

Tehsildar and other Revenue officials also go on asking irrelevant things and do not either reject or approve the application. The hon. Minister has rightly said that there is no need to visit the offices time and again to get the loan sanctioned but the general atmosphere is such that without going one cannot get the work done. I would like to know as to what steps does the Government propose to take in respect of monitoring and an sanction so that people may get some relief?

[English]

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO: Sir, all this statistical information which the hon. Member wants such as amount overdue by small industries and large industries, is not available with me at the moment. I will collect the same and give it to the hon. Member. He has raised a question as to how sometimes people are harassed and I am not prepared to accept or admit in totality this general statement. But, it does happen sometimes. I would like to say that when I met the hon. Members of Parliament, this issue was raised by them. The DICs approve a certain number of people to be given this benefit but when they go to the bank, according to the MPs, sometimes the banks do not really accept the pleas and they have their own assessment. They have found that a single-window concept must be brought into the scheme. Therefore, time must be given to the banks to scrutinize before a decision is taken by the DIC. The banks will be present at the DICs meeting. The decision taken by the DICs will be final. We are working on this and we have recommended this to the Reserve Bank of India. We are awaiting their concurrence in this matter.

[Translation]

Indo-Australian Trade

*172. SHRI MADAN PANDEY:
SHRI LAKSHMAN MALLICK:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether efforts are being made to increase trade between India and Australia;

(b) if so, the broad details of the efforts made in this direction;

(c) the names of items, the trade with regard to which is likely to increase between these two countries; and

(d) the extent of additional foreign exchange which India is likely to receive as a result thereof?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A statement is given below.

(c) There is a possibility of increase in imports of coal, wool, and mining machinery and equipment from Australia to India while Indian exports of engineering products, leather products, precious and semi-precious stones, textiles and garments, spices, chemicals and other items are likely to increase over the years.

(d) No exact figures of additional foreign exchange earnings can be given.

STATEMENT

(b) The following steps *inter-alia* have been/ are being taken to promote trade between India and Australia:

(i) Holding of seminars on various aspects of trading with India in Australia.

(ii) Increasing contacts between Indian and Australian businessmen through forum of regular meetings of the India-Australia Joint Business Council.

(iii) Increased participation in international exhibitions held in Australia.

- (iv) Holding of exclusive displays of Indian products in Australia through the Assistance of Market Advisory Service of Australian Government.
- (v) Holding of Buyer-Seller Meets in Australia.
- (vi) During the visit of Prime Minister of Australia in February, 1989 both the countries have signed Memoranda of Understanding for cooperation in sectors of Railways, Telecommunication and Concessional Finance which *inter-alia* include the establishment of Joint Ventures.
- (vii) Establishment of a Joint Ministerial Commission with Australia which would *inter-alia* consider measures to strengthen relations between the two countries in all areas particularly in the field of, commercial, economic, scientific and technological cooperation etc.

[*Translation*]

SHRI MADAN PANDEY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the efforts made by the Government to promote trade with a developed country like Australia is a welcome step but my submission is that besides Australia, Government should also pay attention towards other South East Asian countries with whom scope for promotion of our trade is very wide.

Mr. first submission in this regard is that though both the countries come to an understanding at the moment but is there are mechanism like joint commission or such other body which will continue the process, meet from time to time to review the progress and explore new possibilities to boost the mutual trade further? If so, kindly give the full details regarding the composition of the commission and its objectives?

SHRI P.R. DAS MUNSI: It is true that our trade relations with Australia are further improving as compared to the past. So far as the question of mechanism to solve trade

problems between the two countries is concerned, I would like to inform that earlier there was a Joint Trade Committee, but it is a matter of happiness that after the visit of our Prime Minister Shri Rajiv Gandhi to Australia and the consequent visit of Australian Prime Minister to India in the beginning of this year, a Joint Commission has been constituted. The first meeting of the Joint Commission started in Canberra yesterday where our Minister of Commerce Shri Dinesh Singh was also present. Yesterday we received a message from Canberra after the end of First day's meeting that an agreement had been reached that the trade between India and Australia would touch the mark of 1.2 billion U.S. dollar by 1992 i.e. during the course of next three years. Another happy news is that now it has been decided by the MMTTC that the ships coming from East Coast of Australia, which is away from the mainland, will henceforth carry iron-ore from India to the steel mills in that country on their way back after unloading their cargo at Paradeep. Australia is one of the leading exporters of iron ore otherwise.

SHRI MADAN PANDEY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, my second supplementary is that in view of the experience of the hon. Minister about the trade talks with Australia, which is very encouraging, will the Government explore the possibility of increasing our trade with other countries like Thailand, New Zealand, Philippines and other big and small countries of South East Asia which are developing? Is there any such matter receiving attention of the Government?

SHRI P.R. DAS MUNSI: Yes, Sir.

SHRI MADAN PANDEY: The reply is only yes, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: What a positive reply.

[*English*]

SHRI LAKSHMAN MALLICK: May I know from the hon. Minister what is the present turn-over of Indo-Australian trade? Just now the hon. Minister replied that our

Prime Minister visited Australia in 1986 and signed an agreement for trade between the two countries. In the statement, it is also stated that the Australian Prime Minister visited India in February 1989 and both the countries have signed a memorandum of understanding for cooperation in sectors of railways, telecommunication etc. He also stated that conference is at present going on in Canberra. May I know, what is the present turn-over of the Indo-Australian trade and whether any decision has been taken in that regard in the Joint Ministerial Commission at Canberra and whether any agreement has been signed in that regard? If so, what are the details thereof?

SHRI P.R. DAS MUNSI: Sir, through you, I would like to convey to the hon. Member that if you trace the history of Indo-Australian trade, it started right from the East India Company but the actual trade agreement between India and Australia was signed officially after the independence. Thereafter the trade between the two countries started following the line of Joint Trade Committee which considering the trade and technological aspects was at a little lower level. Thereafter we had a Joint Business Council at the private level. During the first visit of our Prime Minister to Australia, and before the Australian Prime Minister came to India, a Joint Business Council was formed and it started functioning. It is nice to mention here that when the Australian Prime Minister, His Excellency Mr. Hawke, came to India he also attended the Joint Business Council meeting and responded to Indian trade just as our Prime Minister Rajivji responded to Australian trade. Thereafter a Joint Commission was formed. The first meeting of the Joint Commission was held in Canberra yesterday. The message that I received yesterday evening from Canberra through our High Commission is that the concluding part of the agreement will be signed today. So, I cannot exactly say whether the agreement has been signed between the two trade Ministers. But hopefully I may inform the hon. Member that an arrangement to provide 1.2 Billion U.S. Dollars trade by 1992 in order to double the trade turnover has been envisaged and

possibly in this regard some official declaration will be made today in Canberra. The provisional figures for trade turnover for the year 1988-89 shows that the export figure stands at Rs. 266.04 crores and the import figure is a little over Rs. 700 crores. So, obviously there is a trade balance in favour of Australia. Therefore, we are trying to find out what more new items can be added in our export basket so that we can neutralise the bulk import of cooking coal for which we are mostly dependent on Australia.

Apart from this a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the two countries which identifies a few areas like the Railways and others. A Memorandum of Understanding was also signed between the National Dairy Development Board and Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research on 15th October, 1986. The purpose of this Memorandum was to increase the food production and to promote research, this involves exchange of missions, exports and delegations so as to exchange views in the field of research. So, these are the broad areas where we are thinking of expanding our trade.

So far as our export is concerned, we are mainly depending on machinery, transport equipment, chemicals and other related products and our import is mainly confined to coking-coal and raw-wood. These are the areas where we feel that the trade between India and Australia can be further expanded. We hope that the agreement which will be signed today will open new doors for the Indo-Australian trade.

Export of Tea

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*181. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE
PATIL:
SHRIMATI PATEL RAMABEN
RAMJIBHAI MAVANI:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity and the value of tea