

LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

*Friday, March 14, 1986/
Phalgun 23, 1907 (Saka)*

*The Lok Sabha met at three minutes past
Eleven of the Clock.*

[MR. SPEAKER *In the Chair*]

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER : Are you having some special conversation with Shri Dagaji ?

SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, you tell both of them, our Raja Saheb too, to sit away from Prof. Madhu Dandavate. Who sover sits opposite him, becomes Chief Minister.

SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH : I am seated a little aside, right opposite to him is Shiv Shanker ji.

MR. SPEAKER : Does he have the Midas touch ?

SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI : May God save from his looks.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[*Translation*]

Trade between India and Japan

*287 SHRI BANWARI LAL BAIRWA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the volume of trade between India and Japan during the last three years;

(b) the steps proposed to be taken by both the countries in order to boost the bilateral trade ;

(c) whether Japan has expressed its willingness to advance loan to India ; and

(d) if so, how this loan will be utilised ?

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER) : (a) to (d). A Statement is given below.

Statement

(a) The volume of trade between India and Japan during the last three years is given below :—

	(Rs. in crores)	
Year	Exports	Imports
1982-83	833.61	1087.90
1983-84	825.68	1455.53
1984-85	1060.97	1240.41

(b) Steps to promote bilateral trade include bilateral review of trade at official and business level; exchange of visits by businessmen; participation in trade fairs and exhibitions organised in the two countries; and facilitating better market access.

(c) and (d). Japan has expressed willingness to advance special Yen Credit for Assam Gas Combined Cycle Power Station and Associated Transmission Line Project.

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER : We have not yet covered even the half and you have started tiring.

SHRI BANWARI LAL BAIRWA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is not clear from the statement laid by the hon. Minister on the Table of the House as to what items are we exporting and importing ?

Secondly, when in 1984 the Japanese Prime Minister visited India and thereafter

our Prime Minister visited Japan, he was given a warm welcome in that country. It shows that the attitude of Japan towards us is quite courteous and we are coming quite close to each other. The way Japan has made strides in the field of automobiles and electronics is indeed commendable. I want to know whether Japan is willing to give us that technology in the field of automobiles and electronics ?

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER : So far as the question of transfer of technology is concerned, talks were held on the proposal for giving scientific and technological assistance to India during our Prime Minister's visit to that country. Detailed talks will be held on official level.

As to the quantum of bilateral trade with Japan, as I have stated in the statement, the exports and imports during 1982-83 were of the order of Rs. 833 61 crores and Rs. 1087 90 crores, respectively. The corresponding figures in 1983-84, were Rs. 825.68 crores and Rs. 1455.53 crores. In 1984.85, the exports were to the tune Rs. 1060-97 crores whereas the imports were of the order of Rs. 1240.41 crores. So far as the items, as asked by the hon. Member, are concerned, these are :

[English]

Iron, Ore, marine products, diamond, German jewellery, ready-made garments, handloom fabrics, engineering goods, leather and leather goods. These are the thrust items which have been identified.

[Translation]

SHRI BANWARI LAL BAIRWA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, as stated by the hon. Minister our exports have registered an increase whereas our imports have gone down. This is quite an encouraging Trend. also please give details in respect of the trade review done at official and commercial levels.

Secondly, it has been stated in reply to part (c) and (d) that Japan has expressed willingness to advance special Yen credit for Assam Gas Combined Cycle Power Station and Associated Transmission Line Project. I would like to know whether similar projects for some other state are also under consideration ?

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER : Other projects are not under consideration at the moment, but when our Prime Minister had gone there, Japan had expressed its willingness to give a credit of 30 billion Yens, which comes to about Rs. 205 crores, for Assam Gas Combined Cycle Power Station. Apart from that, there is no specific item for which they would give us credit.

SHRI JAGDISH AWASTHI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, as stated by the hon. Minister, our import bill is more than our export earnings and as a result we are spending more foreign exchange. I want to know what steps Government propose to take to boost our exports and reduce the imports so that we could push up our foreign exchange reserves ?

[English]

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER : Various steps are sought to be taken for the purpose of increasing the exports. A few among them which I can bring out at this stage are regular review of trade, identification of thrust items, participation in exhibitions, fairs, product development, and market development measures. Of course, on each item there are a lot of details. I would not like to go into all of them. I only put forth points before the House which are the measures which are taken for the purpose of increase of trade with Japan.

SHRI ATA-UR RAHMAN : It has been said that Japan has expressed its willingness to advance Yen credit for Assam Gas Combine Cycle Power Station and Associated Transmission Line Project. Has this Project any connection with the flaring of gas in Assam which is going on for the last 30 years which has caused wastage of about Rs. 500 crores up till now.

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER : Specifically, of course, the question is whether it is with reference to flared gas. My submission is that this amount has not exactly been offered for the purpose of flared gas so that it could be converted into power. But, by and large, there is gas production in Assam and it is that which was sought to be utilised and it is sought to

be utilised for the purpose of this power station.

At this stage, I might bring to the notice of the hon. Member that when it comes to the question of flaring, when we get the Associated gas and when we try to bifurcate or trifurcate it into C1, C2, C3 and so on so forth, a part of the gas is bound to be flared even when we get the crude oil and from the crude oil, when the gas is sought to be dissociated, even at that time, a part of it gets flared. This is a phenomenon which is known to all the oil-producing countries, not only to us. But it is true that in our country the flaring of gas is more as compared to that of other countries.

PROF. N.G. RANGA : It is very high.

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER : I am conceding that. But to check that, various measures were being taken by the Petroleum Ministry from time to time to see that the gas is flared to the minimum extent.

DR. G.S. RAJHANS : I want to know which of the non-traditional items are popular in Japan, if any commercial intelligence has been gathered regarding that, and, if so, when was commercial intelligence gathered ?

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER : The question seems to be slightly tricky. My friend is asking about the commercial intelligence and the point is that I have already given the details of the thrust items. Most of them are non-traditional. I have already narrated this once and again for the benefit of the House I might read it out. Of course, some of them are the traditional items. There is no doubt about it. I have also given the items which are non-traditional. Traditional and non-traditional both together, I have already given. I have given the details of those items and that is why, when it comes to the question of the commercial intelligence, apart from the fact that we have a person from the Commerce Ministry in the Embassy there, for the purpose of going into the whole thing, and trying to study the situation and then feed back the information to us, there are also the officers connected with the foreign trade who are in different countries. One

such officer is also located in Japan who takes care of these things. The non-traditional items like hand-tools, cutting tools, and garments, apart from what I have said in the general expression, are also items which are sought to be given the thrust with respect to the trade with Japan.

Decline in Export of FCV Tobacco

*288. SHRI V.S. KRISHNA IYER : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Indian export of FCV (flue cured virginia) tobacco in world market has gone down;

(b) if so, the percentage of decline;

(c) the foreign exchange likely to be earned during 1985-86 from export of tobacco;

(d) whether Government propose to take steps to help the tobacco exporters by providing seeds, fertilizers and pesticides, and by propagating modern technique of cultivation; and

(e) whether Union Government also propose to provide need-based credit from commercial banks to boost export ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A Statement is given below.

(c) The exports of Tobacco during 1985-86 are likely to be of the order of Rs. 160 crores.

(d) and (e). It is already being done.

Statement

India's export of Unmanufactured and VFC tobacco, world Exports and India's share in World trade during the period 1980 to was as following :—

Year	World Exports (M.Kgs.)	India's Exports (M.Kgs.)	India's Share %
1	2	3	4
(i) Unmanufactured tobacco :			
1980	1345.9	73.2	5.44