to our original position, perhaps even to little better position. Recently, to see that commercial publicity is given due attention, Government have decided to set up a separate, autonomous Trade Fair and Commercial Publicity Organization. It will be a high-powered autonomous body, looking after our commercial publicity which needs a very specialised type of skill.

Another element is our export-production strategy has been joint ventures. The total number of joint ventures cleared—I am speaking from memory, I may be wrong—is 268, involving an investment of Rs. 40 crores, almost exclusively in the form



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of capital goods export, and in exceptional cases it may be necessary—we have not taken a final decision—to participate also in equity, cash equity, not necessarily capital goods. That depends on the nature of the venture we agree to.

The tenth element of our strategy is Joint Commissions. From our experience we have found that Joint Commission is a very potent instrument for identification of the areas of potential and also for attending to the problems in bilateral fields and also rectifying the same. So, in the recent past, we have set up a Joint Commission with the USA, a Joint Commission with the UK and a Joint Commission with France, in addition to the other Joint Commissions, we have set up these three new Commissions.

With all these ten elements of export strategy taken together, we hope, our export will get a new thrust.

Many hon. Members referred to the problem of cotton. We have repeatedly come before you and taken your time in explaining our position. I say, we have been explaining our position. It is not that we can always solve the problem because it is a very difficult problem; sometimes our cotton growers grow more cotton and they do not get the right price.

Sometimes, the crop size is short, prices shoot up and the whole industry complains and also the consumers have to pay higher prices; our export competitiveness is also adversely affected and we are in difficulty. While we entirely agree with my friend Shri Desai and others, who have highlighted the importance of ensuring fair return to the cotton growers, I humbly submit that the interests of the consumers should also be borne in mind and we have to reconcile the interest of these two sides, the consumer and the grower and it is on this principle that our policy is based. It is easy to say, but it is not so easy to implement because there are certain difficulties.

As you are aware, because of credit control policy of the last year and year before, Cotton Corporation of India could not get the money that we needed, but we have to abide by the discipline of the economy as a whole. I am rather disturbed and I must be very clear on this matter; I find that by the end of April, the prices of various varieties of cotton have gone up by Rs. 400 to Rs. 700 per candy and the prices of cotton as on date are near the level of April 1974, which is almost an all-time high level. If cotton price rules at this level, Government cannot remain a silent spectator for a long time. Already, some hon. Members have advised us for importing cotton. We do not mind growers getting a reasonable price, but reasonableness is a relative thing, relative to the capacity of the cloth consumer to pay for cloth. The per capita availability has gone down and it is an inelastic item; nobody uses less cotton than what absolutely he can.

15.27 hrs.

[SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD in the Chair]

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: What is the profit of the mill owners?

PROF. D. P. CHATTOPADHYAYA: That is another thing. I can tell you that from 1950 to 1976, except for two years 1952 and 1974, the price of cotton textile has not been higher than the price of all manufactured commodities taken together on an average. But we should not blanket and lump up all together the most efficient mills have been making very good profit, but they do not constitute more than 20 per cent on the outside, but there are 80 per cent, certainly 75 per cent, who are not only not making profit, but losing and as a result of which, we are today saddled with 103 mills and there are 12 or 14 still closed. It is not a uniform picture which can be painted in a blanket manner as very dark or very bright; the grey area is wider than the both. I would say that if those who are holding the stock of cotton, whosoever they might be, stick

to this policy and force the cotton prices to go up in this manner, Government will be left with no option but to import cotton. But that is not left to myself I would like to do, because I want that the growers should get a reasonable return and a little rise in cotton price will not goad me to rush for import, but if the traders and others hold huge stocks and thereby allow the price to go up in the manner, it is going, I have to and Government have to intervene at some level or the other.

**SHRI D. D. DESAI:** We are with you and we do not like prices to go up further.

**SHRI NATWARLAL PATEL:** Will you please tell me, as compared with foreign prices, what is the price of Indian cotton?

**PROF. D. P. CHATTOPADHYAYA:** That is not a fair comparison. The purchasing power of cloth all the world over is not identical.

The textile industry is in difficulties. We are running ourselves 103 mills...

**SHRI NATWARLAL PATEL:** That is due to mismanagement of the mills not because of cotton prices being high.

**PROF. D. P. CHATTOPADHYAYA:** My colleague, Mr. Singh, has already explained the functioning of these mills. It is partly true that mismanagement of some private mills is the cause in some cases. When we took over the mills, our loss last year i.e. 1974-75 was Rs. 30 crores and the estimated loss this year was Rs. 70 crores but because of the good work done by my colleague and the NTC officials and the workers, particularly, the estimated loss has come down from Rs. 70 crores to around Rs. 50 crores. That shows that a very careful, honest and vigilant management can alter the picture to a great extent even amidst all the difficulties and the

constraints. But this is not to minimise the problem...

**SHRI S. M. BANERJEE (Kanpur):** But what about take-over of the two textile mills in Kanpur?

**PROF. D. P. CHATTOPADHYAYA:** I know he is very much interested in it and I have not forgotten his interest.

I have already mentioned that in addition to the 103 mills, there are another 12 or 14 mills which are closed. There are a few more mills which were closed but fortunately, in the last few weeks, some of them have been opened.

Spinning sector is in a very bad shape. We have to look into the problem as a whole. As you know, the handlooms are a disorganized sector and their problem is even more serious because the organized sector at least is strong enough to make itself hard and hard by the people who matter, but the handloom weavers are very poor and disorganised and spread over thousands of villages and their credit position is very poor. So, it has been included as one item of the 20-point programme of the Prime Minister. Therefore, we are giving special attention to the handloom sector.

The composite mills sector entrusted with the responsibility of production of the controlled cloth have been complaining and it is partly true, that in producing controlled cloth they have to incur losses. Naturally, it is not in our interest to see that more mills fall sick, whether they be of private sector or the public sector. If they fall sick and become closed, we cannot remain indifferent. We have to intervene at some stage or the other. So it is in our interest and in the national interest that the money invested comes back from the public sector and even the private sector mills do not fall sick and also the handloom weavers get some work and also the powerloom sector which is

[Prof. D. P. Chattopadhyaya] working at some 35 per cent of their capacity should get some more work. So, one of the policy decisions we have taken is that controlled cloth obligation will be transferred so far as dhoties and saris are concerned to the handloom sector and the other three items of the controlled cloth, viz., drill, shirting and long cloth can be transferred to the powerloom sector. So far as drill, shirting and long cloth are concerned, the obligation nationally will continue to be with the mill sector but they can transfer it to the powerloom sector so that the released capacity they can utilise for producing things which are more profitable from their point of view and also the powerloom sector gets additional work. But we have seen to it that the powerloom sectors in violation of the Government order which is now almost a decade old have been producing coloured dhoties and saris are not allowed to do so. If handloom sector and powerloom sector get or start this additional production in handloom, the demand for yarn will pick up and that will, perhaps, contribute to the restoration of the health of the spinning sector. We have tried to look at the problem in an integrated manner.

**SHRI S. R. DAMANI (Sholapur):** May I know when is this scheme going to be implemented? Will you kindly tell the House the exact date, as this very announcement was made three months back?

**PROF. D. P. CHATTOPADHYAYA:** We took this policy decision two months back. As I said, the handloom weavers are disorganised, spread over to thousands of villages. They are not covered even by co-operatives. Some of the co-operatives, in some parts of the country—say Bihar, Bengal and Assam—are disorganised, dis-functional co-operatives. We have to organise them. We can notionally transfer the obligation. But they have to produce them. Two high powered committees have already been set up to work out details and in a phased manner, actually to transfer this obligation from

the composite sector to the handloom and the powerloom. This powerloom sector will get the benefit as soon as the poorer sector can be prepared for taking up the obligation.

Reference has been made to some difficulties encountered by the Silk sector. We have a Tassar Development Corporation. This is being set up to increase in a regulated manner the production of tassar. Also the Central Silk Board has an ambitious marketing and price stabilising programme. The objective of this programme, in short, is to avoid undue and unhealthy fluctuations in the price of silk throughout the year and to have a steady price as far as possible. In order to co-ordinate and accelerate the research programmes and pass on the results of the research to the sericulturists, a Technical Officer Incharge of the Research Co-ordination is proposed to be appointed in the Office of the Central Silk Board.

Another hon. member referred to the problems of the employees of Sericulture Research Office in Behrampur. I am looking into the matter. If there is some administrative lapses, I will try to rectify the same.

More than one hon. member referred to the problem of Jute Industry. It is another industry which is really worrying us and, perhaps, rightly so, because the export earning from the industry was of the order of Rs. 300 crores. It has come down last year to Rs. 245 crores and, I am afraid, it may go down. It is not because of an entirely internal reason, but because of lower off-take in the foreign market, because we have lost ground in competition with synthetics and also financial mismanagement. I say that sickness of the jute industry is partly due to external reasons—our uncompetitiveness in relation to synthetics and also because of recession and the U.S. demand mainly and European demand partly for jute carpet having gone down. Unless construction activity picks up in these areas, we will not be able to get back to our origin-

al position. Apart from that there is some very unhealthy competition from some of the neighbouring countries. I am sorry to say about this and this is an avoidable thing. I hope that our friends in the neighbouring countries will appreciate that it is not in the long-term interest good to undercut us in this field. This is also a disturbing feature in the jute trade. Some mills are closed down because of financial mismanagement, not because of intrinsic or incurable reasons. References were made about the Khurda Jute Mills. There has been financial mismanagement and that is the finding of the investigating committee. But we cannot do anything more because this is pending before the High Court. As you know since the court is seized of the matter we cannot take action now on takeover or anything else. The industry is in a difficult situation and we are trying to help them in every possible manner. We have provided relief in the matter of export of jute goods. Jute Corporation is functioning to its maximum efficiency. As I have said, there is the overall credit control policy and it is not possible for us to provide the Jute Corporation that amount of money which they asked for. As you know there have been these constraints. But they have done very good work and I would like to say that this year the jute-growers have got a price which is higher than the price they have ever received. It is another question whether he actually got it or the middleman got something. But so far as the price level is concerned, it is quite high. The rop was of short size and because of market forces certain problems for the industry were created. But I doubt whether by the end of the jute season there will be enough raw material left for running the industry. I thought that the House should know the serious situation and so I have explained the situation. There are certain items where the growth potential is very great and naturally we will concentrate our attention on those items, while not neglecting the other items.

Leather is an item, for example, where there is great potentiality and we are moving, as I said just at the beginning, from raw and semi-processed to manufactured and semi-manufactured processes.

In the last two-three years, our manufacturing capacity has gone up and, in consonance with that fact, we want to bring down the quota of export of raw hides and skins. We have reduced the quota of export of hides by 50 per cent and skin by 19 per cent. That need not cause us any worry from any quarter because never, in the history of the leather trade, they could export more than 48 to 49 million small pieces. So, even with this cut in quota, the leather that is available for export will be of the order of 52 million pieces. While we do not like to disrupt the trade, we certainly would like to ensure that the manufacturing installed capacity at great cost does not remain idle. In leather, our goods are finding a good market abroad.

We are now entering into a collaboration with some foreign country and also companies who know the modern technology and also the market tie-up which are very important for marketing and exporting of these goods. Engineering goods is another field where we have been doing well and we hope that this year we will touch the four hundred crore mark. Coal is another item which has a tremendous growth potential. All these years we have been exporting to our neighbouring countries like Nepal, Bangla Desh and Burmah. Now, we have some order from even West Europe, Japan and some distant countries. My colleague, Shri Pant, was saying the other day that the coal production might go up to 108 million tonnes—it will be an all time high. If there is enough of port facilities which, I hope, by the end of this year, will be available in Haldia Port, we can export more. This is a very good item. A doubt has been expressed

[Prof. D. P. Chattopadhyaya]  
 whether we should export coal at all. Sir, as you know, since you came from a State where coal is most intensively concentrated, we have, even at this rate of exploitation or a little higher rate of exploitation, coal reserves of 700 to 800 million tonnes by that time, an alternative energy and other things would be thought out and executed by the posterior generation.

Garment is another area which is also picking up the last three to four years. I had an occasion to mention on the floor of this House—three days back—that we have gone up from Rs. 11 crores in 1971-72 to Rs. 145 crores in the year 1974-75 in three years. And, in another one year, that is, in the year, 1976-77, we hope to reach Rs. 225 crores mark. The most encouraging items in smaller units are coming in large numbers. So, we also ensure raw materials to them. One of the projects of our handloom sector is to see that export variety of raw materials, more crepes and more checks are produced so that our actual requirements of the garment sector are fulfilled in time.

Steel is another important item. We are producing steel more than we require and we are exporting that. That is giving us good money. Another item which also we can look forward to is the processed meat. We have not fully exploited it. Government has recently taken a decision that processed meat as an item, should be further exported. In this matter, my friend Shri Shinde, can lend his help as he has done already and I hope he will lend his further help if possible. Processed food and processed meat both are very important items. Take for example buffalo meat, goat meat, etc.

A reference has also been made about the functioning of the S.T.C., MMTC and Handloom and Handicraft Export Corporation and also MITCO—Mica Trading Corporation. As I have been saying the performance of the Ministry is, to a great extent, dependent upon the good

performance of these public sector undertakings. I have no hesitation in saying that, generally speaking, they have been doing a very very good work. If a corporation handles hundreds of thousands of items, there may be one or two lapses here and there. I do not rule that out. But rule that that out. But, wherever it has been brought to our notice, we have been taking care of it. Shri Basumatari had referred to a certain thing. It has been punished for that because there was some lapse on his part. Therefore, the organisations—I do not like to go into detail—have been doing their work in a commendable manner.

Sir, a reference had been made to inventory position particularly in respect of non-ferrous metals, that is, it has been high with the MMTC. This is an immediate result of the recessionary situation because on the basis of specific orders placed on MMTC by the exporters or manufacturers of MMTC imported these raw materials. The demand of the manufacturers went down and they did not lift the same from the MMTC. MMTC being a public sector corporation, naturally, it cannot take a very *ad hoc* decision. As such, they were saddled with these. Sir, if it shows anything, I will say that it shows that they had to suffer the loss because of their high sense of duty. Sir, in a recessionary situation this sort of unwanted state of affairs is unavoidable.

Sir, reference has been made to chrome export. It is a very important mineral and we badly need it increasing for our steel production. So, we are, very cautious in the matter of allowing its export and from August 1975—I am speaking from memory—we are not allowing its export. Only the contracts entered into before August 1975 are being serviced now and we have restricted the quota.

Sir, some problems have been experienced by the mica exporters. Some remedial measures have been taken and in mica, the formula of \$0 per

cent private sector and 40 per cent MITCO is being modified. That will help the exporters.

Sir, I would not like to take much of the time of the House and would like to say very briefly about the multi-lateral negotiations like UNCTAD. We are going to attend this UNCTAD. It is a very important thing and all the world over there is a lot of interest regarding the outcome of UNCTAD. We cannot pre-judge but there is serious interest of ours in the outcome of the deliberations of this Body. As exporters of commodities like sugar, tea and jute we are interested in it and also, as I said earlier, we are now major exporters of manufactured and semi-manufactured goods. From both these points of view we are interested in the outcome of UNCTAD as we are interested in the deliberations being held in Paris.

So these multi-lateral negotiations aimed at evolving a new economic order are of very major interest to our country, because with the rise in oil prices, we have been very badly affected and we are what they technically call one of the most seriously affected countries. So, for our trade deficit, we should possibly be compensated by buffer-stocking operations, and also by compensatory finance; and also by better access for our manufactures to industrialised countries and we are certainly interested in these. Because of quota and other restrictions imposed on some of our manufactures in the industrialised countries, we are experiencing certain difficulties. So it will be our endeavour to see that our manufactures get better access to the industrialised countries. For that, we will utilise these multi-lateral forums as we have been utilising the bilateral forums, joint commissions, etc.

Our trade with different regions is going up. As I have mentioned, particularly with reference to the Gulf countries, West Europe and USA, it is going up. A friend asked why we do

not resume our trade with China. I would only say that since a desire has been expressed that we want to normalise our relations with China, in the matter of trade appropriate decisions will be taken at the appropriate time. As I have already said, we want friendship with all; we have enmity with none. This policy will certainly be reflected in trade, but at the right time.

**SHRI S. M. BANERJEE:** While replying, he did not refer to the taking over of the two mills in Kanpur. He said he would do it, but he has conveniently forgotten it.

**PROF. D. P. CHATTOPADHYAYA:** We have said in this House on different occasions that the two mills in Kanpur will be taken over. But some modifications of the laws are called for. Therefore, we are in that process. I have said it before and I repeat it.

**SHRI VAYALAR RAVI:** The hon. Minister has not made any categorical declaration about the purchase and offtake of rubber. The price was statutorily fixed in 1969 on the basis of the 1967 price level. So I want to know whether any commitment will be made about the price being statutorily fixed again and about offtake by the tyre manufacturers and others. I had raised another point which has not been replied to. This is about the export obligation of certain firms who were given licences for expansion as well as for establishing industries. Your Chief Controller of Imports and Exports was said to be verifying it. Have you got any permanent machinery for this?

**PROF. D. P. CHATTOPADHYAYA:** I can only say that in regard to the item of rubber, for taking a final decision we have to consult both the ID Ministry and the Finance Ministry. My colleague has already said, and I repeat, that STC have been asked to

[Prof. D. P. Chattopadhyaya] move into the market, operate and purchase, and they will do it. Export obligation is being looked after by a cell in the Office of the Chief Controller of Imports and Exports. What the result is, I cannot readily say. But if he is interested, I can let him know.

श्री राज सिंह बाई : जिस प्रकार नेशनल डेवपमेटल कारपोरेशन के लिये रुई खरीदने का तरीका आपने अपनाया है, क्या आप कपडे के बेचान और स्टोर की खरीदी के लिए भी बैता ही कोई तरीका अपनाने जा रहे हैं ?

दूसरा प्रश्न-- जो अधिकारी आप को सचिव में हैं या छोड़ गये हैं और जिन्होंने धन की काफ़ी अफ़रा-तफ़री की है, फ़र्टिफ़िकेशन का मान सेक्रेण्ड क्वालिटी में निकाला है--यदि यह सब बातें सही पाई जायें तो क्या आप उन्हें जेल में बंद करने वाले हैं ?

16. 00 hrs.

PROF. D. P. CHATTOPADHYAYA: He has already written to me. I am looking into this matter.

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA (Tumkur): I had mentioned about the Cardamom Board. In this commodity, the pool marketing system should be introduced.

Also a big organisation should be set up in the south for exploitation of this potential. It has not been covered in his reply.

PROF. D. P. CHATTOPADHYAYA: I do not readily recall; I shall let him know later on.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, I shall now put all the cut motions to the vote of the House.

All the cut motions were put and negatived.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That the respective sums not exceeding the amounts on Revenue Account and Capital Account 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, 1977, in respect of the heads of demands entered in the second column thereof against Demands Nos. 13 and 14 relating to the Ministry of Commerce.

The motion was adopted.

[The Demands for Grants, 1976-77, in respect of the Ministry of Commerce, which were voted by Lok Sabha, are shown below—Ed ]

No. of Demand	Name of Demand	Amount of Demand for Grant on account voted by the House on 23-3-1976		Amount of Demand for Grant voted by the House	
		Revenue Rs.	Capital Rs.	Revenue Rs.	Capital Rs.
13	Ministry of Commerce	16,74,000	..	83,67,000	..
14	Foreign Trade and Export Production	34,99,48,000	64,06,47,000	174,97,39,000	320,32,37,000