

[Shri Sezhiyan]

to the concerned authorities. So far those reports have not been placed on the Table of the House as per the specific provisions of the Government of Union Territories Act. Section 49 of that Act expressly says that it should be placed on the Table of the Legislature. After dissolution of the Legislature, its functions have come to Parliament and they should have been placed on the Table of this House. There is a failure on the part of Government in not doing this.

Incidentally I have raised the question of Gujarat also. For the year 1972-73 the accounts and the Audit Report have already been submitted by the Auditor General, but they have not been placed on the Table so far. These two are very serious lapses against the powers and effective functions of the House. In spite of your directions given on 25th March when I raised the same question in respect of Nagaland, the Government has not taken care to place these Reports on the table of this House. Without these Reports being placed on the Table of the House, we cannot refer them to the Public Accounts Committee, and these audit reports will not be taken into consideration at all. Therefore, I would like to know why these serious lapses were allowed to happen in respect of Pondichery and Gujarat.

MR. SPEAKER: You will reply now or later?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE): Later on.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU (Diamond Harbour): I gave notice under rule 377.

MR. SPEAKER: Not now.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: I will take half a minute.

MR. SPEAKER: Not even half a minute.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: I have not been told that it has not been admitted. I only want half a minute.

MR. SPEAKER: You do it every day. I am not going to allow. I have not called you.

MR. S. M. BANERJEE (Kanpur): raised a point of order

MR. SPEAKER: On what?

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: On what you have said

In this particular case you were so generous that you asked the Minister whether he wants to reply now or later. In other cases it is simply noted. Whether it is noted or not, even that I do not know.

MR. SPEAKER: It is not a constitutional point.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: You asked Mr. Pant to make a statement. He has flouted your direction. That is for your information.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: These pharmaceutical employees ***

MR. SPEAKER: You cannot speak. Nothing will go on record.

13.28 hrs.
DEMANDS FOR GRANTS, 1975-76—
Contd.

MINISTRY OF COMMERCE—Contd.

SHRI M. SUDARSANAM (Narasaraopet): I should like to offer a few suggestions.

First, our export strategy must clearly recognise that the first pre-requisite of enlarging our exports is to create export surpluses and strengthen the domestic production base with a special eye on items which have larger growth potential. In this exercise, the immediate need is to promote production of items like basmati rice, sugar.

***Not recorded.

cement, engineering goods and chemicals, for these have an expanding export market. Secondly, Government support must be given in the fullest measure to enable industry and trade to be competitive and to adhere to delivery schedules. In other words, compensatory cash support measures must be streamlined and if parties have taken export orders, they must be persuaded to fulfil them to the satisfaction of the foreign buyers. Thirdly, both from a short and long-term point of view, the emphasis should be placed increasingly on project exports, export of consultancy services, turn-key jobs and sub-contracting. I am glad to know in this connection that the Commerce Ministry have taken appreciative note of the efforts made by entrepreneurs in setting up joint ventures, construction activity, mining exploration, etc. (Chapter IV—Pages 58—61).

13.29 hours.

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

In this connection, I should like to suggest that a revolving fund of at least Rs. 10 crores to begin with, should be set up to be given to Indian entrepreneurs, on a loan basis for promoting their efforts in this regard. Loans can be of a short-term duration and the fund can become fully-self-financing. One can even think of seeking international support for this effort because this could be the one form of implementing the resolutions adopted by UN CTAD and other forums for promoting economic integration and trade cooperation among developing countries. Fourthly, there should be a total reorientation—I repeat the words “total reorientation”—of our import substitution effort because, contrary to what is mentioned from time to time, a healthy import substitution policy holds the key to solving our balance of trade and balance of payments difficulties.

The vast technological skills and the manpower available in India can enable it to set up a number of import substitution industries, provided effort

is made and the necessary infrastructure is created in the form of somewhat easier availability of energy and transport. I personally feel sure that the present economic difficulties are of a short-run duration and one must plan ahead to put up plants quickly for items like fertilisers, newsprint, paper, cement, steel, heavy machinery, etc. The approach should be to analyse the problems not only on an industry-wise basis but also on a unit-wise basis and if the foreign exchange saving is proved adequately by the entrepreneurs concerned, every support must be provided. I am quit aware that this matter does not fall entirely within the domain of the Commerce Ministry but I should like the Commerce Minister to play an increasingly important role in this matter which also involves the framing of an appropriate pricing policy for a number of industries where growth has been sluggish.

This brings me to the question of the new import policy which was announced on the 7th April. It was indeed a remarkable thing on the part of Government to have introduced the system of automatic licensing by cutting out the procedure of receiving applications through the sponsoring authorities and for liberalising the import of spare-parts, etc. This and other measures for simplification of procedure, would go a long way in making the entrepreneurial class feel that the Government's commercial policies are responsive to the needs of the situation.

While on this point, I should just like to reiterate some of the recommendations which the Sub-Committee had made in regard to the disbursement of cash assistance and drawback facilities for exports. I am afraid, much more in this direction needs to be done. The delays should be cut particularly because of continuing severe monetary stringency. I should also like to state in this context that the provision of export finance should be on a much more liberal basis and at rates much below 11.5 per cent. This is because all over the world to fight recessionary conditions, the bank rates are being gradually

[Shri M. Sundarsanam]

brought down and as far as export finance is concerned, we have to match our effort with that of our competitors. In this connection, there is also paramount need for setting up an Export-Import Bank which matter has been under examination of the Government but of which no mention is made in the report of the Ministry of Commerce. However, I see a news item that the Committee is likely to make a favourable recommendation on the Export-Import Bank.

Yet another point which I would like to urge concerns the setting up of a Dry Port in or near Delhi. This is mentioned on page 56 of the Report. I think, it is for at least ten years now that the matter is stated to be under consideration. It should move into another stage from consideration to implementation.

As far as India's export effort is concerned, I should like to make reference to the very valuable report that has been submitted by the FICCI delegation to West Asian countries. The oil rich countries, including Iran, have tremendous purchasing power notwithstanding their comparatively small population. The whole world is knocking at their doors and with appropriate effort, we can forge new economic and trading relationships with them. In other words, what I suggest is that we should give increasing attention in our building up trade relationship with the oil rich countries. I am happy that the President of India would be visiting Indonesia from 5th May, this year. Indonesia has now adopted very pragmatic policies for economic growth and her potential for making purchases from India and our setting up joint ventures there is fairly large. I feel sure that the visit of the President will pave the way for building larger trade with Indonesia.

Here, I would like to add that we must think of rehabilitation of war-torn economy of Vietnam and Cambodia and this can provide us good trading opportunities. Therefore, a delega-

tion must be sponsored to go to Cambodia and also to Vietnam.

A Pakistani delegation is due in Delhi today. We must try to improve our trade relations with them, in spite of the very unhappy political situation.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I wish to make a reference to the problems of the cotton textile and jute industries which are under the charge of the Commerce Ministry. The cloth production in the country showed some rise in the year 1974. Mill production rose by 117 million metres to 4.286 million metres, and the production in the decentralised sector amounted to 4,000 million metres as compared with 7,771 million metres in 1973. In the last four or five months, however, the industry has been facing growing difficulties due, among others, to the doubling of the controlled cloth obligation from 400 million square metres to 800 million sq. metres, which was introduced over a year ago. Some revised specifications have been drawn up which will result in a rise in the yarn content of controlled cloth and employment of a larger number of spindles and looms. I am afraid that the combined control-cum-export obligation scheme is quite onerous. I would have very readily agreed that this obligation should be fulfilled with grace provided the controlled cloth reached the weaker sections of the society for which it is intended. Unfortunately, I can say fairly categorically that this is not the case and because of the problems in our distribution system, unscrupulous elements make good. The burden of supplying controlled cloth also makes things difficult to the mills under the control of the National Textile Corporation and affects the profitability of the National Textile Corporation as a whole. I would, therefore, make bold to suggest to the Minister of Commerce to think in terms of total decontrol. I would like the Commerce Minister to examine the feasibility of decontrol of prices and distribution of cloth.

Growers of long staple cotton are in serious distress. They have grown this

cotton at the suggestion of the Agriculture Department. In the absence of buyers at adequate prices, the economy of the growers is seriously affected. It is now very essential that long staple cotton is at once allowed for export to overseas by abolishing export duties. Yarns of fine counts also must be allowed for export under some incentive to enable the shippers to compete around the globe.

As far as jute industry is concerned, my suggestion is that the recommendations of the delegation which was headed by the Export Production Secretary, Mr. S. G. Bose Mullick, should be implemented as quickly as possible. If sufficient relief is not provided to the jute industry, I am afraid it would cause irreparable damage to our export effort in this line. Here I would like to say that the abolition of export duty on jute goods is most urgent. We hear that the Chief Minister of West Bengal has already recommended abolition of the export duty. The delegation headed by Mr. Bose Mullick has also recommended abolition of the export duty.

In our country, the institutional arrangement of the Chambers of Commerce and the industrial and trade associations needs streamlining. We have any number of central commercial organizations and also in many industries there is more than one industrial association. There is no proper linkage in the industrial associations and Export Promotion Councils. All those matters require a fresh look, and I would suggest that this should be done through the appointment of a committee or by asking an officer on special duty to review this matter.

The Tobacco Board Bill has been introduced and passed. But still we do not see any Tobacco Board functioning in the production area. The Cess Bill has not come. I would request the Commerce Minister to push through the Cess Bill during this Budget Session, so that the tobacco growers can have the benefit of this.

SHRI C. JANARDHANAN (Tiruchur): I rise to oppose the Demands of the Commerce Ministry.

According to the report of the Ministry, we are in deficit to the tune of Rs. 585 crores in the last nine months of 1974-75 and it is going to increase in the coming months. The Ministry has said it plainly. So many reasons are there. The Ministry says that the worldwide inflation, oil crisis, the need to import foodgrains and more fertilisers, etc., are the main reasons for this deficit balance in our trade. It may be the truth of the matter. But we cannot take the export-import trade in an isolated way. Our country is in an economic crisis and this is part of the crisis and we cannot separate these things.

Inflation as this Government and some other people are trying to make out is not a world-wide phenomenon. Only in the capitalist countries and countries which have chosen the path of building capitalism is found this phenomenon. Socialist countries or countries which have chosen the path of socialism or social change have no such phenomenon. So India, as a country which has chosen the path of building capitalism has this phenomenon. . . (Interruptions.) Then, what are you building?

Simply hobnobbing with the developed capitalist countries would not solve our problem. We have to make a concerted effort to change our domestic policies, and to build more close links with the socialist countries and other developing countries and therein lies our salvation and not in hobnobbing with the developed capitalist countries.

SHRI N. K. P. SALVE (Betul): . . .
Such as . . .

SHRI C. JANARDHANAN: . . .
USA, West Germany . . .

SHRI N. K. P. SALVE: We are hobnobbing with them?

SHRI C. JANARDHANAN: Aren't you? So, of late, we see a shift to the

[Shri C. Janardhanan]

right or we see a shift to the pro-monopolists in the policies of the Government. In the industrial development policy it is evident. In the Finance Minister's utterances it is evident and the Commerce Ministry's latest announcement of the import policy on 7th April it is quite evident. The speaker who just spoke from that side showered praises for this import policy. It clearly shows the pro-monopoly shift in the Government's policy because the Government now think that to get out of this crisis in economy, we should give more room or more facilities to expand to the monopoly interests and only in this way we can get out of this crisis. That is the line of their thinking. Now, all restrictions have gone on the import policy. It is liberalised in the name of getting out of the red-tape. They have liberalised everythings and given a free hand to big houses to import whatever they want if they are ready to export something. They have already taken out about fourteen items from the canalised list and added only one to the new canalised items list. That shows the trend and the direction in which we are going. We have been asking for nationalisation of complete import-export trade but, in spite of that, they are taking out items which are already in the canalised list. That shows where the policy of the Government is shifting. That is why I say this. This shows that there is a new monopoly trend in the Government's policy.

About the need to nationalise the textile industry, about the need to nationalise the foreign-owned tea and rubber plantations, about the sugar industry, etc. we have discussed many times in this House. I would not like to take much time of the House on these matters. But it is high time that these things are done. But what we find is this. There are indications to the effect that Government are not going to do these things and that they are not even thinking at present about these things. I would plead with the Government and say that it is urgently necessary to take these steps in the present crisis which this country is facing today.

There are public sector corporations including the State Trading Corporations, which deal with the trade of our country and the volume of business they are doing is increasing day by day. There is no doubt about it. Along with that there are criticisms and various allegations about the functioning of these institutions. I would request the Government to look into them. There are allegations about corruption in high places, of the STC. There is allegation that the STC is not entering into the international market at the appropriate time. It is said that they are not helping small exporters. Above all these things, there is the allegation saying that the STC is working as a tool of the monopoly interests of this country. I would like the Ministry to look into these things and do the needful.

Now, in Kerala, the cashew workers are on an agitation. There is dearth of raw cashewnuts. Many factories are closed. Thousands of workers are unemployed. Their allegation is this. The Cashew Corporation of India did not enter into international market for buying raw cashewnuts in time. That is way the dearth is there. If these allegations are true it is criminal because it affects the lives of thousands of our people. I have to remind the Minister, now we have to look for cashewnuts, to some other countries because we cannot get these raw cashewnuts from the African countries as before because they have now got their own factories to process them. We must have more indigenous cashewnuts here. Some four years back (I remember sometime in 1971) the then Deputy Minister of Commerce, Mr. A. C. George assured this House that they are going to have big extensive plantations throughout India in many of the States, . . . so that we will be self-sufficient in cashewnuts. What happened to that? Nothing has appeared in this report about it. What is the progress? I would like to know something about that. If nothing has been done in that respect, I would like to know the reasons for that also.

There are a lot of a commodity boards under this Ministry in the name of Export Promotions. I do not know how many of them are working properly because many of them have no funds and many of them have no powers. Take the case of Coir Board. Like that, so many boards are there. The recent amendment to Tea Board is acceptable and it is a welcome change indeed. But, many of the Boards have no power and have no funds. They have not functioned properly. Recently, the Marine Products Authority was also complaining about these powers. They have no powers even to appoint a small officer. They have no funds. If you want to have a satisfactory functioning of these Commodity Boards, then you must give them more powers and more funds. Then only you can expect satisfactory results from them. When I speak about the Marine Products Authority I want to make a few points about that body.

I have my own difficulties because the subject is divided between the Commerce Ministry and the Agriculture Ministry. The Commerce Ministry has got only the export trade part of it; the development of the industry is with the Agriculture Ministry. It is intimately connected with the development of export trade. So, it is very difficult to separate these two ministries. I would request the Government to consider this aspect of the matter so as to bring all these under one ministry, preferably, under Commerce Ministry so that they can deal with the subject properly.

The Commerce Ministry finds itself at a disadvantage sometimes. The export trade mainly depends upon what we get from the Deep sea. Deep-sea fishing should be developed for the purpose. The Agriculture Ministry is getting more trawlers for them. They were distributed also. In 1964 or 1967 they imported 30 trawlers. In 1974 they imported fifty. And in this Plan period they are going to import some more trawlers. The Commerce Ministry, I think, has no voice in all these things. I want to make only one point. I do not want to discuss the whole thing here. The future of the industry

is threatened with seriously. Small and medium entrepreneurs are not being encouraged at all. They were responsible for the development of exports for the last two decades without any. No encouragement or help from Government. They are going to be wiped out from this field. In this developing industry the monopoly interests like Union Carbide, Indian Tobacco, DCM, Birlas and Tatas are also entering. Nobody can deny the fact that they are all monopolists. I am not surprised to see that the Government of India is allowing them to enter into this field because at the very outset I had said that there is a shift in the policy of the Government in promoting these monopoly interests in this country. But, I must say, it is at the cost of small and medium entrepreneurs. The small and medium entrepreneurs are not in a position to buy trawlers without the help of the Government. In reply to a question a few days back I was told by the Minister for Agriculture that Government has no specific scheme to assist the small and medium entrepreneurs. They can get a loan from the bank at the usual rate of interest of 12 to 13 per cent. It is not viable for them to take loan at this high interest and function.

Although the area of operation of the monopoly houses is limited yet the Government are not in a position to implement their own decision. They cannot police the whole sea and see what these monopoly houses are doing. These monopoly houses are entering into the field of small operators. They are buying the catch of the small boats for high prices and hiring the processing factories of small and medium operators. The small and medium operators are in difficulty these days. Many factories have got closed as a result of which many workers are without job. I am sure if it continues to develop like this in the next five years all these small and medium operators will be completely wiped out. I, therefore, suggest setting up a non-official committees to go into this particular subject as to how Government can help the small and medium operators. I also suggest that the

[Shri C. Janardhanan]

Marine Development Authority should be associated with this

SHRIS R DAMANI (Sholapur)
Sir, I rise to support the Demands of the Ministry of Commerce. At the very outset I would also like to join in congratulating the hon Minister for the excellent performance in exports. This is the first year of the Fifth Plan the growth in exports is to the tune of 33 per cent. It is a record increase. The exports have increased both in tradition as well as non-traditional items. As against a target of Rs 2,200 crores by the end of 31st March 1975 we have reached the figure of Rs 3,250 crores. This is a good achievement and this must be maintained in the current year the second year of the Fifth Five Year Plan. I will develop on this point later.

14 hrs.

Sir, side by side our import has also substantially increased.

The trade deficit is very high the gap is very big, about one thousand crores. For this there are certain reasons. One of the major reasons is that the cost of import of petroleum products has gone up to more than thousand crores of rupees. Then we had to import food grains on account of the failure of the monsoon to the tune of Rs 500 crores. Then we had also to import fertiliser at a high cost. There are many other items like this. The result is that the trade gap the trade deficit is Rs 1,000 crores. The question is how can we reduce this gap? We cannot afford to have this much of trade deficit every year. Just now I have mentioned about the need for keeping up the momentum of export next year. This will require more efforts. This is because last year there was an inflationary trend in the world market, throughout the world which enabled us to increase our exports. But, this year, the inflationary trend is not there and there is, in fact, recession. Therefore, more efforts are required to maintain this figure and to improve upon this figure. The World Bank has also given us warning that we have to make more efforts to fill this gap. Therefore, I will suggest that we

should make more efforts to capture the markets in oil rich Arab countries. Of course, this is not out of the mind of the hon Minister. Here, I would like to mention that there are certain things which may sometimes look adverse, but, they may turn out to be favourable in the end. For example, we had to pay thousand crores of rupees for importing petroleum products. But, we should also remember that these countries these Arab countries, are friendly countries. They have got tremendous wealth and they are under-developed. They want to develop their countries, they want to develop their own industries. They are in need of capital goods as well as consumer goods which they can buy with enormous wealth they have got. We have got the resources. We can, our country can, manufacture and export the capital goods for the textile industry, for paper plant for sugar plant and all kinds of engineering goods even on turn-key basis. We have got tremendous capacity and at present many of our engineering industries and many industries in the public sector, are running with a large percentage of idle capacity. We have got surplus steel. Today we have great potentialities to increase our exports of consumer goods and capital goods to these countries. But here we require salesmanship. In this respect we are still lacking. We should make more efforts. Sir, many friends who have visited these countries have come back with the ideas that we lack in this regard. They have said that they have seen big advertisements put up by Japan by USA and so on but that they have not seen any advertisement by India in regard to our products. As such salesmanship is required, as I said. These countries are trying to capture these markets for trading their goods. As such we have to compete with them. We have to make vigorous efforts to compete with them, to capture these markets and to supply these goods. There is no denying the fact that the hon Minister and the Government are making efforts. We should also examine what techniques are being adopted by Japan and other countries to increase their trade. There should be some flexibility so that we

can capture these markets for many of our items and we can bridge this trade gap.

Now I come to other subjects, First, Cotton Corporation. Cotton is one of the the biggest of our cash crops feeding the textile industry which is one of the primary industries of the country. For the last three years, the purchases made by the Corporation were very ill-balanced. The ex-Chairman purchased huge quantities of cotton in one State and very little in other States. The prices he paid had also no relevance to the prices prevailing in all parts for the same variety. That chapter was over. But this time, the Cotton Corporation gave an impression that they were going to purchase 15 lakh bales of cotton. Before the season started, they gave the impression that they were preparing for this. The Maharashtra Government also said that they were going to purchase the entire stock of the cotton crop grown in Maharashtra. Our farmers became enthusiastic. They have produced long-staple cotton which we were importing. Now we are producing it in the country to a large extent. This year the crop of long staple cotton in the country is estimated at 20 lakh bales.

But what have the Cotton Corporation done ? They have not purchased any cotton. If I give the figure of their purchase so far, you will be surprised they have purchased only 7,000 bales against an assurance of 15 lakh bales. Is this the way of functioning? Was this the Government's intention ? They are carrying one lakh bales of the previous year's cotton. This year they have purchased 7,000 bales. I do not understand this. They have set up 28 offices and the establishment expenditure on them is near about a crore of rupees a year. Is this the way the Cotton Corporation should function ? The reason given in the Consultative Committee by the hon. Minister is that the RBI has not given them funds and therefore they are helpless as without funds they cannot purchase cotton. I do not understand why before they made the announcement they did not arrange with the RBI or with Government about availability of

funds. Without that how did they make this announcement ? The farmers have suffered. What will be the consequence next year ? What will the farmers who have suffered do ? Prices have slumped down. The Agriculture Minister has had to announce that we have to export long staple cotton which we need in the country. This is matter which requires attention.

We have seen the functioning of a Corporation where they did not have funds. Now I will tell you how funds are misused in other corporations under the same Ministry Take MMTC. They are holding stocks of non-ferrous metals worth about Rs. 85 crores. This is the requirement of one year. They have purchased it in advance. There is no demand. Funds are locked up. Every month they are paying Rs. 1 crore by way of interest only, storing and insurance charges about 1/4 crore. The Corporation, is suffering for want of funds. The other Corporation, MMTC has blocked nearly Rs. 100 crores. Still they say: we are very vigilant when we make purchases; we keep a watch on the world market trends. Last year they went on purchasing these items without caring to make sales to the consumer here. About the export of iron ore and manganese ore other friends would talk but I want to move on to another subject. Take the STC They are also holding stocks of newsprint to meet six months' requirements; they also hold drugs and chemicals. They have blocked Rs. 70 crores nearly. Thus about Rs. 150 crores are locked up by these two corporations in holding stocks and their disposal has become a problem. What was the intention of the Government in respect of these Corporations ? The intention was to channelise the imports through those corporations because the private exporters and importers were under-invoicing or over-invoicing. It was not the intention to start trading in such a big way like this and lock the funds of the Government in holding stocks. The intention was whenever there was a buyer they should purchase abroad and deliver it. It was believed that they should be able to get the material at reasonable rates and cheap.

[Shri S. R. Damani]

rates because they were bulk purchasers. The hon. Minister knows it very well and I think he will be taking some action. I suggest that high officials from the Finance and Industry Ministries and other concerned Ministers should hold an enquiry how this thing has happened and what is the average price in International market and what is the price paid by us; it should not be compared with the Indian price but with international price. They must also see whether there was loss or profit in those purchases. I do not want to add the overhead costs like interest, and other things. I want to know whether we had benefited from those purchases or we were the losers. If you want to study such things, you should institute an enquiry to check up on dealings of this nature.

SHRI B. V. NAIK (Kanara) : What is the Committee on Public Undertakings doing about this ?... (Interruptions)

SHRI S.R. DAMANI : It may take three or four years to find out.

I want this to be done immediately ... (Interruptions)

AN HON. MEMBER : It is a mixed fight.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I am grateful to him because the debate has become somewhat somnolent.

SHRI S. R. DAMANI : I want to say something about controlled cloth. Out of every four metres of cloth produced in the country, one metre should be controlled cloth and half a meter is meant for export. Controlled cloth is being sold at a price which is less by 90 paise or a rupee of its cost price. On exports, we incur a loss of 60 paise per metre because we have to compete with Pakistan, Hong Kong and other countries where the cost of production is lower by about 25% compared to ours. So, out of every 4 metres of cloth produced, 1 metre is standard cloth on which we lose 90 paise and $\frac{1}{2}$ meter is exported on which we lose 60 paise.

The remaining $2\frac{1}{2}$ metres are sold to the consumers like us. The losses sustained on exports and on standard cloth are loaded on the cost of production of the remaining $2\frac{1}{2}$ metres by about 60 to 70 paise per metre. This is the fallacy.

The controlled cloth, whether it is coarse or medium count, is not to the taste of the public. Public taste has changed. We are manufacturing cloth which was not even in demand 25 years ago. Times have changed and so also consumer tastes. Government feel satisfied that it is procuring standard cloth and supplying it. The industry also feels satisfied that it is doing its duty. But no one takes the trouble to find out its utility. I drew the attention of the Minister to this last year when the quantity of standard cloth produced was increased from 400 to 800 metres per annum. I said, please check up the quality and go slow. My advice was not heeded. The result is, at present more than 80,000 bales of controlled cloth are lying unsold, even though a subsidy of 90 paise per metre is involved. We want to know the reason for this, whether the quality is bad or whether the distribution system is defective. We are suffering a loss of Rs. 120 crores due to exports and sale of standard cloth. If this can be avoided, to that extent the public can get cloth cheaper because the cost of the free market sale cloth can be brought down. The Minister should ask the industry to supply 25% of the production of all varieties of cloth, fine, super-fine, medium etc. at cost price. The cost price should be worked out by the Textile Commissioner with the help of cost accountants. Secondly, instead of giving cash incentive on exports, for many items used by the industry, I suggest that export should be linked with import entitlement which will compensate the exporters for the loss they incur on the exports. This can be worked out and the consumers will get the benefit of Rs. 125 crores which they have to pay for this reason.

I hope the hon. Minister will consider these points and while replying throw light on these.

श्री० लक्ष्मीनारायण पांडे (मंदसौर) :
 उपाध्यक्ष जी, वाणिज्य मंत्रालय की ओर से प्रतिवर्ष अपनी आयात और निर्यात सम्बन्धी नीति की घोषणा की जाती है। हर वर्ष इस बात की आशा की जाती है की हमारा निर्यात काफी बढ़ेगा और आयात कम होगा और हम अपने निर्यात तथा आयात के वर्तमान असतुलन को संतुलित कर सकेंगे। लेकिन जैसा कि वाणिज्य मंत्रालय की रिपोर्ट वर्ष 1974-75 में बताया गया है, यह असतुलन निरन्तर बढ़ा जा रहा है। इस रिपोर्ट की प्रस्तावना के प्रथम पृष्ठ में लिखा है — “परिणामस्वरूप, गत वर्ष की तरह, चालू वर्ष के दौरान व्यापार सतुलन प्रतिकूल रहा है, और निर्यातों तथा आयातों के बीच अन्तर बढ़ गया है।” आगे चल कर इसमें बताया गया है कि—“पिछले वर्ष की उतनी ही अवधि में 164 करोड़ रुपये का घाटा था। वर्ष की शेष अवधि में 164 करोड़ रुपये का घाटा और बढ़ने का अनुमान है”।

जहां एक ओर नीति सम्बन्धी वक्तव्यों में या नीतियों की घोषणा करते समय हम बात की आशा की जाती है, विश्वास दिलाया जाता है कि हमारा असतुलन बढ़ेगा नहीं, वह घटेगा, लेकिन वह असतुलन निरन्तर बढ़ता जा रहा है। इसलिये इस परिप्रध्य में नीति के निर्धारण के समय इस बात को देखने की आवश्यकता है कि वास्तव में हमारे नीति निर्धारण में कहा दोष है और हम किम प्रकार से उसको ठीक कर सकते हैं। जो जानकारी मेरे पास विभिन्न रिपोर्टों के आधार पर, विभिन्न समीक्षाओं के आधार पर प्राप्त हुई है, उसके अनुसार कहा जा सकता है कि वाणिज्य मंत्रालय के कार्य-कलाप में निरन्तर गिरावट आई है, उसमें काफी दोष पाये गये हैं। चाहे फिर वे आयात लाइसेन्स के बारे में हों, निर्यात के बारे में हों या निर्यात संबन्धन के बारे में हों हमारी परम्परागत या गैर-परम्परागत वस्तुओं के निर्यात या आयात के सम्बन्ध में विभिन्न अवसरों पर दिये गये वक्तव्य के फलस्वरूप हों। मैं माननीय मंत्री

का ध्यान कुछ चीजों की ओर आकषित करना चाहता हूँ।

हम आशा करते थे कि हमारा निर्यात बढ़ेगा। लेकिन हमारी जो परम्परागत वस्तुएं रही हैं, उनका निर्यात घटा है और उसके कारण हमारे आयात और निर्यात सम्बन्धी सन्तुलन में काफी अन्तर बढ़ गया है और इसी कारण हमारी आर्थिक स्थिति भी काफी खराब हुई है। मंत्री महोदय इस बात को स्वीकार करेंगे कि हमारे निर्यात सम्बन्धी जो आकडे हैं, उसके कारण, पिछले दिनों जो चाय का निर्यात हम कर रहे थे, उसमें काफी अन्तर हुआ है। काफी निर्यात घटा है और उस निर्यात को हम ठीक ढंग से नहीं कर सके हैं। दूसरी कई वस्तुएं हैं जिनका निर्यात घटा है। इसके चाहे कुछ भी कारण हों, हमने निर्यात संबन्धन की दिशा में कोई ठीक से प्रयत्न भी नहीं किये हैं। किन्तु किन्तु देशों को निर्यात कर सकते हैं या किस को नहीं किया गया, किम प्रकार निर्यात करें, इस पर गंभीरता से विचार नहीं किया गया है।

हम यू०के० और यू०एम०ए०को निरन्तर चाय का निर्यात करते रहे हैं और बड़ा हमारा एकाधिकार स्थापित रहा है। इस बार हमने यू०एम०ए०आर०को भी थोड़ा टटोला है। हमने यू०एम०ए०आर०को आव के व्यापार के मामले में उनकी एजेंसी के माध्यम से चाय खरीदने की इजाजत दी है। क्या हम इस काम को एस०टी०सी०के माध्यम से नहीं करवा सकते थे? यू०एम०ए०आर०के लोग दार्जिलिंग में सीधे जाये और बागान में जाकर चाय खरीदे, क्या यह स्थिति ठीक है, अनुकूल बताई जा सकती है? मंत्री महोदय इसके बारे में बताये।

मेरे केरल के एक मित्र ने बताया कि एक विशेष प्रकार की चाय है जिसको उन्होंने जापान के अपने एक मित्र को भेजा। उस चाय के लिये वहां से काफी आर्डर आये। वह विशेष प्रकार की चाय यहां के बागानों में काफी पाई गई। मैं मंत्री महोदय का ध्यान दिशाना चाहूंगा कि

[जो लड़ मोनोपॉल्योनी पाठ]

क्या हम इस प्रकार की और भी क्वॉलिटीज को खोजने का प्रयत्न नहीं कर सकते। अगर इन विशेष किस्मों की खोज कर के एक्सपोर्ट करने का प्रयत्न करें तो हमें ज्यादा बदेशी मुद्रा प्राप्त हो सकती है और हम विदेशों से काफी आर्डर भी प्राप्त हो सकते हैं।

इसी तरह से मैं टोबैको, तम्बाकू पर आता हूँ। इसमें भी कफी स्लैकनेस आई है और काफी तम्बाकू का स्टॉक हो गया था। आजकल बर्जीनिया तम्बाकू ही दूसरे देशों को निर्यात की जाती है। क्या दूसरी प्रकार के तम्बाकू को हम विदेशों को निर्यात नहीं कर सकते हैं? क्या आपने इस ओर ध्यान दिया है? आप तम्बाकू बोर्ड कायम करने के बारे में एक बिल लाये थे, जिसको आपने पास भी करवाया था। आप आशा करते थे कि इस बोर्ड के बन जाने से तम्बाकू का निर्यात काफी बढ़ेगा। मैं जानता हूँ कि इममें क्या कुछ गति हुई है? तम्बाकू की विभिन्न प्रकार की किस्मों की खोज कर के इसका अगर निर्यात किया जाये तो काफी उसमें विदेशी मुद्रा प्राप्त हो सकती है और इसका काफी बाजार भी मिल सकता है।

अब मैं पापी-हास्क के बारे में कुछ कहना चाहता हूँ। युगोस्लाविया इसका बहुत बड़ा खरीददार है। करोड़ों रुपये का पापी हास्क हम निर्यात करते हैं। इसकी किसान को जो कीमत मिलती है वह 30, 40 रुपये क्विंटल ही मिलती है जब कि बाजार भाव 300-400 रुपये क्विंटल है। विदेशों में इसकी कीमत 800, 900 रुपये क्विंटल है। हमको देखना चाहिये कि हम किस प्रकार से इसका निर्यात ठीक ढंग से कर सकते हैं, चीनेलाइज कर सकते हैं और साथ ही साथ किस प्रकार से किसानों को उचित कीमत दिला सकते हैं। क्या और भी देश पापी-हास्क के खरीदार हो सकते हैं? आप इस बारे में भी प्रयत्न करें।

अब मैं चपड़ा उद्योग के बारे में कहना चाहता हूँ। यह हमारा बहुत बड़ा उद्योग है।

वर्तमान की नीति कुछ इस प्रकार की रही है कि उसके कारण यह उद्योग बिल्कुल ठप्प हो गया है। इसकी लगभग 400 फैक्ट्रियाँ थीं जिसमें से 200 फैक्ट्रियाँ लगभग बन्द हो गई हैं। इससे 25 हजार लोग बेकार हो गये हैं। 25 लाख आदिवासी जो कल्टीवेशन करते थे उनके सामने जीवन-मरण का प्रश्न उपस्थित हो गया है। एक साल पहले जहाँ आदिवासियों को लगभग 11 रुपये प्रति किलो दाम मिलता था, अब वह डेढ़ पया प्रति किलो ही मिलता है। 30-5-74 के पहले अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय बाजार में इसका मूल्य 3200 रुपये प्रति 75 किलोग्राम के एक बैग का था, तब मार्केट में इसका रेट 2900 रुपये तथा मिनिमम एक्सपोर्ट कीमत 471 रुपये थी। बाद में अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय रेट गिरे तब 1-4-75 के बाद गिरे रेट पर इसे उठाने के लिये कोई तैयार नहीं हुआ। इस कारण से यह ओवर-इन्वॉयसिंग का मामला बनता है। अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय मार्केट में रेट कुछ कम था और हमारे यहाँ ज्यादा था इस कारण रेट को वह नीचे लाना चाहते थे। 1-4-75 के बाद अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय प्राइस 1000 रुपये हुई और हमारे यहाँ एक्सपोर्ट प्राइस 1844 रुपये की गई कुल मिलाकर आज कलकत्ता में 400 रुपये कीमत है। प्रति 75 किलोग्राम के बैग की इटरनेशनल मार्केट में कीमत 1000 रुपये है और आपने एक्सपोर्ट के लिये जो तय किया है वह 1844 रुपये है। इसका परिणाम यह है कि विदेशों में जब इसका रेट 1844 रुपये का होता है तो 1844 एक्सपोर्ट मार्केट प्राइस पर भेजा जाता है। गलत इन्वॉयसिंग से ऐसा किया जाता है। जो दलाल बंटे हुए हैं वह 844 रुपये की राशि को किसी रूप में एड जेस्ट कर लेते हैं और 600 रुपये उनको सीधे-सधे बच जाते हैं। इसका परिणाम यह है कि चपड़ा उद्योग घाटे में जा रहा है, नष्ट हो रहा है। कुछ अधिकारी हो सकते हैं, जो मिलकर यह सारा काम कर रहे हों, इसकी आप जाच करें। मैं कुछ फर्मों के नाम भी इस सम्बन्ध में दे सकता हूँ।

एक नाम है समरसिंह जायसवाल (प्रा०) लि०, पार्क-स्ट्रीट, कलकत्ता 1 और दूसरा नाम है अचक राम काडकाफ प्रा० लि०, स्टीफन हाउस, 5, बलहीषी एक्वेयर, कलकत्ता है। यह जर्मनी कन्सर्न के साथ मिलकर डील रहे हैं। ये किस प्रकार से कर रहे हैं, मंत्री महोदय इसकी खोज करने का प्रयत्न करें।

श्री नरेंद्र कुमार साल्गे (बेतुल) : माल प्रैक्टिसेज हैं या क्या है ?

डा० लक्ष्मी नारायण पाण्डे : गलत ढंग का इन्वॉयसिंग करते हैं, खुद काफी कमाते हैं मिल-मिलाकर के। (व्यवधान)

मैं माननीय मंत्री महोदय का एक बात को धीरे ध्यान आकर्षित करना चाहूंगा। हमारे यहाँ एक वैस्टन इलेक्ट्रानिक्स लि०, घोखल मे है। यह इलेक्ट्रानिक्स लि० फर्म टी० बी० ट्रांजिस्टर्स और टेप-रिकार्डर आदि तैयार करते हैं। उन्होंने मेरी जानकारी के अनुसार लन्दन में एक बोगस फर्म बना रखी है। जिसके प्ल उन्होंने काफी बोगस आर्डर प्राप्त किये हैं। यहाँ पर इन आर्डर्स को इस फर्म ने मंत्रालय को दिखाया और 20 परसेंट की जो छूट इन चीजों में निर्यात के नाम पर मिलती है, उसको उन्होंने प्राप्त किया। वास्तव में इस प्रकार की कोई फर्म वहाँ विदेश में नहीं है। उस वैस्टन इलेक्ट्रानिक्स के जो भागीदार हैं उनके नाम में माननीय मंत्री को बताना चाहूंगा। एक रोनकसिंह है, दूसरे वाचबानी है और तीसरा नाम तो, मुझे आश्चर्य है कि संजय गांधी तक का आया है। उनका नाम भी इसमें जोड़ा गया है कि वह भी इसमें पार्टनर हैं वैस्टन इलेक्ट्रानिक्स में, जिसने लन्दन में अपना आफिस बसाकर 20 परसेंट की जो छूट होती है वह छूट प्राप्त करने की कोशिश की है। मैं माननीय मंत्री से चाहूंगा कि वह इस बारे में जांच करें। इसी प्रकार से एक और भाग्यश मेरे सामने आया है जो अत्यन्त ही आश्चर्यजनक मामला है। मंत्री महोदय इस के बारे में पूरा स्पष्टीकरण करने की कृपा करें। एक कानपुर

की फर्म है। हिन्दुस्तान टाइम्स में 24-1-75 को इस के बारे में यह निकला है :

"Kanpur firm made crores at Government expense.

The facts of the case, as the CBI found were that a Kanpur machine tool firm, Swadeshi, applied for an import licence for steel in 1972. The application was forwarded through the Director of Industries to the office of the Chief Controller of Imports and Exports. Nobody thought it necessary to investigate the company's turnover or question the need for such a huge amount of stainless steel."

यह स्टेनलेस स्टील का मामला है।

"The file was rushed through with amazing speed and within four months of the application, it was processed and the licences issued.

What the CBI found surprising was that the Commerce Ministry had given the import licence on subsidised rates. That is, against the import cost to the Government of Rs. 28 a kilo, the money charged from the company was only Rs. 18 a kilo."

यह सबसिडाइज रेट पर जो इम्पोर्ट लाइसेंस दिया जाता है यह केवल डिफेंस के कार्यों के लिए दिया जाता है, जो डिफेंस प्रोडक्शन करते हैं। लेकिन इस को सबसिडाइज रेट पर दिया गया जिनका डिफेंस से सम्बन्ध बनता ही नहीं है।

"Normally, the bulk import is through a Government agency which in turn give to the import licence holders. This is reserved only for defence establishments in times of grave emergency so that production of defence items does not suffer."

यह इस को दिया गया स्टेनलेस स्टील का इम्पोर्ट लाइसेंस और करोड़ों रुपया इस फर्म के कमाया। श्रीबीआईकी इस के अन्दर इन्वॉयसरी हुई। मैं कहना चाहूंगा कि जार्वेस ब्रान्ड कपड़े के अन्दर जो फेब्रिटिज है और जिस प्रकार

[श्री लक्ष्मी नारायण पाण्डेय]

के चोटाले हैं उस का यह एक नमूना है। मैं चाहता हूँ कि सारे तथ्य सदन के सामने रखे जायें।

एक और मामला मैं ड्रग लाइसेंस के बारे में उठाना चाहता हूँ। इन्दौर के अन्दर कुछ फर्मों ने ड्रग्स के लाइसेंस मांगे थे के एक दो नहीं सेकड़ों व्यक्तियों की यह सूची है जिस में कुछ भूप है, कुछ इंडिकिज्म अलस है जिन्होंने लाइसेंस मांगा है। इन फर्मों में बहुत सारी अस्तित्व में ही नहीं हैं जिन को कि लाइसेंस दिए गए और एक बार नहीं रिपीटेड ली दिए गए। मैं मंत्री महोदय से जानना चाहता हूँ कि ज्वाइंट कंट्रोलर क्या कर रहे थे? संबंधित कानून के सेक्शन फाइव के अन्दर क्यों नहीं इन के खिलाफ कार्यवाही की गई? मध्य प्रदेश विधान सभा में यह मामला वहाँ उठा है। सी बी आई की एन्क्वायरी उस के बाद इस के बारे में क्यों नहीं कराई गई? रिपोर्ट आप के पास आई है, वह आप के पास मौजूद है। उस के आधार पर आप कार्यवाही कर सकते थे। एक भूप है खण्डेलवाल गोपीकिशन मुरलीधर और धनश्याम गुप्ता तथा अन्य का, इस सारे भूप ने लगभग दस लाख रुपये का लाइसेंस प्राप्त किया। दूसरा भूप है धनश्यामदास अग्रवाल तथा अन्य का इस ने 13 लाख रुपये का लाइसेंस प्राप्त किया। तीसरा भूप है श्याम खण्डेलवाल तथा अन्य का, इस ने 4 लाख रुपये का लाइसेंस प्राप्त किया। चौथा भूप है के. जी. श्याम काकाणी और विमला काकाणी एण्ड को तथा अन्य इस ने 4 लाख रुपये का लाइसेंस प्राप्त किया है। पांचवा भूप है पी. एल. सिसोदिया और चन्द्रकान्त सिसोदिया तथा अन्य का इस ने तीन लाख रुपये के लाइसेंस प्राप्त किये। छठा भूप है के पाचाल तथा अन्य का इस ने 2 लाख रुपये के लाइसेंस प्राप्त किये। सातवां है जय प्रकाश ज्ञानर मल तथा अन्य का इन्होंने 2 लाख रुपये के लाइसेंस प्राप्त किये। गोस्वामी तथा अन्य ने एक लाख रुपये के लाइसेंस प्राप्त किये। इन्होंने और दूसरे सब लोगों ने मिखा कर कुल साढ़े तीन करोड़ के लाइसेंस प्राप्ता किए। यहाँ पर 20 लाख रुपये का

तुलमोहन राम का केस थाया और एक बड़ा भारी लाइसेंस स्कैंडल बन गया। लेकिन यह साढ़े तीन करोड़ रुपये का मामला है। माननीय मंत्री जी इस की जानकारी प्राप्त करेंगे तो इस में बड़े बड़े लोगों का हाथ सिद्ध होगा। यहाँ तक ही सकता है हमारे राज्य के मंत्री गण भी इस में सम्मिलित हो सकते हैं। प्रत्यक्ष या अप्रत्यक्ष रूप से। हमारे कुछ दूसरे साथी भी इस में प्रत्यक्ष या अप्रत्यक्ष रूप में शामिल हो सकते हैं। इसलिए इस लाइसेंस कांड की जांच होना आवश्यक है। मैं ने आप को भूप के नाम बताए हैं। इनके बारे में निश्चित जांच होनी चाहिए। ये सब लोग अलग अलग भूप के हैं। ये इन्दौर के हैं, बुरहामपुर के हैं, रतलाम का भी एक नाम है। रतलाम तो मरे यहाँ से 18 20 मील दूर है, इस तरह की कोई कम्पनी मेरी जानकारी में वहाँ नहीं है और लाइसेंस ईश्यु हुए हैं। एक बार नहीं रिपीटेड ली ईश्यु हुए हैं। ज्वाइंट डायरेक्टर ने फिर भी नियम के तहत कार्यवाही क्यों नहीं की? विधान सभा के अन्दर मामला उठा। संभवतः वहाँ कहा गया कि यह फाइव का मामला है। मैं मंत्री महोदय से कहना चाहूंगा कि यह केवल फाइव का केस नहीं है। इस में सी बी आई की एन्क्वायरी होनी चाहिए। बड़े बड़े लोग इस के अन्दर शामिल हैं एक दो लाख का मामला नहीं है, साढ़े तीन करोड़ का प्रश्न इस के अन्दर सन्निहित है और एक बार नहीं, दूसरे बार या रिपीटेड ली लाइसेंस दिए गए। इम्पोर्टे एक्सपोर्ट के ज्वाइंट डायरेक्टर हैं वह क्या करते रहे? क्यों नहीं उन्हें ने कार्यवाही की।

एक प्रश्न और मैं सामने रखना चाहता हूँ। शिवचरण लाल दुर्गादास बम्बई की एक फर्म है। यह पोलिस्टर फिलामेंट का धन्धा करती है। बर्मा से इस ने बिना सी सी पी के माल प्राप्त किया। सी सी पी आया नहीं और माल पहुँचे ही प्राप्त कर लिया। माननीय मंत्री जी इस की जांच करवाने की कृपा करें कि बिना सी सी पी के माल कैसे आ गया? बर्मा से इन की कौन सी एजेंसी है और कितना माल इन का आया? लाखों रुपये का इस में थोटाना हुआ है।

अन्त में मैं फिर निवेदन करूँगा कि जो हमने कई चीजों का ऊँचा इकाई मूल्य प्राप्त किया है फिर भी व्यापार संतुलन बिगड़ा है मैं फिर से अपनी प्रारंभिक बात पर आना चाहता हूँ, हम ने ऊँचा इकाई मूल्य निर्यात की चीजें भेज कर प्राप्त किया है उस के बाद भी हम को निरन्तर घाटा हुआ इस का कारण क्या है ? क्या हमारे घाटे का कारण दोष पूर्ण ।

लाइसेंस की पालिसी तो नहीं है ? क्या इस का यह कारण तो नहीं है कि हमारे अधिकारी जानबूझ कर इस के अन्दर उपेक्षा करते हैं ? मैंने एक प्रश्न दिया था तारांकित 7-3-75

प्रश्न संख्या 2727, उस के उत्तर में बताया गया है कि एम एम टी सी का बड़ा भारी स्टाक पड़ा हुआ है जिस में केमिकल्स भी हैं । जानबूझ कर जब मांग थी तब अधिकारियों ने केमिकल्स नहीं बचे, बाद में स्टाक दिखाने का प्रयत्न किया जब कि मार्केट रेट उन का घट गया । मार्केट रेट घटा कर के बड़े बड़े लोगों को लाभ पहुंचाने की दृष्टि से यह किया गया ।

मैं मंत्री महोदय से जानना चाहता हूँ कि अन्नक का निर्यात क्यों घटा है ? माइका का निर्यात घने का कारण क्या है ? दमाणी जी बार बार प्रश्न उठा रहे थे काटन कारपोरेशन के पास लाजें स्टेपल काटन की गांठें पड़ी हुई हैं । मध्य प्रदेश के नीमाड़ के अन्दर गांठ पड़ी हुई हैं, महाराष्ट्र में पढो है । उन के पास पंसानहीं है । बेचारे किसान परेशान हो रहे हैं । टेक्सटाइल इंडस्ट्री सफर कर रही है । कपड़ा वहां पर पड़ा हुआ है । मशीनों का आधुनकीकरण नहीं हो रहा है । कड़ो मशानो बन्द पढो हुई हैं । इस बारेमें भी मैं मंत्री महोदय से जानना चाहूँगा । मंत्री महोदय को इन सारी बातों पर पुनर्विचार करना चाहिए और एक्सपोर्ट को प्रमुखता देनी चाहिए । इम्पोर्ट कम करने की कोशिश करनी चाहिए । लेकिन आप एक्सपोर्ट को प्रमुखता न दे कर एक्सपोर्ट बढ़ी लगा रहे हैं । इस के कारण हम बाहर विदेशों में बाजार प्राप्त करने में असमर्थ हो रहे हैं । अचरत की चीजों के आस-प्रोचकसन की बात

भी हमारे यहाँ नहीं है । जो परम्परागत बस्तुएँ है जिन का निर्यात होता रहा है उन के निर्यात की धीर हम अधिक ध्यान दें और आवात निर्यात के अन्दर एक संतुलन बना रहे तो जो हमारी एकीनामी में गिरावट आ गई है उस में सुधार आ सकता है । अतः आप अपनी नीति पर पुनर्विचार करें । इन शब्दों के साथ मैं आशा करता हूँ कि मैं ने जो बातें कही है मंत्री महोदय उन का उत्तर देने की कृपा करेंगे ।

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Although when a knowledgeable member makes effective points it is the duty of the Chair in the interest of the debate to give him adequate opportunity, yet, I must repeat this ritual from the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs that the members of the Congress Party should not be given more than ten minutes each. It is my painful duty to do that.

The next speaker is Mr. N.K.P. Salve. I am sure he is full of beans in this matter. Even so, he must keep this in mind.

SHRI N.K.P. SALVE (Betul): I beg of you to be a little charitable to me. I am in your hands. . .

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: You must be full of beans in this matter; still you must keep this in mind.

SHRI N.K.P. SALVE: I am duty-bound to support the Demands for Grants under the control of the Ministry of Commerce, and I do so wholeheartedly. . .

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Duty-bound !

SHRI N.K.P. SALVE: I do so wholeheartedly.

This is an important Ministry because it is in charge of supervision and management of the international trade the exports of the country. That is one sphere which is exceedingly important, for, foreign exchange components or foreign exchange resources are an extremely important instrument in the economic renaissance of any developing country.

[Shri N. K. P. Salve]

Before I come to taking up some specific points, I must refer to the observations made by the learned member from the DMK, the astounding proposition that he had formulated. . .

SHRI J. MATHA GOWDER (Nilgiris) : Not DMK. He belongs to the CPI.

SHRI N.K.P. SALVE : That is still more astounding — that our international trade is going down the drains because we are trading with countries which work on the philosophy of free enterprise. I do not know whether there is any place for this sort of self-righteousness in international trade. We must trade with every country if it profits us. This is one field where one has to be absolutely hard-headed, obdurate, pragmatic and practical down to the bottom. This is one field where political hypocrisy and sanctimonious humbug has absolutely no place. I hope the Minister also will realise that any approach which is devoid of pragmatism, practical considerations and hard-headedness will never yield any results whatsoever in matters of export. In fact, there are golden rules of international trade and the highest rule which governs the cordiality between nations in the field of international trade is the rule of grabbing the highest profits within a code which may not be the highest. That is the hard reality in the realm of international trade.

The imperative need for our country to-day is to augment its exports quantitatively and thereby, amass a substantial amount of foreign exchange. This importance of exports can never be over-emphasized and in that context, if one were to see the commitments of foreign exchange, the current commitments as also the commitments to come in five years' time, the present performance cannot be considered by any standard very encouraging. We need to improve a whole lot. I have no doubt in my mind that with the two very able, very personable and handsome Ministers who are also dynamic, we will be able to do that. . .

SHRI B. V. NAIK : How is it relevant?

SHRI S. R. DAMANI : It is a fact.

SHRI B. V. NAIK : How are their physical features relevant?

SHRI N.K.P. SALVE : In international trade, physical looks are also of very great importance.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Do you think they are exportable commodities !

SHRI N.K.P. SALVE : I was coming to the question of the situation arising out of our dismal foreign exchange position. Already the balance of payments position is in the red to the extent of Rs. 585 crores for the period, April-December, 1974 and I think by now you must have known that it is not less than Rs. 800 crores. If this be the situation for the next few years, we are likely to be in a very difficult position because, as it is, our indebtedness in foreign exchange is not less than Rs. 7000 crores and it is likely to be in the vicinity of Rs. 10,000 crores by 1980 and the repayment required will be not less than Rs. 1000 crores annually. This Rs. 1000 crores we will need in foreign exchange over and above our requirements for imports of fertilisers, essential raw materials, defence requirements and capital goods. Over and above this, we should be able to afford clearly a sum of Rs. 1000 crores in foreign exchange to be able to meet our debt repayment commitments. Otherwise, for the first time ever in the history we are likely to become defaulters. It is from that angle we have to consider the responsibility of this Ministry and judge its performance make evaluation and assessment in a more realistic term.

The world exports to-day are in the vicinity of 710 billion dollars and in the 710 billion dollars our share is only 3.5 billion dollars which is a bare 0.5%. Once upon a time our share varied from anything between 3.5 to 4.5%. Now, it has declined to 0.5%. Therefore, if only in terms of value, because there are higher unit value realisations of exports we get complacent that our exports are

increasing, nothing can be more disastrous than this complacency about nations of increasing exports only in terms of value without a proper increase in terms of quantity. In fact, it is utterly necessary if we want to be anywhere near and close to being able to discharge the obligations requiring foreign exchange which will come on our heads very shortly to augment quantities of export. We must keep a target and achieve it and the target should be a minimal annual growth rate of 15% increase in our exports quantitatively. That is very important. The increase in value is not a proper criteria to judge export performance on which the whole report is harping. I regret the report does not make an evaluation of what our real share is in the international trade as such, in the world exports as such and how we are faring in relation to other countries. In this context it is absolutely necessary that the Government agencies and Government organisations which are in charge of export trade have to streamline their administration, they have to show a greater dynamism and more sincerity approach. Many items have been canalised but it has to be understood that canalisation is not merely for the sake of canalisation alone. We fully support canalisation and more and more items should be canalised. But canalisation is supported by people like me not merely for doctrinaire considerations, not merely because it caters to the concept of distributive justice, but also because, it is very highly desirable to check large-scale frauds of over-invoicing and under-invoicing and frauds involving items of with foreign exchange, etc. More than anything else, we want canalisation, for, if this is properly organised it can rid the entire exports from the scourge of undercutting which we find today.

But, I am sorry to say, the manner in which Government agencies in the field of export have been functioning is extremely dismal. These Government agencies which have been entrusted the task of export are not functioning like efficient business houses but they are functioning like bureaucratic wings of the Secretariat, incorrigible, slow, monolithic and in highly inefficient manner so far as the requirements of export trade are concerned.

They should have the approach of modern business houses. Their only criteria should be ruthless efficiency. But that is what is completely lacking today. The men who are manning some of these organisations are totally devoid of any imagination and dynamism, adaptability, proper expertise and so on. More than anything else, they lack involvement; that is to say, they are all people who are not committed, so to say to the philosophy of State Trading as such, they only want power for themselves.

There is a small matter which I, along with Mr. Sathe, had to take to the Commerce Minister and the issue involved was whether or not a particular item should be exported at a price which is highest if such price is negotiated by the Indian producers of exportable goods. The entire bureaucracy came up against me and Mr. Sathe, the negotiation must be sole prerogative of MMTC and they said, in the canalisation process, the entire power must vest with the Government organisation to finalise the sale to the exclusion of everyone else, even if unit realisation of export is less and it must be exported at the price negotiated by the MMTC. I have never heard anything more absurd than this. And to remedy this irrational thinking on this matter had to be taken up by Mr. Sathe and myself up to the Prime Minister.

Can there be anything more absurd than this, whether Price-A which is more than Price-B at which export had to be effected, had to be fought out because in terms of export-B, it is the bureaucrats who want absolute untrammelled authority? It is a question of their prestige. It is a question of their authority. It is a question of how they rule. It does not matter if they export at a price where unit realisation of export is less. They only want that their power must remain supreme. The country's interest will be taken care of by goods. This course will go from our public sector undertakings only when these bureaucrats are kicked out, lock, stock and barrel and if men from public life and business, who are dedicated to the ideals and philosophy of State Trading are taken at the top. Certain people may have to be trained for this purpose. After all, a bureaucrat can

[Shri N. K. P. Salve]

never be trained for running business houses because he is not brought up that way and they are the sort of people who should not unnecessarily be foisted on the business to put our exports in complete jeopardy.

There are certain instances and I want to mention some of these instances to show how dismal is the working of M.M.T.C. There was an instance of 700 tonnes sale of ferro-chrome which was manufactured by the Orissa Industrial Development Corporation—another public sector undertaking. This was sold by MMTC at 48 US-Cents per pound metal, when at that time, the prevailing market rate was 67.5 US-Cents per pound. And, when we raised this matter before the Minister, he came the reply that the commercial quality was different and poorer from the other. It is for the Minister to institute an enquiry and to find out whether the ferro chrome manufactured by the Industrial Development Corporation of Orissa was properly sold at 48 per U.S. pound metal content when prices were much higher and as a result of which, the total loss suffered was Rs. 40 lakhs. This was entirely due to the incompetence, entirely due to the inadequacy of the knowledge of the people who are dealing with the sort of trade. If Rs. 40 lakhs is a loss of the Industrial Development Corporation of Orissa, they and the Government of India also loses foreign exchange, the country loses the foreign exchange, what does the incompetent official lose.

There is another point which I want to bring out. There is an American party at Pittsburg who purchased 1,000 tons of ferro silicon worth about Rs. 35 to 40 lakhs. Goods have been despatched. But, the party is refusing to take delivery because they find firstly that international prices have fallen and secondly because the goods are not upto specification. In the meanwhile, the manufacturers have taken the money against the Letter of Credit with the result that the liability of Rs. 35 to 40 lakhs is passed on to the M.M.T.C. These goods are either in the transit or at the port. One does not know what will happen to them. In the meanwhile prices have now come down

to 50%. There is another case. High carbon ferro chrome of 1,000 tons were sold to a Spanish firm some time in September 1974 without checking the antecedents or their commercial standing of this party. At that time it was sold at few cents above the offer from other buyers of repute MMTC thought that they had achieved a hell of a bargain in selling this to the Spanish party. Since 19th September, this party refused to take delivery of even a single ton. This cost a lot of money because the prices have declined steeply in the meanwhile.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please do not go deep into it. I shall of course allow it. I am saying that we shall lose completely in the woods without seeing the forest.

SHRI N.K.P. SALVE : I won't go into it further. I am making a point.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : You will be seeing the wood and not the forest. Anyway you can go on.

SHRI N.K.P. SALVE : My submission is this. I have drawn the attention of the Minister to these transactions only for one reason, that is, to point out that the set of people who are in charge of MMTC have no experience and they are not doing a thorough work of their job. There is something drastically wrong. Unless they are improved and unless the whole system is improved, how are we going to augment our exports? I am in a way happy that now this channelisation of the ferro alloys has been taken away from the M.M.T.C. and is now handed over to SAIL. I hope they have better knowledge as far as ferro-alloys are concerned. I shall now make a few suggestions and then I shall sit down. Firstly, the rules, procedures and regulations etc. have become so cumbersome that the entire facilities and incentives which you have given for exports are neutralised by the hardships caused by these rules, procedures and regulations etc. Kindly have a good look into these rules and procedures etc. which are causing a very great disincentive to the exporters. Secondly, you must think of giving more autonomy to the government agencies. For that structural changes are

required. Have people who are committed to your philosophy. But, then trust them and give them more autonomy so that everytime the ministry need not be bothered. Next, abolish the present time consuming procedures for the export licences. After preparing an exhaustive list of the banned items exports should be automatic, without requiring any licence. Fourthly give lavish facilities for advertisement, entertainment expenses to exporters etc.

I have seen in the international trade how the people advertise and how lavishly they entertain. Ours is the only country where legitimate entertainment expenses are not deductible even for the income-tax purpose. Look at the niggardly miserable foreign exchange that you give to exporters when they go abroad. Neither are foreign buyers fully entertained. It is a disgrace to this country. Do we expect these foreign buyers to come here for spiritual experience or do they come here for penance?

MR DEPUTY-SPEAKER : They come here for transcendental meditation !

SHRI N.K.P. SALVE : In fact some of our Gurus are good foreign exchange earners . If we can nationalise them, it would be a good idea. Be that as it may it is our duty to ensure that advertisements and entertainments are properly allowed and lavish foreign exchange given to genuine exporters. Then, Sir, the present export promotion efforts are extremely ineffective and inadequate. You have to appoint a supreme council for export promotion which must be vested powers of administrative decisions which should be binding on the Government.

Finally, we must open a market intelligence cell in the Ministry which would give them full reports of the market conditions abroad. If that is done then these cases of over-invoicing and under-invoicing and the large inventories of non-ferrous metals by MMTC will not come about. Sir, without the cell we cannot have value realisation per unit of export.

Lastly, Sir, I will only quote.

"Dr. Bruno Hake, a West German authority on exports, expressed grave doubts about the utility of the duty-free export zone at Santa Cruz and similar projects in other parts of India. He said, "At Santa Cruz many factories are supposed to work to cater to a growing export market. But I hardly found one or two working. There are too many restrictions and too much emphasis on factories being small-scale and high technology oriented." Referring to the tremendous potential for such duty-free export zones, Dr. Hake further pointed out that if the restrictions and the red-tape could be removed, at least four million workers could be engaged in four such zones in India, one million in each zone."

SHRI VASANT SATHE (Akola) : Sir, in the entire report that we have received the most important thing that strikes me is the increase in exports which is being brought about continuously under the able leadership of our Minister.

Right from 1972-73, if we see, the export has increased from Rs. 1,970 crores to Rs. 2,343 crores. That is a creditable performance. But, as has been stated in the report itself, this is not a real reflection of growth because it is mainly in terms of value — particularly in the last year — and not so much in terms of quantity.

15 hrs.

I am constrained to note at page 7 of the report that while for the year 1962-63 when the balance of trade was favourable, that is, plus 103.4 crores constantly throughout these 10 years the balance has been unfavourable. Then in 1973-74 it was unfavourable to the tune of minus 437 crores, then, minus Rs. 164 crores and then minus Rs. 585 crores. We had to import large quantity of foodgrains; fertiliser cost went up and the cost of petroleum and other articles went up. These were the factors. But, I find from this report that the major area in which we have really made a big stride is in the field of textile fabrics, ready-made cloth and other products. Therefore, Sir, today, I would like to concentrate only on

[Shri Vasant Sathe]

this field. Unfortunately, Sir, we do not have a comprehensive textile policy. Neither in the sphere of jute, which is a great export earner, nor in the sphere of textiles, which is another potential and substantial export earner, do we have any comprehensive policy. Sir, the Cotton Corporation is under this Ministry. But, the NTC is under some other Ministry. The 103 sick textile mills which have been taken over are under a different Ministry.

The policy relating to the entire textile industry is under this Ministry. This Ministry has absolutely no control over the private sector apart from imposing conditions as to how much of controlled cloth should be produced and so on. The production of controlled cloth goes up from 400 sq. metres to 800 sq. metres and immediately, the mills start shouting 'Now, we cannot purchase long staple cotton because you want us to produce more medium variety and standard cloth, and therefore, there is no buyer'. Then, you decide that you should import Rs. 25 crores worth of medium staple cotton. I really do not understand Today, you have entered into an agreement — it has been reported — with the EEC and what they want is, more garments, shirtings and other materials. Now, why can't we have a policy where these mills would be compelled to produce finer varieties of cloth and ready-made garments? Have we got any control on that? Ready-made garments production has a tremendous employment potential. As you know, in America and other countries, one of the biggest industries is the garment industry. In this country, because of traditional wear of sarees and dhotis, the garment industry was not very much in vogue. But, the garment industry has a tremendous export potential. If we really give thought to it, we can have a network of de-centralised garment producing units in the form of cottage industries. You have the marketing with you and export these garments along with the fine cloth. Then, you can use this fine cloth internally instead of penalising the cotton grower for having grown 14 lakh bales of

long staple cotton. Sir, I really pity this Government, particularly, this Ministry. It is not to blame. But, it is a part of the whole machinery. Why can't the entire textile industry — I am going to suggest it today — from cotton to garment ultimately, its export and internal consumption, be placed under the Commerce Ministry, under one Ministry? Let them be held accountable for the entire production. Then, you cannot run away by saying 'What can I do? Cotton production is with the Agriculture Ministry'. You cannot run away by saying 'What can I do ; Textile production in the private sector is under some other Ministry'. Therefore, I am going to plead today that we should have some rational and comprehensive policy if you really want to earn more foreign exchange. You have no control on imports. Unfortunately, national calamities compel us to import food. I am not going into that question. Similar is the case of importation of petroleum products. But, you at least have control on what you can produce in this country and export.

Handloom varieties have the biggest market outside. Everywhere they are in demand. Handicrafts have the markets. Why cannot we concentrate on these items which have an employment potential as well as export earning potential?

In the field of handicrafts, I am glad there is now a greater awareness about encouraging our traditional crafts in this country because of their export potential, but enough is not being done in the field of training, in the field of marketing. The greatest handicap of the smaller people is marketing. They can produce the finest things, but they cannot market them and they are exploited by the middlemen. That is, why in this sphere, a whole network of marketing also must be under your control. This you cannot do unless you have control both on internal market as well as the external market. If you say, 'I will deal only with the export market, but the internal market will be in somebody else's hand', no co-ordination is possible, whether it is textiles, handicrafts or any other. In regard to whatever you want to export, like tea,

for example, you must have control on both the internal marketing policy as also export.

Secondly, there has to be a rationale. I have nothing against bureaucrats. There are fine bureaucrats in this country. Some of them are excellent material thoroughbred horses. But do not use a thoroughbred horse for yoking to a tonga. Do not use him for the purpose of pulling a buggy. These people are good for administration, for which they were trained. But to use them in business and industry is a misuse of this fine material. It is a waste and is harmful both to industry and to administration. Therefore, let us think in terms of expertise. If they are experts in industry, all right, forget about the IAS cadre and let them go into the Industrial Management Pool. There has to be involvement. Accountability is the most important thing.

In the sphere of state trading, I have seen the work MMTC and others. I have myself been surprised; there are no norms, no parameters. There is nothing to compare. If you have a monopoly, how will you ever know whether you have sold a material at the best price in the world? When two private parties are competing, there is a possibility of knowing who is selling better. Here there is no way of knowing. They say: 'What can we do? The international markets fell'. Therefore, we are told: 'We had to sell at a less price'. You have to accept it. If there is a little margin of even 10 per cent, there is temptation. Human beings are the same everywhere. If you create conditions for temptation, they are bound to be tempted; but if you create conditions for competition and accountability, then I can understand it. Why don't you introduce an element of competition in this sphere also?

The first thing is: get people from wherever they are in the country, experts in the field of handling the job. Secondly, have an element of competition and get the best in the world. Judge them by accountability, by performance. No excuses heard, come only with results —

this must be the criterion. If this is the test that we apply to our performance, I am sure our exports also will grow.

These are the two major points I wanted to make. I wish the Commerce Minister success because this is the only field in which we can earn the maximum foreign exchange. I do not know whether smuggling comes under him or not — I mean checking smuggling. In that sphere also something has to be done, because all the good things that he might try to do, such as export of our goods outside, etc. will be frustrated if smuggling is not stopped.

†SHRI J. MATHA GOWDER (Nilgiris): Hon. Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, on behalf of my party, the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam, I rise to express my views on the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Commerce.

I am glad to find from the Annual Report of the Commerce Ministry for the year 1974-75 that the target of tea production fixed for the year 1974, i.e. 478 million Kgs., will be achieved. In this year the foreign exchange earning through the export of tea is likely to be of the order of Rs. 100 crores.

But I am distressed to find what has been stated on page 109 of the Annual Report which reads as follows:

"At the London auctions, prices of all teas increased by 16 new pence per kg. upto the end of November, 1974, while the prices for Indian teas increased by 14.00 new pence per kg."

I would like to know from the hon. Minister of Commerce why the increase in the prices of Indian teas has not kept pace with the increase in the prices of other teas. It is due to the fact that the quality of Indian tea has gone down in recent years? Or, is it due to any shiggishness on the part of the Tea Board or on the part of the Ministry of Commerce in the promotional activities to project the image of Indian tea? I would like to

† The original speech was delivered in Tamil.

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know what steps are being taken by the Government and the Tea Board in improving the quality of Indian tea and also in strengthening the promotional activities abroad, so that Indian tea can fetch attractive price in the foreign markets.

As I represent a tea-growing constituency, I know that the quality of tea goes down if the tea plant becomes 40 years old. I also know that the Government are implementing Tea Replantation Finance Scheme, Replantation Subsidy Scheme and Tea Machinery Hire Purchase Scheme. Let us see how much money has been spent by the Government under these schemes for augmenting tea production quantitatively and qualitatively, especially when tea exports earn every year foreign exchange worth Rs. 100 crores. Under the Replantation Subsidy Scheme, the amount disbursed since inception of the scheme in October, 1968 to 30th November, 1974 is Rs. 116.62 lakhs — in six years Rs. 116.62 lakhs, which means that a sum of Rs. 20 lakhs per year has been spent under the replantation subsidy scheme. At this rate, it may take another century for the Indian tea to get back its original quality. Similarly, for purchasing Tea Machinery and Irrigation Equipment the Government has disbursed to the Tea Industry Rs. 938 lakhs and Rs. 73 lakhs respectively since the inception of the Tea Machinery Hire Purchase Scheme.

As a representative of the small tea growers, I can say without any fear of contradiction that the maximum benefit from these schemes has been derived by the big plantation owners. The Ministry seems to be content in saying in the Annual Report that during the current period several other measures for the improvement of small grower estates in different regions has been taken.

Sir, in the Nilgiris district alone, which is my constituency, there are 20,000 small tea growers. You will not find anywhere in India such a concentration of small tea growers in one district, whether it is Kangra Valley or it is Assam. I am a founder-member of the Small Tea Growers Association in the Nilgiris. I have

also founded the Industrial Co-operative Service Society in which all the small tea-growers are members. In the co-operative sector we are running 9 tea factories in the Nilgiris and we are taking up steps for putting up the tenth co-operative tea factory there. When Shri A. C. George was the Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Commerce, he visited my area and he was all praise for the successful co-operative movement in tea in the Nilgiris. He even went to the extent of saying that the other tea growing centres in the country should emulate the example of co-operative movement in the Nilgiris. So, the Government must give some credence to what I say about the woes of the small tea growers in the Nilgiris.

In my capacity as a Member of this House, I was a member of Tea Board in the meetings of which I had raised several times the problems of the small tea-growers. Even for the coming year I have been elected as a member of the Tea Board.

I would like to refer to the fact that a sum of Rs. 5 lakhs was sanctioned under the Replantation Subsidy Scheme for the small tea-growers. But it was strange that this sum was handed over to UPASI, the United Planters Association of South India, and they were directed to utilise this money for the welfare of small tea growers. Can you expect them to spend this money in the interest of the small tea growers? It is just like giving some money to Birlas or Tatas and asking them to spend that money in the interest of a small scale industry. I know for certain that not even a single pie out of this 5 lakhs of rupees was spent for the small tea growers in the Nilgiris. All this money was appropriated by UPASI.

In reply to a question on 18-4-1975, the hon. Deputy Minister of Commerce stated that promotional support to some Indian packet tea exporters, as the export of Indian packet tea was declining, was being given in collaboration with Tata Finlay, Brooke-Bond, Liptons etc., as if they were in need of such support from

the Government. I am only sorry that the same kind of concern is not being shown to the small tea growers.

In spite of the fact that there is provision for the representation of small tea growers on the Tea Board, so far no representative of the small tea growers has been nominated on the Tea Board. One ex-army Officer — I do not know whose patronage he enjoys at the high governmental level — has been nominated to this place. I am unaware of his competence to represent the interests of the small tea growers. As I stated earlier, as a member of this House I have been elected to the Tea Board. Since I have been elected by 20000 small tea growers in the Nilgiris to this House, I vehemently plead the cause of the small tea growers in the Tea Board. I request the hon. Minister of Commerce that a real representative of the small tea growers in the Nilgiris should be nominated to the Tea Board and not an ex-army man who is not familiar with the problems of the small tea-growers.

Sir, as I stated earlier, all the small tea growers are members of the Industrial Co-operative Service Society. Hence the money sanctioned under the Re-plantation Subsidy Scheme should be routed through the Industrial Co-operative Service Society, and not through UPASI which caters only to big plantation owners.

Similarly, the loan applications forwarded by the Industrial Co-operative Service Society must be sanctioned by the Tea Board without delay. Here, I would like to refer to the inordinate delay of two years on the part of the Tea Board in sanctioning the loan for establishing Kattabettu Co-operative Tea Factory. This is the tenth co-operative tea factory which we want to set up. We have already collected a sum of Rs. 4 lakhs from the small tea growers for the purpose of establishing this factory. Yet, there is unconscionable delay in sanctioning the loan by the Tea Board. That is why I would like to stress that the loan applications forwarded by the Industrial Co-operative Service Society must be approved by the Tea Board without unnecessary delay.

Sir, the small tea growers in the Nilgiris are not able to go to the Tea Board in Calcutta or to come to Delhi to the Commerce Ministry for getting their genuine grievances redressed. I have been repeatedly requesting the Ministry and also the Tea Board that a Small Tea Growers Cell must be set up in the Nilgiris. If the Nilgiris does not find favour with the Tea Board, the Small Tea Growers Cell can conveniently be located in Coimbatore which is a central place both for Kerala and for the Nilgiris. With such a Small Tea Growers Cell in Coimbatore, most of the problems of the small tea growers in the Nilgiris will be solved expeditiously and effectively. I appeal to the hon. Minister of Commerce that he should direct the setting up of a Small Tea Growers Cell in Coimbatore in the interest of 20000 small tea growers in the Nilgiris.

15.25 hrs.

[SHRI VASANT SATHE *in the Chair*]

Mr. Chairman, Sir, for promotional activities abroad, you will find that only big plantation owners and highly placed officials go to foreign countries. It is regrettable that so far not even one small tea grower has been sent abroad either for witnessing the Tea Exhibition or for getting some training abroad. It will be beneficial to the small tea growers if some of them are sent abroad so that they can personally see how the tea is processed, packed and marketed. I hope that the hon. Minister of Commerce will bear this in mind and send a few small tea growers to foreign countries whenever a Tea Delegation is sent abroad.

I would refer to the first-ever Seminar of the All India Tea Plantation Owners Seminar held some two years ago in the Vithalbhai Patel House, New Delhi. The hon. Minister of Commerce, Prof. Chatopadhyaya, and the Deputy Minister of Commerce, Shri A. C. George, participated in this Seminar. The hon. Minister of Commerce will agree with me if I say that in this 2-day Seminar none of the problems of the small tea growers was high-lighted. Neither the big plantation owners nor the Government through the

[Shri J. Matha Gowder]

Tea Board take adequate interest in the welfare of the small tea growers. I would like to appeal to the hon. Minister of Commerce that the genuine hardships of the small tea growers can be solved by establishing Small Tea Growers Cell of the Tea Board in Coimbatore, by giving representation on the Tea Board to the small tea-growers, by sanctioning loans, financial assistance etc. through the Industrial Co-operative Service Society on which all the small tea growers are members and not through bodies like UPASI, and by sending the representatives of small tea growers to countries abroad where Indian tea holds sway.

Lastly, I would like to point out that Sri Lanka Tea and the African Tea have overtaken Indian Tea in foreign market. You know, Sir, that Indian Tea was the first to reach the international market. Now it has come to a third position. The Government must make a thorough analysis of the reasons for the fall of Indian tea in the world market and take energetic and effective steps for re-capturing the glory of India tea abroad. The Government must replace the outdated machinery in the Tea Factories by modern machinery. In this International Women's year, the Tea Board must ensure that the women workers in the Tea Plantations get equal wages with men workers.

In conclusion, I would say that, since the 20000 small tea growers also contribute their might in the earning of foreign exchange, their problems must get adequate consideration in the hands of the Tea Board and the Government.

With these words, I conclude.

श्री राम सिंह भाई (इंदौर) : सभापति महोदय, इस अवसर पर मैं कृषी महोदय को मुबारकबाद देता हूँ कि इन पिछले वर्षों में कितनी कठिन परिस्थिति थी और ऐसी परिस्थिति के अन्दर हमारा निर्यात बढ़ा है। इसका मतलब एक ही है कि इस विभाग ने बड़ी ईमानदारी, मेहनत और साबधानी से कार्य किया है। बरअसल ये यह बर्दिया विभाग है। इस विभाग में बहुत

ही धैर्य की आवश्यकता है। जितना धैर्य होगा, जितनी साबधानी होगी उतना ही यह विभाग फायदा कर सकता है। इस वर्ष के आंकड़े देखते हुए हमें संतोष होता है और सब से बड़ी बात निर्यात की है। जहाँ तक आयात की बात है देश की परिस्थित ऐसी थी कि मजबूरी में हमने कुछ आयात ज्यादा करना ही पड़ा।

लेकिन एक विषय के ऊपर मैं माननीय मंत्री जी का ध्यान आकषिप्त करना चाहता हूँ। मेरे मित्र सत्य जी और साठे जी ने जो बातें कहीं और अन्य सदस्यों ने भी कहीं, मैं वे बातें नहीं कहूँगा। मुझे एक विषय पर ही बोल लेने दीजिए जिस पर कोई नहीं बोला है और कोई और जिस पर बोलने वाला भी नहीं है। वह है आप का टेक्सटाइल विभाग है। इस टेक्सटाइल इंडस्ट्री को सवा सौ साल होने को आए। लेकिन हम यह देखते आए हैं कि इसकी हाबत हमेशा झोले खाती रही है। आज की परिस्थितियों में यह कहा जाता है कि हमारे यहाँ उत्पादन बढ़ रहा है, यह उत्पादन बढ़ रहा है, वह उत्पादन बढ़ रहा है, लेकिन श्रीमन् मैं आपसे निवेदन करना चाहता हूँ कि टेक्सटाइल इण्डस्ट्री का उत्पादन घटता जा रहा है, एम्प्लायमेंट घटती जा रही है। आज टेक्सटाइल इण्डस्ट्री की हालत यह है कि अभी तो आपने 103 मिलों, को टंक ओवर कर राष्ट्रीयकरण किया है, लेकिन अब आपको 300 मिलों को टंक ओवर और करना होगा। 20 करोड़ रुपया इन 103 मिलों की तरफ अग्निको के प्राविन्डेड फण्ड का बकाया है, जिसमें से एक पाई भी अभी तक आपने नहीं चुकाई है, जब 300 मिलों का सवाल आयेगा, तब क्या स्थिति होगी, कितनी रकम हो जायगी ...

सभापति महोदय : राम सिंह भाई टेक्सटाइल मिलें जो भी गई थीं, वे इस विविस्ट्री के तहत नहीं हैं।

श्री राजसिंह भाई : प्रोडक्शन से इन का सम्बन्ध है ।

सम्बन्धित महोदय : लेकिन वे मिलें इन के हाथ में नहीं है, वे पाई साहब की मिनिस्ट्री के हाथ में है ।

श्री राजसिंह भाई : 103 मिलें जो ली गई थीं, वे पाई साब की मिनिस्ट्री के तहत हैं, लेकिन मैं उनकी बात नहीं कह रहा हूँ, मैं तो 300 मिलों की बात कह रहा हूँ जिन को टेक ओवर करना पड़ेगा। टेक्सटाइल का सारा काम इन के ही मातहत है ।

श्रीमन, आज इन मिलों की हालत यह हो गई है, श्रमिकों, की छंटनी हो रही है, मशीनें बन्द हो रही है। अभी यहाँ बहुत कुछ कहा गया कि काटन पड़ा हुआ है, कोई खरीदनेवाला नहीं है, लेकिन दूसरी तरफ आज मिलें काटन के कारण बन्द पड़ी है। यह बड़े दुख की बात है, इस पर आप को संभारता से सोचना चाहिये।

अगर आप इन मिलों को प्रोडक्शन के प्वाइन्ट से देखें तो आप पायेंगे कि पर स्पिण्डल के हिसाब से आज 6 और 8 इंच की आप की निपट हो गई है, आधुनिक मशीनों से सुसज्जित है उनका पर स्पिण्डल प्रोडक्शन 6 औंस तक आ रहा है, लेकिन कुछ मिलें ऐसी है जहाँ प्रोडक्शन सिर्फ 3 औंस या साइलीन औंस आ रहा है। जो मिलें 6 औंस का प्रोडक्शन जा रही है, उन के मुकाबले में ये कब प्रोडक्शन वाली मिलें कँचे टिक सकेंगी। इस का मतलब है कि कुछ मिलों को तो जो चाहिये, वह मिल जाता है, लेकिन कुछ मिलों को आसानी से नहीं मिलता है। टेक्सटाइल इण्डस्ट्री के पिछले 125 वर्षों में आप का टेक्सटाइल कमिश्नर आफिस कुछ इन गिने मिल मालिकों के कब्जे में रहा है, जो अपना लम्ब कर लेते हैं, बाकी मिल आर्थिक आज भी देखते हैं और हाथ हिलाने बड़े हैं।

आप अपनी 103 मिलों की हालत को देखिये, जिन को आप ने टेक ओवर कर राष्ट्रीयकरण किया है। गवर्नमेंट की मिलें होने के बावजूद टेक्सटाइल कमिश्नर आज इनी गिनी दो चार मिले समूहों की मदद कर रहा है, बाकी की नहीं। इसी लिये मेरा कहना है कि आप इन को इन 300 मिलों को भी टेक ओवर करना पड़ेगा।

एक तरफ आप कहते हैं कि काटन का डेर लगा हुआ है, कोई खरीदनेवाला नहीं है। दूसरी तरफ कहा जाता है कि कपडे का डेर लगा हुआ है, कोई खरीदनेवाला नहीं है। किन्तु यह बहुत अच्छा अवसर आपके हाथ में आया है, इस से अच्छी स्थिति आप क्या चाहते हैं। लोगों को कपड़ा चाहिये, कपडे का डेर लगा है, कारखानों को रई चाहिये, रई का डेर लगा है। भाव बिरले चाहिये—भाव भी काफी बिरले है और इस के लिये हमें गवर्नमेंट को मुबारकबाद देनी चाहिये। पिछले साल 1974 में हम यहाँ चिल्ला रहे थे कि भाव बढ रहे हैं, लेकिन अब 1975 में भाव बिर रहे हैं—यह बहुत अच्छी निशानी है। लेकिन मैं निवेदन करना चाहूँगा कि इस में भी ग्रैय की जरूरत है, घबराने की जरूरत नहीं है, अब आप में हिम्मत होनी चाहिये, साहस होना चाहिए। एप्रिल्वर प्राइस कमिश्नर ने जो रई के भाव तय किये हैं, उस के हिसाब से गवर्नमेंट को रई खरीद लेनी चाहिये। कहीं ऐसा न हो कि आप का काटन कारपोरेशन देखता रह जाय, आप के उत्पादन के आंकड़े घरे रह जाय और ये पूंजीपती लोग सब उठा ले जाय। आज ब्लैक का घन मार्केट से गायब हो गया है, वरि कोई आर्थिक अवसिधय नहीं है। आज जितनी टेक्सटाइल में आर्थिक तंत्री है, वही ही दूसरी इण्डस्ट्रीय में भी है, क्यों कि पहले ब्लैक मनी क्लर टीस्टी थी, उस से लाख

[श्री राम सिंह भाई]

खरीदते, जमा करके रखते थे कच्चा माल खरीद कर भण्डार भर लेते थे और तैयार माल भी खरीद कर जमा कर लेते थे। बा में महंगी दामों पर बेचते थे। जब से सरकार नै ब्लैक मनी पर दबाव डालना शुरू किया, जांच करना शुरू किया, वह ब्लैक मनी बाजार से गायब कर दी गयी है। ऐसे मोके पर सरकार अगर कच्चे माल का तथा तैयार माल का स्टॉक खरीद कर जमा कर ले तो आपके भावों का बैजेंस लें बनाये रखने और भावों के संबन्ध में सब कुछ गवर्नमेंट के हाथ में रहेगा। आप लम्बे रेशे को रूई को ही लीजिये—पिछले साल सितम्बर में इस का भाव 6000 रुपये से अधिक था, लेकिन दिसम्बर के अन्त में 3000 रुपये हो गया और आज कोई खरीदनेवाला नहीं है। अगर इस रूई को आप की कारपोरेशन ने नहीं खरीदा तो ये जमाखोर पूजीपति इस को भर कर रख लेंगे और बाद में यही रूई 6000 रुपये में बिकेगी। इस लिये मेरा कहना है कि थोड़ी हिम्मत कीजिये, साहस कीजिये। 200 या 250 करोड़ रुपये का काटन तो आप की 103 मोलों को चाहिये और यदि हिन्दुस्तान की सब मिलों का हिसाब लगायें तो 1200 करोड़ रुपये से ज्यादा के काटन की जरूरत पड़ेगी। ये आंकड़े मेरे अपने आंकड़े हैं अंदाजी, आप की तरफ से मुझे आंकड़े नहीं मिले हैं - इसे लिये आप काटन को अपने हाथ में लीजिये।

अभी यहाँ पर कन्ट्रोल क्लाय का जिक्र किया गया। यह बड़ो धर्म की बात है कि क्या यह कन्ट्रोल क्लाय है, किस के लिये बनाया जा रहा है - यह सोचने की बात है ...

श्री हुकूम अन्द कछवाय (मुरैना) : जानवरों के लिये है।

श्री राम सिंह भाई : जानवरों के लिये नहीं, इन्सानों के लिये हैं, लेकिन दृष्टिकोण जानवरों का है। जानवर कपड़ा नहीं पहनता है, अगर हम भी जानवर की तरह से कपड़ा न पहनें,

तो फिर कपड़े की जरूरत ही नहीं है। समस्या अपने आप हल हो जायेगी। हमारे कोर्स कपड़े के उत्पादन का प्रतिशत घट रहा है, मीडियम बी का भी प्रतिशत उत्पादन घट रहा है, उस की परसेन्टेज कम होती जा रही है मीडियम ए वैसे का वसा ही बना हुआ है, क्योंकि आप उस को एक्सपोर्ट करते हैं और देश में आवश्यकता है। फाइन और सुपर फाइन का परसेन्टेज बढ़ा रहा है। किन्तु कन्ट्रोल क्लाय में क्या हो रहा है—आप जरा उस कपड़े को देखिये - मैं मशीन चलाना जानता हूँ, कपड़ा बुन कर बतला सकता हूँ और मिल भी चालू कर के बतला सकता हूँ - कन्ट्रोल क्लाय में 6 कैटेगरीज आपने रखी हैं; 6 घूस हैं। आज जो लॉग-क्लाय बन रहा है उस में क्या हो रहा है उस के काउन्ट को देखिये - 9 का वाप है और 12 का वॉप्ट है - एक तरह से टेन्ट क्लाय बन रहा है। मंत्री जी तो धोती पहनते हैं किन्तु कन्ट्रोल पर धोती नहीं मिलेगी, साडी, शर्टिंग और ड्रिल नहीं मिलेगी, लेकिन लाग क्लाय का डेर लगा हुआ है। अगर कपड़े की बनावट देखें तो शर्टिंग में न० 21का वापे है और न० 27 का वॉप्ट है - शर्टिंग के अन्दर रीड डाला है 64 का, पिक डाली है 44 का - यह जरा सोचने की बात है - इस तरह से सिरासिरा कपड़ा बनेगा। मेरे हिसाब से 60 का पिक होना चाहिये, एक इंच में 60 तार बुनने के होने चाहिये।

यहाँ मैं कंट्रोल क्लाय की बात कर रहा हूँ कि कितना हल्का बनाया जा रहा है। एक जाति की बात कर रहा हूँ कि जहाँ 64 का रीड है और 48 पीक है उस की जगह 60 डालना चाहिये था। आप ने क्या कपड़ा बनाया है उसेही मैं बताना चाहता हूँ, मैं लॉग क्लाय की बात कर रहा हूँ जो एक मिल ने बनाया है जिस का मरचेंट नम्बर 109 है और कैटेगरी है मीडियम 'बी' और उस का पना है 99 सेंटीमीटर, उस का भाव है 1.74 पैसे प्रति मीटर। इस भाव में एक मीटर अच्छा कामका भी नहीं जाता। आप ने हल्के में हल्का कपड़ा बुना होगा, कम सूत लगाया होगा, खराब में खराब सूत लगाया

होगा। इसी तरह एक मरचेंट नम्बर है 1764, वह मीडियम 'बी' है और उस का पना है 79 सेंटीमीटर। लेकिन एक मीटर का भाव है 1.16 पैसे। इसी प्रकार से एक कपड़ा दूसरी बिल का है जिस का मरचेंट नम्बर है 1602, केटगरी मीडियम 'बी' और उस का पना है 32 इंची और भाव है 2 रु० 5 पैसे। दोनों ही कंट्रोल क्लाय है - जिस का पना है 79 सेंटीमीटर उस का भाव है 1.16 पैसे और जो 32 इंची पने का है वही लॉग क्लाय, उस का भाव है 2 रु० 5 पैसे। एसा क्यों? क्यों कि वह एक ऐसे कारखाने का है जिस का असर टेक्सटाइल कमिश्नर पर है, और कमिश्नर उस की जब मे है। और एक लॉग क्लाय ऐसी मिल का है जिस को कोई पूछने वाला नहीं है। बन्द होने पर मजदूरों ने एक सप्ताह तक श्रमदान में झड़ू लगा कर मिल साफ की, अपना प्रोबिडेंट फंड कटाकर महंगाई भत्ता कम करे कर के उस कारखाने को चलाया है। वही काउन्ट, वही रीड और वही पीक और पने में लेकिन उस का भाव बहुत कम है और जिस का पना कम है उस का भाव ज्यादा है। आज कल 32 इंची पने में पगड़ी हो बनेगी और पगड़ी का जमाना नहीं। इसलिये कंट्रोल क्लाय डेरों पड़ा हुआ है। मेरे पास इतनी जाती के भाव है किन्तु समय की कमी से नहीं बता सकता। आपने बेचने का माध्यम भी क्या रखा है, साड़ियों और धीतियों का परसेंटेज क्या है? कुछ नहीं है। आज जो लॉग कंट्रोल क्लाय मिल रस है उस को लोग कफन के लिये भी नहीं खरीद रहे हैं। आप को विचार करना होगा कि ज्यादा से ज्यादा परसेंटेज साड़ियों, धीतियों और शर्टिंग का होना चाहिये। जो कंट्रोल क्लाय में परसेंटेज कोर्स, मीडियम 'बी' और 'ए' का है फाइन्, सुपर फाइन् आप ने क्यों नहीं रखा 80 करोड़ मीटर का कंट्रोल क्लाय रखा है। 80 करोड़ मीटर में सूत के काउन्ट का भी प्रतिशत वही होना चाहिये जो टोटल उत्पादन में है। परसेंटेज के हिसाब से आप फाइन् और सुपर फाइन् क्यों नहीं कंट्रोल क्लाय में देते। मंत्री महोदय जो धोती पहने हैं उस को अगर टेबिल पर रखें तो मैं बता दूंगा

कि इस का काउन्ट क्या है और फिर कंट्रोल क्लाय से मिलाकर देखा जाय कि उस में और इसमें कितना फर्क है।

श्री हूकम चन्द कछत्राय : यह कहना कि धोती टेबिल पर रखें, यह आपसिजनक है।

समापति महोदय : उन्होंने अभी रखने के लिये नहीं कहा।

श्री राम सिंह भाई : आज 72 से 80 इंच पने की मशीनों कारखानों में चल रही हैं, लेकिन कंट्रोल क्लाय बनता है 40 इंच पर और उस से भी कम पने की मशीनों पर। कंट्रोल क्लाय कैलिको, अरविन्द, सेंचूरी या फिनले मिल्स नहीं बनाते बल्कि इन 103 मिलों में बनता है जिन को सरकार ते समझ लिया है कि इन्हीं में यह कबाड़ा चलने दो। आप इस के बारे में विचार कीजिये। सरकार अगर मुझ से बात करेगी, सलाह लेना चाहेंगी, तो मैं, टेक्सटाइल के बारे में अपनी सलाह दे सकता हूँ। इस पर आप विचार करें।

समापति महोदय : भरी मिलें और कफन का कपड़ा।

श्री हूकम चन्द कछत्राय (मुरैना) : समापति महोदय, विदेश व्यापार मंत्रालय की जो भागें हमारे सामने हैं उन के बारे में कुछ मुझ निवेदन करना है। विभाग की रिपोर्ट में देखने को मिला है कि पिछली बार काफ़ी घाटा हुआ है और इस बार भी उतना ही या उस से अधिक घाटा होने की सम्भावना है। घाटे के अलग-अलग कारण हैं। कुछ तो सरकार की लाइसेंस नीति में दृष्टियां हैं और उस में बहुत अधिक परिवर्तन की आवश्यकता है। यदि परिवर्तन किया गया तो ऐसा हमें विश्वास है कि इस घाटे को हम पूरा कर लेंगे और मूनाफा भी कर सकते हैं। पिछले कुछ दिनों से ऐसी दृष्टियां रही हैं जिन के बारे में मेरे दल के सदस्यों ने जिक्र किया है, मैं उन्हीं कुछ विशेष बातों का उल्लेख करना चाहता हूँ। पिछली बार हम ने बांगला देश से कागज मंगाया 1800 रु० टन तक और उसे घाटे में बेचा, 200, 300

[श्री कृष्ण चन्द कच्छपः]

रु० प्रति टन घाटा उठाना पड़ा। हम क्यों पता लगाना चाहिये कि इस के कारण क्या है और इतना घाटा क्यों हुआ।

हमारे द्वारा आस्ट्रेलिया को जून भेजी गई; लेकिन आस्ट्रेलिया ने हम को ब्लैक लिस्ट में रखा है। यह एक बहुत बड़ा मारल के लिए कलंक है, इस की जांच होनी चाहिये कि आखिर दोषी कौन है। कारण क्या है। आज दुनिया के मार्केट में हम ने अच्छी ख्याति प्राप्त की है, लेकिन आस्ट्रेलिया में हमें ब्लैक लिस्ट में रखा जाय इस से बड़ा कलक हमारे लिये और क्या हो सकता है। इस बारे में जो भी दोषी हो उस को निकाल कर सामने रखा जाय और उचित दंड दिया जाय। और भविष्य में इस प्रकार की गलती न हो, इस का ध्यान रखा जाय।

कंट्रोल के कपड़े के सम्बन्ध में अभी माननीय सर्वस्य ने कहा। लेकिन यह बात निश्चित है कि बहुत बड़े पैमाने पर आज स्टॉक में कपड़ा पड़ा हुआ है, करीब 70 करोड़ का कपड़ा स्टॉक में पड़ा हुआ है। मेरा भी टेक्सटाइल मिली से निकट का सम्बन्ध है, वह इतने घटिया किस्म का कपड़ा बनाती है कि उस को देखने में घृणा होती है। उसे कौन पहनेगा? इसी के साथ साथ-आप ने सुधार की बात भी कही है। आप ने 11-4-74 को एक प्रश्न के उत्तर में कहा है कि हम इस पर विचार कर रहे हैं, और एक टेक्सटाइल बोर्ड 17 एप्रिल को बैठने वाला है। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि वह बोर्ड है कि नहीं, और उसने इस बारे में विचार किया है या नहीं? यदि विचार किया है, तो क्या विचार किया है? अभी कुछ दिन पहले मैं ने प्रश्न पूछा था पावर लूम वाले जो पहले 10 रु० ड्यूटी देते थे उस को बढ़ा कर सरकार ने 200 रु० कर दिया है जिस से पावर लूम वालों को काफी दिक्कत हो रही है। आप ने कहा कि छोटे उद्योग के लोगों के बारे में विचार कर रहे हैं कि 4 से 10 लक्ष तक जिनके पास हैं उन पर ड्यूटी नहीं लगायेंगे और उस से ऊपर वालों पर लगायेंगे। सरकार से मेरी मांग है कि

6 या 10 लक्ष से अधिक जिसके पास पावर लूम है उसी पर ड्यूटी लगाई जाय। आज हीडकूम के लोगों को सूत पर्याप्त मात्रा में नहीं मिलता है और वह उद्योग बड़े संकट में है जिस की वजह से छोट-छोटे गरीब लोग अपना जीवन बड़ी मुश्किल से काट रहे हैं। लेकिन विचौलिये लोग बड़े पैमाने पर उन का शोषण करते हैं और उधारी पर सूत दे कर उन से सस्ता माल खरीदते हैं। इस तरह उनका माल देने तथा खरीदने में दोनों तरह से शोषण किया जाता है। इस पर आप ध्यान रखें और पूरी तरह से उचित मूल्य पर उन को कच्चा सूत मिले इस का विशेष ध्यान रखें।

ज्यूट के निर्यात में हमने एक करोड़ 74 लाख रुपये का घाटा उठाया है। घाटा क्यों हुआ है इसका पता लगाया जाना चाहिये और यह भी पता लगाया जाना चाहिये कि कौन दोषी है। मैं मानता हूँ कि ज्यूट का बड़ा कम्पीटीशन है। लेकिन बंगला देश ज्यूट के निर्यात से अच्छा पैसा कमा रहा है, मुनाफा कर रहा है तो क्या कारण है कि हमको घाटा हुआ है। ज्यूट के अलावा खनिज लौह, चमड़ा आदि चीजों के निर्यात में भी काफी कमी हुई है। आपने कुछ ड्यूटीज लगाई हैं। लेकिन आपको देखना चाहिये कि लोग अधिक से अधिक माल बाहर भेजे ताकि हमें विदेशी मुद्रा प्राप्त हो। इसकी उनको छूट होनी चाहिये और इसके लिए उनको अधिक से अधिक प्रोत्साहन दिया जाना चाहिये। जो ड्यूटी आपने लगाई है इसको आप हटाएँ। इससे कोई लाभ नहीं होगा। काफी इन चीजों का हमारे पास स्टॉक जमा हो गया है। इस ड्यूटी की वजह से लोग इन चीजों को बाहर भेज नहीं पा रहे हैं। इसको आप हटा दें तो अच्छा होगा और अधिक मात्रा में लोग इन चीजों का निर्यात कर सकेंगे।

लघु उद्योग निगम के पास भी लाखों रुपये की मशीनें पड़ी हैं जिन का कोई उपयोग नहीं हो रहा है। बं बंकार पड़ी है। उतनी ही मशीनें आप मंगाए या बनाए जितनी की खपत हो सके। थोखला में दांत बनाने के काम आने वाली मशीनें बड़ी संख्या में पड़ी हुई है। मैं चाहता हूँ कि इस

पर भी आप विचार करें। मशीनें अगर पड़ी रहती हैं तो वे खराब हो जाती हैं। साथ ही उन में रूपा फस जाता है। इस वास्ते इस का भी आप ध्यान रखें।

चाय की बहुत बचाई हुई है। चाय उद्योग हमारे देश का एक बहुत बड़ा उद्योग है। चाय हम काफी बड़ी मात्रा में विदेशों को निर्यात भी करते हैं। हमारी चाय दुनिया के अनेक देशों में प्रसिद्ध भी है। एक सवाल मैंने पूछा था जिससे यह जानकारी मिली थी कि भारतीय चाय जो विदेशों को भेजी जाती है उसके अन्दर घटिया चाय मिला कर उसको बेच दिया जाता है और भारत की यह चाय है, इस नाम से उसको वहाँ बेचा जाता था। इससे हमारी साख गिरती है और हमारे बारे में दुनिया के लोगों के दिलों में अच्छी धारणा नहीं बनती है। मैं चाहता हूँ कि जिन देशों को आप चाय भेजे उन के साथ आप करार करें कि हमारी चाय को उनको कुछ बेचना होगा, उस में किसी प्रकार की मिलावट नहीं करनी होगी, उसके पैकेटों में किसी प्रकार का निक्सटर नहीं किया जाएगा। वहाँ कोई मिलावट उस में न हो इसकी भी चौकसी की जानी चाहिये। ऐसा न होने से हमारा नाम दुनिया के बाजार में खराब होता है। हमने कई देशों में टी बोर्ड की शाखाएँ खोली हुई हैं, टी स्टाल खोले हुए हैं जहाँ भारत की चाय बना कर लोगों को हम पिलाते हैं। हमारी चाय वहाँ बहुत पसन्द की जाती है, उसमें प्रति बड़ा आकर्षण है। इस काम के लिए हम लाखों रुपया खर्च कर रहे हैं विभिन्न देशों में। जो प्रचार हम वहाँ चाय का कर रहे हैं वह ठीक प्रकार से नहीं होता है। निक्सटर बना करके वहाँ चाय भेजी या बेची जाती है। बड़े होटल जो वहाँ हैं उन में भारत की चाय के प्रति साख गिरती जा रही है। मैं चाहता हूँ कि इस स्थिति को आप चुभारे और ऐसे उपाय करें कि हमारी चाय के प्रति वहाँ लोगों का आकर्षण बना रहे तथा बड़े और जिज्ञासा पैदा हो उनके दिल में। उनको पता लगना चाहिये कि यह बहुत अच्छी चाय है। घटिया किल्ल की चाय की बिक्री कम होनी चाहिये।

मेरे मित्र पांडे जी ने एक लाइसेंस की बात उठाई जो इंदौर में किसी को दिया गया था। यह एक बहुत बड़ा घोटाला है। यह जो लाइसेंस है इसका माल दवा बनाने के काम में ला करके कलकत्ता के बाजारों में बेचा गया है, कुछ पदार्थ है जिस को दवा बनाने के काम में लाया गया है। इस में कुछ इस प्रकार की धातु है जो दवा बनाने के काम में आती है। बड़ी मात्रा में यह कलकत्ता के बाजार में खींच बिता है। इसको जांच भी हुई है और रिपोर्ट भी आई है। हम तरह के जो लाइसेंस दिए जा रहे हैं उन पर प्रतिबन्ध लगाना चाहिये और गलत तरीके से जो ये दिए गए हैं इसके लिए कौन दायी है इसका पता लगाया जाना चाहिये और उसका दंड दिया जाना चाहिये।

SHRI P. VENKATASUBBAIAH (Nandyal): Mr. Chairman, Sir, before I proceed to speak on the Demands, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Commerce Minister to the remarks made by the President of the European Economic Market Committee who is present in Delhi. While speaking about India's position in the European Economic Committee he said that in case the referendum in Britain is in favour of going out of EEC India whose trade is linked with U.K., will not be in an advantageous position.

So, I would like to ask the Minister whether he is prepared for a contingency of this sort and if that is so, what are the measures that he is going to undertake for an alternative arrangement.

Sir, coming to the report of the Commerce Ministry, we have got an adverse trade balance of Rs. 585 crores and the Commerce Minister has indicated that this adverse balance is due to rise in import bill of foodgrains, fertilisers, oil and petroleum products. It has also been stated that increase in our export largely depends upon the way in which we increase our agricultural production in this country which is the basic raw-material and which gives us a fair position in the matter of exports. He has mentioned about two important items cotton and oilseeds.

[Shri P. Venkatasubhiah]

I will first take up cotton and that too long staple cotton. The table shows that there has been steady decrease in our imports of cotton because of increase in our internal production of long staple cotton.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, while you were speaking on this subject you referred to the inadequacy of evolving a proper cotton textile policy. We were in short supply of long staple cotton and now it has come to medium staple cotton. The Agriculture Department and the other agencies of the Government of India encouraged the farmers to go in for long-staple cotton and the production of high-breed cotton variety—according to the figures given—in 1974-75 has gone up by 6.97 lakh hectares and the cotton production has gone up to 65 lakh bales of cotton as against 62 lakh bales of cotton last year. What is the position now? There does not seem to be any proper co-ordination between the various administrative wings of our Government. The farmer is engaged today in a nation-building activity and making this country self-sufficient not only in foodgrains but also in other commodities like cotton.

16 hrs.

In Andhra Pradesh alone 4 lakh of acres have been brought under cotton cultivation and nearly 10 lakh bales of cotton have been produced and 350 processing units have come up in that area involving industrial labour to the tune of 20,000 people. Suddenly, there is no buyer for this cotton. Cotton is lying with the farmers. They have made huge investment in the form of inputs by taking loans at high rate of interest. Now, they are facing economic crisis.

Unfortunately, even the soft-spoken mild-mannered Commerce Minister did not sympathise with them, in spite of repeated representations. They are not asking for any charity. They want a remunerative and a reasonable price for

their produce, which they have produced with their sweat and toil. This distortion will raise all sorts of complications and consequences for which the nation has to suffer. If we do not pay a reasonable and a remunerative price this year, the farmer is not going to produce cotton next year. We will again face that contingency of importing long staple cotton in larger quantities paying hard earned foreign currency. Perhaps, the Commerce Ministry is not able to convince the Agriculture Ministry or the Finance Ministry. But, one silver lining in the whole thing is that the Agriculture Minister has said that we will export cotton. I do not know when that day is going to dawn, and how many administrative and bureaucratic obstacles will be placed. . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is not going to come. Mill-owners are opposed to that.

SHRI P. VENKATASUBBAIAH: . . . the farmers would have started distress sales by the time the Government agrees for export, it would have gone into the hands of the middlemen. The farmer will suffer ultimately. Sir, this is the greatest dis-service Government of India have done to the farmers and they have penalised him for committing the sin of making this country self-sufficient in cotton.

Take the case of Cotton Corporation of India. My friend Mr. Damani, has very characteristically described the functions of the Cotton Corporation of India, their establishment, their purchases and the surplus stock that are available with them. The Cotton Corporation of India have opened a buying centre in my Constituency, Nandyal, also. I wrote a letter to the Minister and the Managing Director of the Cotton Corporation of India asking them to purchase whatever quantity of cotton is offered by the farmers. They were doing it on a selective basis. After some time, they obliged them and they said: We will purchase it, but, we will pay only 50% and the rest will be paid in six months. . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: On 6% interest.

SHRI P. VENKATASUBBAIAH: On 6% interest by a post-dated cheque. Again, they have said—only yesterday, I got a letter from the hon. Minister—that they are now prepared to make the full payment. They are not giving a charity to the farmers. I want to make it clear to the hon. Commerce Minister that if he has got any impression that it is only some big people who are producing cotton, that it is the lobby of certain big vested interests, I want to dis-abuse him of that impression. May be, here and there, there may be some black sheep who want to make commercial use of this whole proposition. But, by and large, thousand of families are involved in this. It is purely a case of giving a remunerative and a proper price to the farmer, to the marginal and small farmers. It is going to affect the rural economy. Nearly, Rs. 100 crores have been sunk in Andhra Pradesh alone for cultivation expenses. The farmer normally expects that at least he should get this Rs. 100 crores. But, if you look into the actual position, it is not even Rs. 100 crores that the farmer is getting back. This is the state of affairs and if the hon. Minister expects that our exports will go up, that our export position will improve, I do not think, with this kind of attitude, there is any scope for any export promotion in this country.

Now, I come to oilseeds. They want to produce 55 million tonnes of oilseeds. They want to raise the target this year, and 85% of the cropped area is rain-fed. But, no attempt has been made to evolve a method, a dry farming method, of having drought-resistant oilseeds, to improve the productivity and quantum of production of oilseeds.

You just have a sort of pious resolution that our oilseeds production will go up. This is living in a fool's paradise. Of course, this green revolution has helped to a great extent. At the same time, it has created a sort of great disparity. Even today only 10 or 15 per cent of the cultivated land is under irrigation; the

rest are rain-fed. Commercial crops are the only crops which have a vast export potential. We have not done anything in that direction.

So also there are many items which require a boost, a sort of right investment from Government. In regard to food-grains, also, we are in the same position. We did not encourage farmers. We did not pay them a remunerative price to the rice he produced. We are not paying the proper price to them. Therefore, many of these people are changing over from rice to commercial crops. This sort of distortion exists.

I do not blame the Commerce Ministry alone. There should be a more co-ordinated, comprehensive policy attuned to agricultural production. Then only the Commerce Minister can expect to see our exports going up. We are having friendly relations with the East-European countries and also the USSR. Our balance of trade with them is becoming more favourable. We have the same sort of relations with West Germany and other countries. As Shri Salve has pertinently pointed out, there cannot be ideological inhibitions with regard to our trade relations. Our main interest should be how far and to what extent we will be able to go ahead with export promotion in the country.

Lastly, there is a vast potential for mango export. We must look into that matter.

MR. CHAIRMAN: At least let there be one fruit for the common man.

SHRI P. VENKATASUBBAIAH: There are many items in the country which do not now come within the Commerce Ministry. If they could be exported to our advantage, they will be excellent exchange-earners.

At least now he should announce a retention price for MC 5 cotton of Rs. 4.50, so that the farmer will be confident that he will get that price if he produces that type of cotton.

बी राम हेडाऊ (रामटेक): सभापति जी, हमारा देश एक कलाकारों का देश है। पिछले इतिहास को देखा जाये तो यहां की ठाके की मलमल दुनिया में प्रसिद्ध बी धीर दुनिया में उसका बड़ा अच्छा मार्केट था। उस वक़्त हमने देखा कि, ग्रंथों ने ठाके की मलमल बनाने वाले बुनकरों के हाथ धीर उंगलियां काट डाली थीं। उसका उद्देश्य यह था कि इंटरनेशनल मार्केट में ठाके की मलमल आगे न बढ़े और यहां के लोगों का विकास न हो।

हम आज देखते हैं कि हमारे देश में इन कारीगरों की संख्या, जो हाथ करघों पर बुनने वाले हैं, काफी है यानी 30 लाख हाथ करघे हैं। यह हाथ करघे इस स्थिति में हैं कि धीरे धीरे वह उद्योग हमारे देश से पूरा खत्म हो जायेगा। यही इस प्रकार की सरकार की नीति रही। हाथ करघे को जो संरक्षण देना चाहिये था वह नहीं दिया गया। आज तक इस उद्योग की दृष्टि से जो भी रिपोर्ट तैयार हुई हैं वह चाहे सेंदल गवर्नमेंट की हों या प्राविन्शियल गवर्नमेंट की हों, लेकिन उन रिपोर्टों पर कोई अमल नहीं हुआ। अथोक मेहता कमेटी की रिपोर्ट आई लेकिन उस पर अमल नहीं हुआ। आज स्थिति यह हो गई है कि रत करघा बस हाथ करघा। यह स्पष्ट है कि बिजली करघों के सामने हाथ करघे सरकार की सहायता बिना जीवित नहीं रह सकते।

हाथ करघों पर बुनने वाले बुनकरों को बिजली करघा सरकार दे भी नहीं सकते। आपकी वह स्थिति नहीं है क्योंकि बिजली करघे को कम-से-कम 20 हजार की लागत लगती है और हाथ करघे की लगने वाली लागत बहुत कम होती है। उसको समय-समय पर जो बड़े पैमाने पर ताला दिया जाता है मिलों के जरिये, इन सब स्थितियों को अवरुद्ध देखे तो इस देश के खरीद करीब 30 लाख हाथ करघों का परिवर्तन आप बिजली करघों में नहीं कर सकते। यह होने के बावजूद भी हम भी हाथ करघे की उपेक्षा कर रहे हैं।

इस देश में हाथ करघा ऐसा उद्योग है जिसमें सिर्फ 500 रुपये की लागत से 7-8 आबखियों की एक फैब्रिली ठीक ढंग से जीविका कर सकती है। हाथ करघे से जो माल प्रोड्यूस होता है उसके लिये दूसरे देशों में भी बड़ा मार्केट है, बहुत डिमांड है। लेकिन इसके बावजूद भी हाथ करघे बन्द हो रहे हैं। उसकी इतनी उपेक्षा की जा रही है कि यह स्वतंत्रता में मोभा नहीं देता।

शिवरमन कमेटी की रिपोर्ट आई। उस की रिपोर्ट को अमल में कब लाया जायेगा? मुझे विश्वास नहीं है कि शिवरमन कमेटी की रिपोर्ट को अमल में लाया जायेगा। क्यों कि जैसे ही शिवरमन कमेटी ने हाथकरघा को प्रोटेक्शन देने के बारे में थोड़ी सी बातें कहीं उधर हम ने यह देखा कि बल करघा वालों की लाबी उन के विरोध में चिल्लाने लगी। वह कहने लगे कि बिजली करघे पर 200 रुपये कर लगा दिया है, बिजली करघा मर जायेगा। मैं पूछना चाहता हूं देश का उत्थान कब होता है? जब मेहनत करने वाला जो निम्न स्थिति का आदमी होता है, जो आर्थिक दृष्टि से कमजोर होता है लेकिन मेहनत कर के जीविका चलाना है, उस आदमी का डेवलपमेंट होगा तब देश का डेवलपमेंट होगा। लेकिन आज उधर बुनकर मर रहा है, उस को भूत नहीं मिल रहा है, इधर कल्टीबेटर मर रहा है। वास्तव में कपास और कपड़े का चोली दामन का साथ है। आज कपास की स्थिति आपने क्या कर डाली है? महाराष्ट्र में यह स्थिति आप ने ला ली है कि इस वर्ष कपास बोलने वाला कल्टीबेटर कपास बोलने की हिम्मत नहीं करेगा। इतनी मुश्किल में आप ने उस को डाल दिया है। आज महाराष्ट्र में कपास पर सरकार का मोनोपली कंट्रोल है। मुझे यह आप से कहना है कि यदि महाराष्ट्र सरकार के पास पैसे नहीं थे इस स्कीम को चलाने के लिए तो क्यों उन पर ये स्कीम लायी गई? क्या सेंटर ने लायी?

कोषापरेशन का बड़ा बोझाला महाराष्ट्र में बताया जाता है। लेकिन यह सरकार महाराष्ट्र में अण्टाचार का एक बड़ा भारी अड़्डा बन गया

है। आज कल्टीवैटर को 30 प्रतिशत पैसा कपास का दिया जाता है बाकी 70 प्रतिशत के लिए कहा जाता है कि बाव में देंगे। कल्टीवैटर कैसे जीएगा? उसके बच्चों की, बच्चियों की शादी कैसे होगी? बाकी सब बाबें उस के कैसे चलेंगे?

सभापति महोदय : हंडाऊ जी, महाराष्ट्र सरकार की मोनोपली स्कीम पर बर्बायें यहाँ इस समय प्रस्तुत नहीं होगी। यहाँ तो कामर्स मिनिस्ट्री को क्या करना चाहिए, काटन कारपोरेशन को क्या करना चाहिए यह आप कहना चाहते हैं तो कहिए।

श्री राम हंडाऊ : वही मैं बता रहा हूँ कपास के बारे में कि आज कल्टीवैटर को पूरा पैसा नहीं दिया जाता। यहाँ तक कि कपास की कई बेलें आज पड़ी हुई हैं, उनकी बिक्री की कोई व्यवस्था नहीं हो रही है। इतना ही नहीं वह कपास आज जलाया जा रहा है। हम दीगर देशों से कपास का आयात कर रहे हैं और महाराष्ट्र में बड़े अनोखे ढंग से प्लानिंग के साथ करोड़ों रुपये का कपास रोज जलाया जा रहा है। ये महाराष्ट्र गवर्नमेंट के आकड़े हैं जिन से यह स्पष्ट होता है। वहाँ के सहकार मंत्री ने यह लिखा है कि 128 आगजनी हुई हैं जिस में 82 लाख का कपास जल गया है। रोज आगजनी हो रही है। इस के पीछे एक ही बात है। वाणिज्य मंत्रालय इस पर ध्यान दे। यह बात क्यों हो रही है? स्पष्ट है इस एकाधिकार कपास खरीदी के अन्तर्गत जो घोटाले हुए हैं जो झूठाचार हुआ है उस दोष को पूरा छिपाने के लिए आज वहाँ का कपास जलाया जा रहा है ताकि यह पाप जनता के सामने न आए, देश के सामने न आए। यहाँ तक बात हुई है इसमें कि एकाधिकार बर्बायें के लूटे रिकार्ड मेटेन किए गए हैं और बटिया किस्म के कपास ऊंचे दाम पर खरीदे गए हैं, उसके नाप-तोल में भी गड़बड़ हुई है और यह सब पाप करके करोड़ों रुपये का नुकान उसमें किया गया है उस सबको छिपाने के लिए आज वहाँ कपास जलाया जा रहा है। इस को नाप हीनी चाहिए। मैं तो यह कहूँगा कि

महाराष्ट्र गवर्नमेंट भले ही इस की एन्क्वायरी करती हो, महाराष्ट्र गवर्नमेंट ने इसकी एन्क्वायरी करने का आश्वासन दिया है, किन्तु मेरा विश्वास नहीं है क्यों कि यह सब बातें जो वहाँ हो रही रही हैं इसके लिए सहकार मंत्री महाराष्ट्र का जिम्मेदार है और सहकार मंत्री बड़े पूँजीपतियों के हाथ में खेलने वाला एक खिलौना बन गया है... (ब्यवधान)...

SHRI DHAMANKAR (Bhiwandi) : Do you allow these accusations against a man who is not here to defend himself?

श्री राम हंडाऊ : मैं सरकार से मांग करूँगा कि सी बी आई के द्वारा इसकी एन्क्वायरी होनी चाहिए और इस योजना के अंदर जो लगातार आगजनी हो रही है इसकी जांच होनी चाहिए।

सभापति महोदय : देखिए अब आप इतने नये नहीं हैं जितने कि पहले थे। इस सबन का यह नियम है कि जो व्यक्ति यहाँ उपस्थित न हो उसके विरुद्ध यदि कोई आक्षेप आप को करना है तो आपको उसकी पहले जानकारी स्वीकर को देनी चाहिए। उनकी इजाजत लेनी चाहिए और फिर यह आरोप लगाना चाहिए यदि उन की इजाजत मिले। यह अभी जो आपने आरोप लगाया किसी का नाम लेकर या राज्य मंत्री का नाम लेकर यह उचित नहीं है।

श्री राम हंडाऊ : नैम महाराष्ट्र की सरकार पर आरोप लगाया है।

सभापति महोदय : हाँ, सरकार पर आरोप लगा सकते हैं। किसी व्यक्ति का नाम न लें।

श्री राम हंडाऊ : मैं वाणिज्य मंत्रालय से बिनती करूँगा कि हमारे यहाँ जो दीगर देशों से लम्बे धारों का कपास आयात करने की आज भी परंपरा जारी है, उसको रोकना चाहिए और हमारे देश में लम्बे धारों का कपास उत्पादित करने के लिए कास्तकारों को पूरी सहायिता देनी चाहिए। जो कपास लम्बे धारों का यहाँ उत्पादित होगा उसका पूरा पूरा उपयोग यहाँ

[श्री राम हेड्डर]

कपड़े में परिवर्तित करने के लिए करना चाहिए। फिर वह टैक्सटाइल के मार्फत हो, हैंडलूम के मार्फत हो, जैसे हो, उसका पूरा पूरा उपयोग होना चाहिए। . . . (व्यवधान) . . . चरखा तो गांधी जी ने आप का बताया था, लेकिन आप भूल गए।

रेडीमेड कपड़ा इस देश में हम काफी मात्रा में तैयार कर सकते हैं। हैंडलूम से भी विविध रंग-विरंगे ऊंचे किस्म के कपड़े जो बाहर देशों में बड़े चाव के साथ पहने जाते हैं, जिस की भारी डिमांड है यहाँ तैयार कर सकते हैं। वह हमें तैयार करना चाहिए और उते रेडीमेड कपड़े में परिवर्तन करना चाहिए। उसके लिए एक ऐसी योजना बनानी चाहिए कि जिस के अंतर्गत कलागीर का भी एक प्रतिनिधि रहे, एक कामसें मिनिस्ट्री का भी प्रतिनिधि रहे और उनके जरिए डिमांड और सप्लाई का हिसाब जोड़ कर के उचित कपड़े से यहाँ रेडीमेड कपड़ा बना कर अधिक से अधिक मात्रा में हम सीगर देशों में भेजने की कोशिश करें। यदि ऐसा हम करते हैं तो हमें फारेन एक्सचेंज अधिक मिलेगा। उसका परिणाम यह होगा कि यहाँ के जो कलावंत लोग हैं, उनको भी घन्घा मिलेगा, उनकी स्थिति अच्छी होगी, उनकी बंकर, री दूर होगी और वहा के कपास का उचित दाम मिलेगा। यह मैं आपसे माग करना चाहता हूँ।

SHRI DINESH CHANDRA GO-SWAMI (Gauhati): Mr. Chairman, after the emphasis of the last two speakers on cotton, I want to shift the emphasis on two other commodities, which are the most dependable foreign exchange earners in this country, that is, tea and jute, commodities in which I feel that our dynamic Commerce Minister should take more interest, because it is the region from he comes that these two commodities grow in abundance.

Nobody can deny the role tea and jute have played in the economy of this country during the years. In 1973-74 the contribution of tea to the national ex-

chequer by way of foreign exchange earnings has been to the tune of Rs. 148.1 crores and that of jute Rs. 280.6 crores. We also know that these two commodities have contributed to the revenues of the national economy itself, as can be seen from the statistics which I have in my possession. From an economically backward State like Assam, over the last three years from tea and jute the Government of India has earned more than Rs. 49.66 lakhs.

Also, these two commodities have various other qualities which we have to take note of. For example, tea and jute have provided employment to the largest number of persons in this country. They are highly employment-oriented commodities. Jute has contributed to the national development without really any contribution from the side of the Government, by way of innovation or technological development. In the case of tea, it has carried technological development to the backward regions. Also, comparatively speaking, tea is a low profit-yielding commodity. For example, I have got statistics to show that from 1965-66 to the end of the decade the profit on tea came down from 7.79 per cent to 5.1 per cent, whereas the profits in the case of other agro-industrial commodities have mounted up. My main complaint against the Commerce Ministry is that, though these two commodities have stood by the economy, these two commodities have been subjected to very very indifferent treatment by the Government of India.

Since I have come to this Parliament, I have raised this issue of the irrational excise duties on tea times without number. For the information of the hon House I want to point out that the entire country has been divided into five zones for the purpose of levying excise duties. Whereas Zone 1 has to pay an excise duty of 25 paise per kg, Zone 3 has to pay an excise duty of Rs. 1.50 per kg. and Zone 5, the zone in which I am really interested, the Assam Zone had to pay Rs. 1.15 per kg. till the recent budget proposals came, and now it has to pay Rs. 1.30 per kg. In spite of my repeated queries to the Commerce Mini-

stry as to the rationalisation of the differentiation of these zones, no reply has come. In fact, the Commerce Minister had to admit that there is no rationalisation behind these artificially created zones. I was pleading with the Commerce Ministry that either there should be some rationalisation of the zones or the duties themselves. I was told that there would be rationalisation. The Commerce Ministry, in reply to questions, told me more than once that a case in the Supreme Court is standing in the way of rationalisation. Because, when I raised this question, there were some cases pending in the Supreme Court, where the tea growers went to the court and obtained an order of stay. I was told that there was an order of stay from the court and so they are not prepared to rationalise. But suddenly I find that in spite of the existence of such a stay order, in the budget proposals of this year, instead of there being any rationalisation, there is enhancement in some zones and reduction in only one zone. Last year the stock reply was that the stay order in the Supreme Court stood in the way of rationalisation. Yet, in spite of the fact that the situation still remains the same, the Commerce Ministry went out of their way and changed the whole position. This creates a very bad impression, because a feeling is created that you take Members of Parliament very lightly, you are not at all serious when you give your replies, you give replies to the Members of Parliament to suit your own convenience. Even today I would request the Commerce Minister to give some rational basis as to how this differentiation has been made.

May I point out to him that Zone 5, which you have taxed the highest, namely, Rs. 1.30 per kg. is the zone from which 75 per cent of this country's export takes place. The entire emphasis of this levy is also export promotion and export incentive. How can you expect to have export promotion and export incentive when you have subjected this export-oriented zone with a very high rate of excise duty? We also should not forget that in the international market the export price of tea is dwindling over the years.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The rationale appears to be that the more you export the more you should pay by way of excise duties.

SHRI DINESH CHANDRA GOSWAMI: That seems to be so; I do not know. In the 1950s the price that was fetched in the London auction market was 63 pence per pound, whereas in 1972 it came down to 41.6 pence per pound. Also, we should not forget that India's share in the world market has gone down over the years. In the two decades between 1950 and 1970 the growth of the world import of tea was to the extent of 4.5 per cent, but the rate of growth of India was only 0.56 per cent, whereas that of Africa was 11 per cent and that of Ceylon 2.45 per cent. These are facts which we should not forget. Last year, of course, we had a bumper-export of the tea industry and we really got a bumper profit. But we should not take into account the entire economy on the basis of the economy of a particular year.

There are some exceptional causes for it. For instance, last year we had a bumper crop. Then, it is said that last year the London stocks were low. It is said that last year there was much less production in Africa and also in Ceylon because of drought. All these might have contributed to the flourishing tea trade for India in the London auction market last year. But, that should not be the ground on the basis of which either the Finance Ministry or the Commerce Ministry should do their accounting.

I feel that the Commerce Ministry should once more go into the whole question and, as they said earlier, they should rationalise the tea excise duty. I will plead with him once more that at least he should see that the excise duty of Zone 5 may be reduced to a certain extent. They should have a fresh look at the rebate system also.

Also I want to point out to him that in spite of the fact that a task force has been setup to go into the entire tea industry, the fact remains that more and more tea gardens are going sick today, and up till now no definite policy has been laid down by government as to what

[Shri Dinesh Chandra Goswami]

they are going to do with the sick tea gardens. I am told that the task force

gave a proposal that those sick tea gardens should be taken over for a period of seven years and then handed over to the management. I do not know the rationale of this policy that you take a sick garden upon yourself, you make it healthy and then pass it on to the owners. Obviously, the Commerce Ministry or the Government of India should come forward with certain definite policies as to how they are going to treat the entire question.

Then I come to the other most neglected item, but the most important item of foreign exchange earner, that is, jute. It is unfortunate that in spite of the fact that this commodity has stood by the economy of this country so long, still there has not been any proper pricing policy and there has been absolutely no fiscal policy in regard to this. Today we have got a very strong cotton lobby over which probably the Chajrman is also putting as much weight as possible. But, unfortunately, there is no lobby to support jute. I will give you some very interesting statistics. As early as 1940 the Floud Commission was appointed to find out what should be the parity price for jute vis-a-vis other commodities and it came to the conclusion that the parity price for jute vis-a-vis paddy should be 1:3. That was in 1940 and now it should be more because, so far as rice cultivation is concerned, certainly there has been scientific development whereas jute cultivation remains as it is. But you will be surprised to learn that whereas according to the support price of the Government itself, the price of rice or paddy is Rs. 75 per quintal, the price of jute today is Rs. 125. Therefore, that parity which the Floud Commission recommended as early as 1940 has not been fulfilled, not to speak of the fact that that parity no longer holds goods. The result is that the condition of the jute growers today in the entire country, particularly in the north eastern region, is something which one cannot really describe. I will show also from the statistics to illustrate how the price fluctuation has very adversely affected the jute growers. If we

take 1961-62 as the base year, during the last 15 years the price of rice has increased from 137 units in 1961-62 to 204, wheat from 149 to 208, cotton from 191 to 222 while jute from 127 to only 131. This is the miserable plight of the jute growers.

Unfortunately, there are many other constraints for the jute growers. If a person produces paddy, if he takes it to the market and he does not get an adequate price, he can take it home and consume it and sustain his living. But if a jute grower takes his jute to the market, even if the price is low, he is compelled to sell it. Otherwise, with an empty pocket, he cannot come back home and feed his own children. His position is always exploited. We know how the big business community, the big houses, the jute monopolists are not only influencing the whole jute market but also adversely affecting the political atmosphere in this country. It is because of lack of bargaining power of the jute growers.

The Jute Corporation was established. But, I think, the less said about the Jute Corporation, the better it is. This is affecting very adversely the north-eastern region. If you take into account the exploitation that the jute monopolists have done in the north-eastern region, then we reach a very staggering figure. Here, I quote from one of my own newspaper report:

"If the losses suffered by the jute growers and the jute growing States from not getting the just or the parity prices is taken into account and if they are added up year by year on the basis of the wholesale price as reflected in the statistical information of the Government of India, the total losses suffered in the eastern States from 1955-56 to 1969-70 come to about Rs. 986.97 crores. For the jute growers themselves, the losses are much more than this amount as they received a much lower price than even the quoted wholesale price and they had to pay much higher price than the quoted wholesale prices for the essential commodities by purchase of which they maintain their livelihood."

These facts are all known to the hon. Minister, Prof. D. P. Chattopadhyaya, who is very closely associated with the north eastern region. But, it seems, something either in the bureaucratic machinery or somewhere is coming in his way of implementing the progressive measures. Let me hope that at least, while replying to the debate on the Demands for Grants of his Ministry, he will give some indication as to what positive measures are being taken in this regard.

I expect from him, at least this time, not a parliamentary answer but a non-parliamentary answer. You may ask me: Why am I asking for a non-parliamentary answer? Let me refer to an antedate. Once Mr. Llyod George was travelling in Scotland and lost his way. So, he asked a passerby, stopping his car, "Where am I?" The person replied, "You are in a car." Mr. Llyod George told his companion who was sitting by his side. "It is the perfect parliamentary answer." It is to the point; it is true but it discloses nothing." I do not want such an answer and, I hope, that such a parliamentary reply will not come from the hon. Minister, D. P. Chattopadhyaya, at least this time.

SHRI N. E. HORO (Khunti): Mr. Chairman, Sir, shellac is a foreign exchange earner. But I find that the Government have neglected this item very much. According to the statistics I have, we used to produce about 60,000 to 70,000 tonnes of shellac every year, about two decades ago.

But now this has come down to about 18,000 tonnes. I have tried to find out the reasons, and it seems to me that Government have not taken proper care and have left this item to the mercy of the traders.

There was a time when our country was competing in the international market. We were the single country in the international market exporting lac, but now Thailand has been competing and we are lagging behind.

In 1958-59 Government introduced the minimum export price. Prior to this our production was good and the price

was also good. But after the introduction of the minimum export price, because the export is in the hands of a certain few monopoly traders, stationed mostly in Calcutta, they have been influencing the entire trade with the result that the interests of the growers and the manufacturers have suffered. It seems to me that this is the only reason why production has gone down and why prices have also gone down.

We are exporting about 83 to 85 per cent of our total production, and we consume about 15 per cent at home. We have four crops of shellac in a year. This important item is mainly grown in Bihar, specially in Chhota Nagpur and also in Madhya Pradesh. There are about five lakh families, mostly adivasis, who are engaged in producing lac. There are about 200 registered factories and about 300 unregistered factories and they are engaging about 30,000 to 40,000 labourers. The Government have neglected this item which is a foreign exchange-earner. The entire commercial activities are in the hands of the monopolists. So, the growers have really suffered to a great extent.

Now, I want to quote certain figures. The price of lac has come down to about one or two rupees per kg. In Calcutta, the prevailing market price is about Rs. 400 to Rs. 500 per packet of 75 kg. The exporters are exporting at a fantastic price. The minimum export price is about Rs. 1800 for a packet of 75 kg., and I am told that Thailand is exporting the same packet of 75 kg. at a rate of about Rs. 600 to Rs. 700. From this you can understand that the exporters are earning a big margin of profit, and this has led them to have a complete grip over the market and they are now dictating terms, resulting in throw-away prices being given to the growers. In the entire line—from the growers to the manufacturers—they are all suffering in the trade in Shellac, whether hand-made or machine-made. This problem has been brought to the notice of the Commerce Minister and I understand that, from time to time, the representatives of the manufacturers have also met him. Some kind of an assurance was given to

[Shri N. E. Horo]

them. But I do not see anything happening. It seems to me that already some vested interests have grown up and they have a grip over the Ministry itself. I think, nothing is going to happen unless there is some kind of a miracle. Unless Government decides to go in for a probe into the entire affair. I think, nothing will happen. Last time the House was so much occupied with the licence scandal. If you probe deep into this trade, export of shellac, I think, more sensational things will come up.

There are about 29 exporters, but, out of them there are a very few—only three or four of them—who are actually monopolists and it is in their hands the entire trade is concentrated and some of these monopolists have high links with people in position, both in the government and in the establishment. Therefore, I would demand a CBI inquiry into it and unless this is done, we are not going to save the fate of lakhs and lakhs of adivasis who have during the last two decades suffered at the hands of these people we are talking much of Government controlling the trade and other things, nationalisation and all that. I want the Government to take up and nationalise this business and trade in shellac. The Government may make this arrangement either through the STC or any other machinery. Let that agency purchase lac from the growers themselves directly and save the fate of these growers. Everything is done from the point of view of traders and from the point of view of exporters. I want that the Government should now decide to act in the interests of growers. I do not know whether this can come under the purview of the Agricultural Prices Commission. But I want they should go into it and examine the matter and there should be a support and minimum price for the growers fixed in order to save their interests. Mr Chairman, you were talking from there and pleading for the support of growers of cotton. I plead for the growers of shellac. They should possibly be protected in this way and the entire trade from the point of production to export, should be taken over by the Government through its own agency of STC or any

such agency. This is my suggestion. Shellac is a very important foreign-exchange-earner which we have so far neglected, and the trade in which, at the same time, has made serious inroads into the economic life of millions and millions of Adivasis. Therefore, I want that the Commerce Ministry should take up this matter in the right earnest and should agree for a thorough probe either by the CBI into the entire affair because the monopoly which has indulged into corrupt practice and loaded income tax and which has come up in this trade, has to be broken.

SHRI K. GOPAL (Karur) I rise to support the Demands for Grants of this Ministry and while doing so, I would tell the Minister that a good salesman has to be honest, intelligent and efficient but all those who are honest, intelligent and efficient cannot necessarily be good salesmen. This has been amply proved by the fact that though Prof. Chattopadhyaya and his able colleague, Shri Vishwanath Pratap Singh are both intelligent, honest and efficient, but have not proved to be good salesmen.

They have taken the pride for that the exports this year are going to be something like Rs. 3000 crores. To the extent they have achieved in terms of money value, I congratulate them. But what is the position in terms of quantities? According to the report—I just quote—

“In spite of the fact that cotton piece-goods, the largest items of the group, suffered a decline of about 88 million sq metres or 29 per cent in terms of quantity, the value of exports increased by about 20 per cent to Rs. 77 crores during April-September 1974 from Rs. 65 crores in the corresponding period of 1973. This improvement in earnings was on account of a significant rise in the unit value realisation. Other cotton manufactures also registered an appreciable increase.”

Same is the case with regard to tea exports.

"In the case of tea, exports during the period amounting to 93.4 million kg. valued at Rs. 881 crores showed a fall of 1.5 million kg. in the quantity but a rise of Rs. 28.1 crores in value due to 49 per cent increase in unit value realisation."

So, Sir, this sort of figures given in this report is no good; this does not take us anywhere. It has got no meaning. Just because you say, unit value realisation has increased, it does not mean you achieved the purpose and all that. What is your performance in actual terms? That is nothing, I am sorry to say that. What should we do for export? Have we got enough machinery for our sales promotion campaigns? Have we got this machinery in other countries? Have we considered all these points? This is what I would like to know from the hon. Minister. Have you considered as to what are the goods which are available in the country for the purpose of exports? For example, take marine exports. In marine exports the potential is very much; you export now only 1/10 of what you can export. There is vast scope here for increasing exports. You have not made any attempt even so, by conducting fairs, melas and exhibitions and so on. Take fairs and exhibitions. You must do it, I agree; but what are the follow-up measures? You say, so many lakhs have been received by way of on-the-spot sales and all that. But what have you achieved really after conducting the sales? Rightly or wrongly, there is a prestige value attached to the production items which are made in western countries. The middle east countries which have got plenty of petro-dollars do not even want to buy from us. They like to turn to the west. We must see in what way we can increase our exports to these countries.

A salesman has to be honest, I said in the beginning. He has to be honest in submitting his account to his employer. At the same time he has to be somewhat crooked, in the matter of sales-promotion. I do not know how far this can be done, but I am thinking aloud, namely, whether it will be possible for you to sell your production or

getting associated with some foreign country like UK or France or some other country. I am told this thing is happening in some of the engineering industries. There is some such arrangement in respect of middle-east countries. There are so many engineering companies whose names, I do not wish to mention here. What they do is, they are given sub-contract there. At least some such thing we can manage for the time being.

Also, efforts should be made to have aggressive sales promotion campaign in all countries of the world. Regarding revision of prices for exportable goods, I do not know how often you raise the prices. We are entering into long-term contracts when we import. When we are exporting, I want to know whether you are revising your prices, six-monthly or whatever it is according to the international prices. If it is not done, it should be done. That is my suggestion.

In respect of finished goods, instead of raw material, we should send finished goods and earn more in that process. Take finished leather goods for example. We send semi-finished goods to other countries. Even though there may be opposition in our own country in the south, efforts should be made to send finished goods to European countries and other countries. We sent leather goods to Germany. They turned them into finished products and they got more profits than they should have got. We should have got these profits. So, this is what we should do.

Then, with regard to the CCI—the Cotton Corporation of India, I wish to say something. This is a public sector organisation started with the object of giving remunerative price and also to stabilise the marketing prices. How can they operate this business with this meagre allocation of Rs. 10 crores? When this was started, they were promised Rs. 150 crores. Now only Rs. 10 crores is given. How can this amount be sufficient if you want them to fulfil the objectives for which the Cotton Corporation has been set-up?

[Shri K. Gopal]

Finally I come to the public sector undertaking wig India, Madras. This undertaking is closed for many months. The Minister is aware of this. An agitation has been going on for quite some time. I tabled a question for which, as my hon. friend, Shri Goswami said, the only parliamentary reply came was that an investigating committee was going into the problem and very soon they would do something. I do not know what that something would be. Even the Minister is sympathetic. I would like to tell him that the workers are amounting to more than 700 a majority of whom were women. They are restless. If the agitation of a serious nature is launched, I am afraid I will not be held responsible even though I have been pleading with the Minister that something should be done. A bill for the constitution of a tobacco board was passed last time. I would now request the Minister to form this Board at an early date.

Finally, with regard to the management of public sector undertakings a specialist who knows the skill in professional management should be there.

A technocrat can be a good bureaucrat. But a bureaucrat can never be a good technocrat.

The performance that has been given in this Report with regard to export figures is nothing but a jugglery — it is a big joke. What I would request him to keep in mind is the actual performance of the exports in terms of quantity. Let not the ministry take the plea that the entire organisational set up has to be changed. Let him not say that he cannot disturb them who are there. For God's sake please reorganise the whole thing. Coming to the problem of handloom which affects my area to a very great extent, I say that for the past 1½ years, the fluctuation of the price of yarn was very much that it neither has benefited the producer, nor it has benefited the consumer. The price has ranged anywhere between Rs 50 and 90 for a bundle of 5 kg. I suggest that you may fix any price you like—Rs. 60 or 70 or so. But please see that the particular price rules the

market at least for six months. Now what is happening is this. The producer who is the weaver is not at all benefited. The consumer is not benefited. As a matter of fact, the wholesaler is also not benefited. The middle man like the retailer in other spheres is benefited by this. Please have a good distribution policy for the yarn so that these malpractices could be obviated. With regard to distribution policy, when we asked about this we are told that this has been entrusted to the State Government. The Textile Commissioner can only lay down the policy. They cannot do anything. The actual implementation rests with the State Government. As I said earlier, you may fix any price for it. But see that it rules for some time. Before I conclude, I wish you to refer to page 183 of this report. They have said that they have got departments dealing with enemies' properties. On the one side you say that we do not have enemies. Then why not change this nomenclature? Please look at page 183, Appendix VII. There is a list of subjects under the control of the ministry—trading with the enemy, the enemy firms and enemy property, repatriations, other than German industrial equipment, Controller of enemy trading; controller of enemy firms; custodian of enemy property etc., etc.

For God's sake change this nomenclature. With these few words, I support the Demands for Grants relating to this Ministry.

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE
MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI
VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH):
Mr Chairman, Sir, the purpose of my
intervention is limited to agricultural
commodities and certain other items.

The hon. Members have made profound points and have covered as great an expanse of the subject as the sea itself. So, I shall start from the sea itself—the marine products. The export of Marine products have shown a spectacular growth in the last decade reaching a peak in 1973-74, earning a foreign exchange of Rs. 89.51 crores.

Last year we did receive a set-back and I must frankly confess that quantity-wise we were down by 15.7% and value-wise by about 25%. One of reasons for this down-trend last year was inflationary conditions in the world market whereby shrimp, our major marine export item, being a luxury item faced consumer resistance. In U.S.A. poultry and meat were selling cheaper than shrimp. Again in U.K. the canned shrimp inventories were quite high. There was increased supply of shrimp to USA from its gulf area. Japan, one of our major purchasers, also entered into contracts with mainland China for supply of shrimp. These were the circumstances which we had to face. We do not think that this is going to be a permanent feature and hope that the marine products export will pick up.

As has been pointed out by Mr. Gopal, just now, deep sea fishing has a very genuine case and most serious efforts has to be made in that direction. The world utilisation of sea potential is round-about 5, 6 per cent with an annual potential of 118 million tonnes. In the Indian ocean the exploitation is only 10 to 12 per cent with the annual potential of 10 to 12 million tonnes.

As compared to in-shore the potential in off-shore and deep-sea fishing is three to six times more and it is on account of this that the Commerce Ministry and the Agriculture Ministry brought out a scheme for import of trawlers for exploitation of deep sea fish. That was the reason as to why some of the big houses were allowed to go into trade. Some hon. Members were critical about their entry. The basic approach was that this being a capital intensive industry requiring specialisation, perhaps the money and expertise of the big houses will be helpful. We did take precautions to protect the medium and small entrepreneurs by providing that the big Houses would not fish in inland water, that they would confine their processing to their own catch and put their factories in under-developed areas. There may be lapses on this score. The Agriculture Ministry is considering a proposal by which trans-gressions by these big houses could be dealt with.

Sir, we are really serious about the exploitation of our marine potential. Therefore, we have allowed the import of about 80 trawlers for deep sea fishing. Though the trawlers have been a little tardy in coming, we are making all efforts so that their arrival is hastened.

Sir, we have to emphasise on diversification of our marine products. About 92% of the value of the marine exports is earned from shrimp and about 75% of our off take is only to USA and Japan. We have to diversify product-wise as well as market-wise. Product-wise, sardines and tunas have special significance. 28% of our landings are sardines. Though we have certain difficulties regarding the earns for sardines we are making efforts to solve them so as to increase our exports of Sardines. Last year, we have also given cash assistance of about 20% for canned Sardines. Tuna fishing is a specialised field in which perhaps collaboration will be needed. The vessels also are specialised. We are making efforts in that direction. Mr. . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: To whom would you entrust these trawlers that you are getting?

SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH: Sir, I will come to this point later on. A point was made by Mr. Matha Gowder about the trawlers and their allocation. It was made out that Marine Products Export Development Authority has not been given its proper role and it has not been given enough funds. In this regard, I would like to give the Budget provisions. The budget provision in 1974-75 was Rs. 21.44 lakhs. This year, it has been raised to Rs. 83.41 lakhs. There is a rise of Rs. 62 lakhs in one year. This should dispel any idea that the Marine Products Export Development Authority is not being given its proper place. About trawlers, a fear was expressed that it is being given only to big houses. I may give some figures. Public sector corporations have been allowed 20, small and medium parties 28 and large houses have been given only 12 and that too not more than two each. About 27½% subsidy is being

[Shri Vishwanath Pratap Singh]

given for orders with the indigenous manufacturers of trawlers. I hope some of the fears expressed by the hon. Members could be dispelled.

Now, coming to tea, I cannot say that we have made great strides in quantitatively increasing the export of tea.

The main reason for this has been the growing demand of the domestic market. In the last two decades whereas production has risen by 52%, internal consumption has risen by 171%. This economic gravitational pull of the domestic market is a great constraint to exports. During the same time world supply has risen by 2.7%, but, consumption has risen by only 1.8%. So whereas world supply has gone up and consumption has not gone up accordingly, in the domestic market demand has gone up three-fold to outstrip the supply. The pull of the domestic market as well as a difficult one account of greater supplies in the international market has been a factor affecting our export of tea in quantitative terms. The heartening factor this year has been the rise of 40 per cent in tea prices. But I would not be very much satisfied on that account, because it has only come back to the 1954 price, thus in real terms is not a real rise.

We have been taking concerted action at the international level and have contacted major tea-exporting countries like Indonesia, Malaysia and African countries like Kenya and have tried to promote a multi-dimensional approach as was discussed in the FAO meeting in June last year. This includes minimum export price arrangements, co-ordination and regulating of tea markets, encouraging auctions in producing countries and exchange of market intelligence. About promotional measures, apart from generic measures, we also undertake uni-national measures of promotion. We have, as has been mentioned by some members, opened overseas Tea Board offices in London, Paris, New York and Brussels for promotion of Indian tea. Sometimes we have to make a little compro-

mise and be realistic about market conditions and we have to go in collaboration with certain companies abroad to sell our product, but at the same time, we are not negligent about projecting the image of Indian tea. The TTCI has come up with "Nataraj" packeted tea for promoting Indian brand of tea. Thus while being realistic about external conditions and the international market, we are making all efforts to project our own brand of tea and our own image.

Shri Goswami made a mention of the Task Force and its report on sick tea gardens. In this respect, in response to a circular by the Tea Board, 125 gardens have claimed themselves to be sick. While we have proposals of supporting and reviewing the tea industry, but before we take over any tea garden, we have to see whether there is availability of labour there, whether it is commercially viable and whether the condition of the factory itself is such that it could be revived. However, the Report of the Task Force which includes all these three points or suggestions is under consideration of Government and we hope that some decision will be taken early.

As regards schemes for small growers, in the Fifth Plan the following schemes have been included for them. Co-operative tea factories about Rs. 108 lakhs; zonal multiplication centres which includes Tamil Nadu (6), Kerala (1), Himachal Pradesh (1) and UP (2), Rs. 2.25 lakhs; demonstration plots including Tamil Nadu and Himachal Pradesh Rs. 4.80 lakhs; warehouses and storage of tea Rs. 80 lakhs; survey of small growers in Tamil Nadu Rs. 0.55 lakhs.

There are some other schemes: these are the major ones for the small growers. A point was made by Mr. Goswami about the zonal excise duties: a point was also made from the Chair that it might be a disincentive to export. It is not so. We give rebate. Earlier we used to give 75 paise per kg of export and we have increased it to 85 paise per kg. If tea is exported rebate on excise duty is given. There is

no disincentive on exports due to this excise. However the excise duty had to be hiked up this year because we do feel that internal consumption has to be restrained to make surplus is available for exports. The Calcutta High Court in March 1974 gave a judgment upholding the validity of the differential rates for different zones.

Having had a cup of tea we can pass on to cashew. Charges were made against Cashew Corporation that it was negligent and had not procured nuts this year. I strongly refute this contention and can firmly say that Cashew Corporation took full action for the procurement of nuts. In this industry we are about 75 per cent dependent on imported nuts. We grow about 140,000 tonnes of Cashew out of which about 70,000 is available for export purposes. About 170,000 is generally imported. So that the total available is 240,000 tonnes whereas the installed capacity for processing cashew is nearly four lakhs. Every year we are short of about 160,000 tonnes of raw cashew nuts. This had been the features in which the factories could not run for the whole year; even if they ran for eight months it was considered to be good.

[SHRI DINESH CHANDRA GOSWAMI
in the Chair.]

In this context, the situation this year has been especially aggravated because of the African countries which used to supply nuts, having hiked up their price, we felt that if we bought the nuts, it would be difficult to sell them and even if we sold them it would be at a loss. African countries have started their own processing. They have seen the light and have mechanised the process of decortication of cashew. Apart from supplies being cut off from the East African countries, we are also facing competition from countries which have started purchasing cashew nuts like China. China has gone in a big way in the purchase of cashew nut. Brazil which is a producer, has also gone in to purchase of cashew nuts and it is making inroads into some of our

markets. This is the situation that we have to realise, it leads us to the clear conclusion that except for indigenous production, the availability of raw cashew from imported sources, would be more and more difficult. It is time the country realised this hard fact. Afterwards about the efforts of the Cashew Corporation of India.

Last year the Tanzanian people intimated that they would be coming; they did not turn up and said that they would be coming after sometime. But the Cashew Corporation felt that there was no time to lose. So a delegation went over. But the prices Tanzania quoted were exceptionally high. A Tanzanian delegation came in March but left in a huff because we could not agree to their prices.

Any way a team has gone to London and I have received some hopeful news. May be we will be able to contract for some nuts if they come down a little on prices. Thus the Cashew Corporation had been taking all action in this respect. For indigenous production, a provision has been made for making capital subscription available to State Cashew development corporations. We are contacting the States also about how to get together to increase the production of cashew.

SHRI M. RAM GOPAL REDDY (Nizamabad): Why not ban the use of cashewnuts in the country and export them?

SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH: I suppose we should start from the Central Hall!

The rupee return of cashew being low, we have to find out areas where the soil is not so good and other crops cannot be competitively grown. Only in such areas cashew could become a profitable crop. Such areas have been identified and action is being taken in this regard.

SHRI CHAPALENDU BHATTACHARYYA (Giridih): Is Chhotanagpur one of them?

SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH. I know of Orissa and Tamil Nadu.

AN HON MEMBER. What about Ratnagiri in Maharashtra?

SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH. These suggestions will be taken note of. It will be very encouraging if we can find more areas for cashew cultivation.

Sir, in mica, there has been a downward trend of production, but that has been mainly due to the cost of production going up. To check this, we raised minimum floor prices and that has helped production. In 1973, the production was 13,572 tonnes. It went up to 17,863 tonnes in 1974.

SHRI CHAPAIENDU BHATTACHARYYA. Does it include mica waste and mica scrap also?

SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH. I do not have the break-up. This is the total production of mica. We canalise this item through the Mica Trading Corporation. Till now MITCO had a share of 30% of the exports and 70% was serviced by the private sector. The purpose of canalisation was to reach the weaker sections and open up potentialities of export for those who had not the financial resources to do so. It will be our endeavour to see that MITCO has an increasing role to play and various suggestions are under the consideration of the Government. At the same time, we should have an overall mica policy as to at what rate this strategic item should be exploited and at what rate it should be exported. We intend going into this problem. At the same time, there should be a shift from processed mica to fabricated mica. This is also under examination.

Sir, how we may have an interlude with a puff of tobacco inbetween. The export of tobacco has gone up from Rs 68.41 crores in 1973-74 to Rs 76 crores in 1974-75. However, in 1975-76 we do not hope that quantity-wise it

will go up, because we have had short crop, but we do hope that in 1975-76 value-wise the exports would go up because of higher unit value realisation.

We have upgraded the MEP price and this will fetch us better returns. This House has passed the Tobacco Board Bill. Some members have expressed concern about the Board not coming up yet. The Cess Bill is yet to be passed. We are making all efforts to see that this Bill is passed. As soon as the Cess Bill is passed, we can go ahead with the formation of the Board.

Coming to handicrafts, they have shown a remarkable upward trend over the last two years. In 1973-74 they reached the peak of Rs 72.6 crores. In 1974-75 it exceeded even that and it went to Rs 85 crores. In 1975-76 we hope to reach the target of Rs 100 crores. The main contribution in the export of handicrafts has been of woollen carpets and art metal ware.

Some of the major decisions that we have made for promoting export of handicrafts are as follows. In the field of hand-made carpets we have opened training programme centres. 16 carpet weaving centres have been set up to cater to the requirements of the industry. 30 more training centres are planned to be set up. 7 market research extension centres are functioning and more are going to be brought up. A centre for technological improvements in the art metal ware has been set up in Moradabad. Centres for bamboo and red clay designs have also been set up. Also, cash assistance is provided against export to the tune of 10 per cent. for woollen carpets, druggets and rugs. An outlay of Rs 160 lakhs has been provided in the current financial year for promotion of developmental schemes in the handicrafts sector. Hand-woven druggets and *namda* have been recently classified as non-traditional items of export so that we could give more incentives and some more concessions for their exports. We have introduced quality control. Import replenishment for exports, has been liberalised recently.

Shri Gopal referred to the condition of the handloom industry. It is true that in context of our social objectives the handloom industry has a very vital role to play. In this field production last year has been up by 5 per cent and export earnings up by 27 per cent. Both have been due to better availability of raw material and boom in the export market.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: What is your marketing channel to purchase the goods produced by the primary producers, both in the field of handicrafts and in shellac, because that is the real bottleneck.

SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH: That is an important point. If we have to really reach the growers, we must have direct purchasing centres. I shall be coming to that point. At present a large part of the benefit that we try to pass on is absorbed at the intermediate levels. Shellac has been mentioned. This is actually a problem at the State level. We have also written to the States. When the Shellac Advisory Committee was formed, this issue had come up. Perhaps some sort of arrangement with the States could be made whereby they could start purchasing the entire product from the growers. It may be a good idea if Growers' Co-operatives could be formed and the State could give some financial assistance. The infra-structure will also have to be provided in the form of cold storages etc. because lac is a perishable commodity.

So far as handicrafts are concerned, we have the State Emporia which make purchases from the artistes directly. In this Budget we have made a provision of Rs. 20 lakhs for the All-India Handloom Marketing Co-operative Society. This society purchases from the producers. For the opening of two new Weavers Service Centres, a provision of Rs. 16 lakhs has been made. For the setting up of two Powerloom Service Centres, a provision of Rs. 16 lakhs has been made. For schemes to be undertaken on the recommendation of the Sivaraman Committee, a provision of Rs. 188 lakhs has been made. Some Members expressed concern that

the Sivaraman Committee's recommendations were not going to be implemented. This is concrete proof of Government's intention.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: What about reservation of Sarees for the handloom sector as recommended by the Sivaraman Committee?

SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH: Some items are being considered for exclusive reservation for the handloom sector.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: We know what mischief is being done in the powerloom and mill sector. Do you mean to say that Khatau Mills, for instance, are not producing sarees? Then, what is the meaning of this reservation?

SHRI DHAMANKAR (Bhiwandi): If the cloth is produced in the powerlooms and the border is attached to it, how can you stop it? Coloured sarees are reserved for handlooms.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: Why don't you reduce the width?

SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH: Questions and answers are being given by the Hon. Members themselves.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: We want you to protect 30 lakhs of handloom weavers and their families. We must take a serious view of the matter.

SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH: Our concern has been expressed in the Budget itself. We have not introduced any tax on bank yarn used by the handloom industry.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: We want to strengthen your hands.

SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH: I thank Mr. Sathe for his suggestion. It will be useful when considering the problem of dividing products between handlooms and mills.

[Shri Vishwanath Pratap Singh]

Coming to leather and leather manufactures, Mr. Kachwai and Mr. Gopal made a few points. I am thankful to Mr. Gopal for supporting Government's policy of increasing the exports of finished leather goods in comparison with semi-finished goods and hides. It is this policy that the Government is adopting and, though there has been a little decline in the export of hides and semi-finished goods, there has been an increase in the export of finished leather and leather goods. We have restricted and put quotas on the export of hides and semi-finished leather. Though this year we felt that we should not further reduce the quota in consideration of the stocks already in the country, progressively when the infra-structure increases and more facilities of processing finished goods are available, we will have to restrict the quota further of semi-finished and unfinished leather.

We have also taken certain actions for promoting the manufacture of finished leather and leather goods by simplifying licensing procedures for increasing the capacity for finished leather. Also, we have put a condition that two-thirds of the replenishment entitlement on account of export of hides and finished leather should be ploughed back for purchase of machinery for finished leather. We have facilitated the import of machinery and chemicals also. The most important thing for leather is that the Leather Development Corporation is going to be set up under the Ministry of Industry and Civil Supplies.

There is a heartening thing about rubber that we have been able to increase the replenishment subsidy which was Rs. 2,471 to ranging from Rs. 3,000 to Rs. 7,500, according to the holding. The lower the holding, the larger the subsidy. The subsidy has been raised to Rs. 300 for holdings above 20 hectares; from 2 to 20 hectares, it is Rs. 5,000 and, for below 2 hectares, it is Rs. 7,500.

Coming to shellac, the fixation of MEP prices was a issue of debate. It has been argued that fixation of MEP price has brought down production.

That is not so. The MEP prices were hiked up in June, 1974. The production has been falling, if you look at the figures, even before the fixation of MEP prices, in 1969-70, the production was 25,742; in 1970-71, it was 25,559, by 1972-73, it fell to 17,000. There were no MEP prices then. In 1974, it went up to 19,000.

AN HON. MEMBER: What is meant by MEP?

SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH: The Minimum Export Prices are those prices that we fix below which nobody can sell abroad.

This fall in production is independent of the fixation of MEP prices. The main reasons for the fall in production have been two. One is the weather fluctuations and climatic conditions. Once the crop is affected, it is affected over a period time. The second is, substitution by synthetics. As the world market of shellac fell it had its impact at the growers level also. When the prices of synthetics, due to rise in oil prices, went up, shellac again became competitive and there was an upward trend in the sales of shellac, giving an incentive to the growers too. So, to connect fall in production with MEP prices will not be objective.

It is not true to say that there are vested interests encroaching upon the Commerce Ministry. I strongly refute it. When MEP prices were fixed last year and they were hiked up by 400 per cent, the country earned more foreign exchange. The foreign exchange earnings went up from Rs. 11.37 crores to Rs. 21 crores. There was no reduction in the quantity of exports. So, this contention does not hold good.

SHRI N. E. HORO: This figure of Rs. 21 crores includes the previous years' unfulfilled contracts.

SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH: That is true even for previous years. We will have to split up export figures and do detailed accounting. The foreign exchange earnings went up from Rs. 11.37 crores to Rs. 21

crores. That is the year when the MEP prices were hiked up. In fact, the previous MEP prices were irrelevant, not having any context with the reality of the situation. In fact, lac was being exported at a very much higher price than what was then fixed as MEP and when we raised it by 400%, it started having a meaning. Such action has increased our exports quantitatively, and value-wise earned us more foreign exchange. (*Interruptions*). We have set up a Shellac Advisory Committee in which there are not only government officials but also representatives of the Lac Technological Institute and also representatives of the State Governments. They went into the problem of fixation of price. Seeing that the production of lac this year would be greater here and also in Thailand, we have brought down the MEP for machine-made shellac by 15 per cent and hand-made by 22 per cent. We have accepted a price differential between hand-made and machine-made shellac. In fact, the limitation is that of the international demand. There is a limit to which lac is consumed and that is a constraining factor, and if production is above that, we cannot do very much to arrest the fall of prices. But still the point remains that much of this trade is of a monopolistic nature: a few people monopolise the machine-made and a few people monopolise the hand-made shellac industry. The breakthrough in this monopolistic character of trade can be made only when purchases are made at the growers' level, and I suppose the State Governments will take appropriate action in which we may be able to cooperate

Coming to pepper, I must mention only one sentence, India, Malaysia and Indonesia grow about 75 per cent of the pepper in the world. A Pepper Community has been formed between these countries. A director has been proposed. The proposal for Indian director for the Pepper Community is under processing with ESCAP and Chairman of the Pepper Community. We hope that some decisions about the headquarters, about the research centre of the Pepper Community will be made soon.

Coming to coffee, the prices have fallen this year, unfortunately. But even in

a falling market, we made purchases at appropriate times so as to buffer the effect. We are making efforts for production of instant coffee and are expanding the production of coffee in non-traditional States like Andhra Pradesh, Assam and Orissa. It is proposed that 2,800 hectares of additional area would be brought under coffee in Andhra Pradesh, 1,800 hectares in Orissa and 2,400 hectares in Assam.

It has been pointed out that the export earnings have been mainly due to inflationary conditions and not due to our drive and thrust in export quantitatively. I want to bring some facts to the notice of the hon. members. I am quoting these figures quantity-wise and not value-wise. I am quoting the figures for the periods April-October 1973 and April-October 1974. In tea, we exported 105.5 million kg. in 1973 and we went up to 114.5 million kg. In cashew kernels, we exported 36.9 thousand tonnes in 1973 and we went up to 41.6 thousand tonnes in 1974. In sugar, we exported in 1973 43.7 million tonnes and in 1974 we went up to 273.8 million tonnes. In lac, we exported 3.1 thousand tonnes in 1973 and we went up to five thousand tonnes in 1974. In cotton piece goods there was a little fall but you will see from these figures that it is not true to say that only because of the price rise and inflationary conditions, our earnings have gone up. Basically, we have increased quantitywise on these various items. I will not say much perhaps now and most of the commodities have already been covered and if some have been left uncovered, I seek the indulgence. . .

SHRI B. V. NAIK (Kanara): Whether it is of pepper or of lac or of fish, the principle complaint is. . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Naik, please do not interrupt.

SHRI B. V. NAIK: If the hon. Minister yields, I want to make a submission.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You leave it to your senior Minister.

SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH: I am leaving completely.

SHRI B. V. NAIK: Since I have wasted ten seconds, the question is of taking the benefits of the export trade to the primary producer which is the most relevant one. Will you kindly enlighten us on this point?

SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH: This requires a co-ordinated action at various levels including the State level and all the Ministries concerned together and I suggest we can discuss this a little later.

Some Members did emphasize the problem of increasing the production for creating exportable surpluses. It is very true the commodity boom has now petered out and is on the wane and it is by increased exports quality-wise that we can keep up our foreign exchange earnings. Therefore, production has to be increased and surpluses made available for exports. This suggestion is very welcome.

With these remarks I thank the hon. Members for their valuable suggestions.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: Well-done.

SHRI CHAPALENDU BHATTACHARYYA (Giridih): We are now living in the Second Development Decade at a time when the international economic system and the international monetary system are in a convulsion. The developed countries are passing through a phase of stagnation and also depression. We have left behind the Lima Declaration, the UNCTAD I and the UNCTAD II. But, all the time, India's share in the world trade has been dropping from 24% in 1950 to 16% in 1960 and 0.6% in 1972.

There are, of course, now a number of imponderables—shipping space, shipping freight, currency fluctuations, competition from the synthetics and a number of alternative centres of production coming up and finally the lag in domestic production and insufficient capacity utilisation by the wide spectrum of industrial capacity we have developed over the last 25 years. But there is one silver lining, that there has been a marked drop in the rate of inflation, in the rate of inflationary price-rise since October 1974 and better capa-

city utilisation. That gives us a greater capacity to mount an export offensive.

Our exports touched Rs 3000 crores. I am told, but the imports have grown faster and now a balance of payments gap of Rs. 1000 crores has developed. Although in individual sectors, the Commerce Ministry has done very well, particularly, I would say, in the matter of iron ore, but the question arises what are you going to do about this Rs. 1000 crores balance of payments gap in the context of your liberalisation of the import policy? We must see that a sizeable portion of our liberalised imports really do increase exports and not go in for internal consumption.

Effective and close monitoring is necessary and sustained enquiry and check-up are needed.

There should be necessary coordination between public sector undertakings (producing various minerals, non-ferrous metals or ferrous metals and even coal) and the MMTC and the Trade Development Authority. At present, this coordination is of a loose kind.

We have heard how out of Rs. 129 crores non-ferrous metals, 50% will have to be written off eventually. This will be hanging like a little white elephant round the Government of India's neck. How did this thing come about? Was it failure of the market intelligence? Was it failure of market survey? This thing would not have arisen if there was a close coordination between Hindustan Zinc, Hindustan Copper and BALCO. Ultimately, this 1,000 crore rupee gap has to be met by trade only. We cannot depend upon aid. It is not flattering also to depend upon aid any longer.

To insulate the weaker consumers from the tricky situation of fluctuations, in the price of non-ferrous metals, there should be a minimum floor price to the smaller consumers. Additional cost will have to be charged on dual-pricing system and there should be close consultation with Hindustan Zinc, Hindustan Copper and similar other public sector undertakings in this respect.

In respect of zinc, copper, lead rock-phosphate, etc. there is little coordination between our internal productive effort and the imports. There is little coordination in the prices of these elements.

Speaking about Mica, I would say that this is a very controversial subject. This is a complex industry. There are 360 varieties of Mica. The price range is Rs. 1.27 per kg. to Rs. 5,000 per kg. There are 600 end-consumers in about 60 countries. But the total quantum of export is Rs. 14 crores only.

Now, I would suggest to the Minister, that instead of making statements which are controversial and erroneous, he should consider appointing a High-power Committee. There was one such Committee during the mid-forties. It was called Justice Reuben Committee. I was an Assessor of that Committee. The time has come for you to appoint such a High-powered Committee, because, it will open your eyes, to the sort of distortion of the Government policy in the matter of actual implementation by MMTC-MITCO.

Your policy was to help the weaker sections. Who are the weaker sections? There are 3 lakh home-splitters, mostly, women. Do you know their wage? They earn Rs. 1.50 to Rs. 3 per week. Although by their skill they can split 1/10,000th of an inch with an ordinary long knife, this is what society has been paying them. For the last three years, the gravaman of my charge is that MITCO being a public sector Corporation charged with the responsibility of helping the weaker sections of the trade sat over it, before their attention was drawn to the injustice done to them. They are small operators based on scale of cottage industries. There are 3,000 traders of whom many are with a capital of Rs. 3,000 or Rs. 5,000 and, of course, this includes a dozen with a capital of Rs. 2 to 4 crores. Out of 3,000, the small men numbering 1200 are gone. This is in spite of the operation of the MITCO because of its distortion of Government policy. Out of Rs. 4.4 crores worth of mica which they purchased,

only .38 crores worth of mica was purchased from 258 firms at Rs. 25,000 per firm. Rs. 1 crore worth of mica was purchased from 204 firms at Rs. 1 lakh and Rs. 3 crores worth of mica was purchased from only 59 firms who are exporting more than Rs. 5 lakhs and more worth of mica. Those who were exporting Rs. 50 to 60 lakhs worth of mica annually are now exporting Rs. 1 crore worth of mica or more after three years of operation of the MMTC and the MITCO, and due to their distortion of Government policy in implementation. In this way, the rich continues to become richer although at a faster pace. From the smaller men, MITCO has been charging 17% being the share of their cost. But for the spot purchases which cover up a lot of malpractices and corruption, they charge only 2% and from mostly large exporters. So, although they give orders for Rs. 4 crores in the market when it comes to actual purchase after a number of rejections, they purchase only mica worth Rs. 40 lakhs or 50 lakhs or so—the figure which I have quoted. Out of 650 mines, 365 are now in operation. Unemployment is rampant. It is an enormity. Over the years, in two districts—Hazaribagh and Giridih—if you take mica only, that is the position. But, if you take Chhota Nagpur, it has become a disaster area. Taking shellac and mica together, if mica situation is bad, shellac is no better. The primary price of stick lac has crashed from Rs. 25 to 1.50 per k.g. How has this come about? Well, the report of a subcommittee is there before you. Whether the correlation is there is a large question which we can go into endlessly. But, my point is a very simple one. The exchequer has got Rs. 30 crores to 40 crores worth of mica. Mica industry employs 5 lakhs of persons at low wages. You got Rs. 21 crores worth of foreign exchange from shellac. But, how much of it has been ploughed back into the industries? Do you want to bring stability? Have you the resources? Have you estimated the amount of money which would go into it today?

[Shri Chapalendu Bhattacharyya]

Sir, even before I have been pre-empted today I made this suggestion to the Commerce Ministry a number of times. Three years ago, I wrote that the line for the growth and stimulation of mica industry is diversification and to go into manufacture, to develop mica paper, to develop micronised mica powder, to develop micanite for insulation and electronic industries for internal and export markets this will give us 30 to 50 times greater unit realisation. You have not yet done that. We cannot go on any longer in a rut. Now the chickens are coming home to roost and sitting on our shoulders. We dare not face the people in our constituency with any reasonable explanation. In Ranchi, 400 handmade shellac factories are closed. The whole area has become an unemployment belt.

In mica the minimum export price for micasplitting was fixed too low leading to low wages of home splitters. In shellac it was fixed too high. The end product was the same—distress, unemployment and under-employment over the entire belt and low wages.

As regards diversification of engineering industry we have the expertise and surplus steel and unutilised idle capacity. We should go in for fabricating machinery for off-shore oil exploration. This is a must for the next two to three years for windfall export earnings. Price differential for steel favours it if we modify value added system.

Then a close liaison between MMTC, Hindustan Zinc, Hindustan Copper and Balco should be evolved. For coal a new vista is opening up. The internal price of coal is hardly 10 dollars per tonne whereas export price is 47 dollars f.o.b. as regards non-coking coal. It is 75 dollars for medium coke and 120 dollars per tonne of high-grade coking coal. If we can export five to seven million tonnes of coal and medium coke, it will earn enough free foreign exchange

for fully re-structuring our coal mining industry. That is a silver lining and. I suggest, that the Commerce Minister should kindly give it the priority it deserves and take it up, if necessary, in the economic sub-committee of the Cabinet and get the necessary drive and impetus to the scheme so that we have exportable surplus of five to seven million tonnes of coal annually.

We have a high deflationary zone within the general inflationary economy, namely, Chhota Nagpur. Mica, bidi, tassar and shellac will determine the economic health of the entire plateau. Which Ministry does it is your concern? The Trade Development Authority has done a good job particularly during this short span of three to four years in respect of handicrafts antiques and handlooms. The export of these items has gone up. But what happened to scheme of free trade zone at Andaman and Nicobar? That would be another Hong Kong and we might earn Rs. 500 to 700 crores in the course of next three years.

Then there have been complaints of mal practices in exhibitions organised by the Ministry of Commerce abroad. I would request the Minister to look into this. I understand even Ambassadors from certain countries have written to the Commerce Ministry regarding this. This should be looked into depth and stopped in the interests of India's image. I support the Grants for Commerce Ministry.

श्री कप्तल सिध "मञ्जुकर" (केसरिया) :
सभापति महोदय

MR. CHAIRMAN: The hon. Member will continue his speech tomorrow.

18 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Wednesday, April 23, 1975/Vaisakha 3, 1897 (Saka).