

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: We were going via Hyderabad. Now, once it has been diverted to Nagpur, it was stopped because there was no traffic offering. Again it has been diverted via Nagpur. So, will the hon. Minister look into this matter and restore the Madras...

MR. SPEAKER: Madras is very important, I agree, but it does not arise.

श्री विमल भाई एच. शुक्ल: जैसा कि बताया गया है कि सुबह से शाम की फ्लाइट की गयी है। क्या यह एम० पीज० के सजेसन से की गयी है? यदि हाँ तो यह किस मेम्बर ने सजेसन दी थी? क्या आप और एम० पीज० को इसके बारे में कन्सल्ट करेंगे?

श्री पुरुषोत्तम कौशिक: यह ओवर आल पोइंट्स जो किया गया है उसी के आधार पर अहमदाबाद की फ्लाइटम शाम की की गयी है।

SHRI VINODHAI B. SHETH: Will the hon. Minister inform this House how many times since the last 6 months the flight has landed and taken off in time?

SHRI PURUSHOTTAM KAUSHIK: It is not possible to give the exact figures at this moment.

"Bengal Deshi" Export Tender

*1181. **DR. VASANT KUMAR PANDIT:** Will the Minister of COMMERCE, CIVIL SUPPLIES AND CO-OPERATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the recently floated 'Bengal Deshi' Export tender has fetched a record high price;

(b) whether the Government are satisfied that such tenders are economically viable; if so, the reasons thereof; and

(c) has the attention of Government been drawn to the serious press criticism of these Bengal Deshi Tenders appearing in *Business Standard* of 29th March, 1979 and elsewhere?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE,

CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION (SHRI ARIF BAIG): (a) to (c). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

In January, 1979 the Government decided to release for exports an additional 50,000 bales of Bengal Deshi Cotton. Necessary guidelines were given to the Textile Commissioner for allocation of quotas out of the above release. It was stipulated by the Government that 20,000 bales in two lots of 10,000 bales each were to be allocated on high value consideration and a reasonable time-lag is to be kept between the two release. In addition, 20,000 bales were to be released on first-come-first-served basis, and 10,000 bales were to be allocated to Cotton Corporation of India. ,

2. The export release on high value considerations fetched a maximum price of 134.74 US cents per lb. while the minimum price fetched was 105.50 US cents per lb. Considering the facts that there are only a few countries in the international market and only limited quantities were released for export by the Government the prices offered do not seem to be unusual. Necessary allocation letters were issued to the exporters only after submission by them of the requisite Bank guarantee and firm contracts. This was done with a view to ensuring that the prices offered were realistic and not inflated just for the purpose of getting export allocation.

3. The Government have seen the press report about Bengal Deshi tenders appearing in *Business Standard* of 29th March, 1979. As stated earlier, the Government have already taken necessary precautionary measures for full realisation on these exports by way of registration of the firm contracts and obtaining the requisite Bank guarantees from the exporters.

DR. VASANT KUMAR PANDIT: Mr. Speaker, Sir, The Government stands to be congratulated for achieving this feat of getting the highest record price for 'Bengal Deshi'. Let them not be jubilant over it. I want to know exactly whether the Government has ever ascertained what price was ruling in Japan at that time. On what basis have you come to the conclusion that you are going to realise this price? In spite of the bank guarantees and other checks he gets, it is the common knowledge for the exporter...

MR. SPEAKER: You have put your question.

DR. VASANT KUMAR PANDIT: I have not put the question. It is the common knowledge of the exporters that in cotton exports there are two provisions in the contract, one for quality and one for weight. And it is also to common knowledge of the hon. Minister that around 10 per cent is always kept in foreign accounts there, in foreign currency, and realisation of the real price is much less. Hence, my question to the Government is whether the hon. Minister has ascertained what price was ruling at that time in Japan and what steps they have taken to see that these two clauses are not badly utilised against the country.

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE, CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION (SHRI MOHAN DHARIA): Sir, out of 40,000 bales of 'Bengal Deshi', 20,000 were to be given on the highest bidding. Here, if we have realised 135 US Cents with a firm contract and a bank guarantee, I mean there is nothing that the country will be put to loss. Now, by any chance, the party does not fulfil this contract, the bank guarantee is there. So, we shall not be at a loss. Besides, it is covered with Export Guarantee so that the foreign exchange is also equally well taken care of. Now by any chance, if there is any effort by any party whatsoever to dupe the

country with some frivolous or fraudulent methods, I can assure the Member that all possible action will be taken and immediately his licence for export purposes will also be cancelled. But let us wait. This has been reported in *Business Standard* We have gone into it. If this complaint by any chance proves to be true, naturally action will be initiated. But otherwise, he could have fetched 135 cents as against 100 or 105 cents, in which case, we should be happy. Under the circumstances, why are we unnecessarily agitated over a matter where the country is likely to gain?

DR. VASANT KUMAR PANDIT: What were the prices realised for different lots, for each lot of Bengal Deshi which was sold? Why couldn't the Cotton Corporation of India sell the subsequent lots at the same price which it obtained for the first lot?

SHRI MOHAN DHARIA: The price ranges between 105 to 135 cents. By and large, the average price is of the order of 120 cents. So far as the Cotton Corporation of India or any exporter is concerned, we have fixed a floor price on the basis of realisation. In case they fetch that price, we shall allow them, not otherwise.

Boarding and Lodging Arrangements for Tourists Visiting South

*1182. **SHRI K. S. VEERABHADRAPPA:** Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that since the L.T.C. introduction for the facilities of the Central Government Servants alongwith their families, rush has increased in the South particularly in Bangalore and Mysore cities;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that there are no proper arrangements for these tourists for lodging and boarding in these cities as per their standard;