

progress with regard to the study which was initiated to explore markets for Guar and to fix its price with a view to giving remunerative price for Guar to the farmers of Rajasthan, Haryana, Punjab and Gujarat, for earning additional foreign exchange for the country from the exports of Guar Gum and Guar power, on competition with other countries and for developing the food industry, and the time by which the report will be submitted and relief provided to the farmers ?

[English]

SHRI P.A. SANGMA : So far as this aspect is concerned, it is within the administrative control of Agriculture Ministry. I am only concerned with exporting of the end product and, therefore, I would not be able to answer this question.

[Translation]

SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA : When the question of Rajasthan and Haryana come up, you have simply said that 'I am concerned with export only'. Kindly tell us the extent of export made last year as also this year and the reasons for not giving incentives for promoting exports and, in case you give incentives to promote exports, the nature thereof ?

[English]

SHRI P.A. SANGMA : The export of guar gum reached an all time record in 1981-82 to the tune of Rs. 108 crores. In 1982-83 it came down to Rs. 35 crores. In 1983-84 it was Rs. 16 crores. In 1984-85 it had slight recovery and it went up to Rs. 24 crores. As far as incentives are concerned, I have already answered this question. We are giving the incentives. But there is a feeling that more incentives should be given. We will look into it.

[Translation]

SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT :

The policy of Government should be to encourage more and more exports. What steps have already been taken and are proposed to be taken in future to increase exports which have declined during the last two to three years so as to give encouragement to North India and Rajasthan ? I want to know what concrete steps have been taken by Government. Government should do something in view of the rapid decline in export. We have a right to know why no steps were taken in this regard ; the hon. Minister owes an explanation.

MR. SPEAKER : The hon. Minister has just now touched these points.

[English]

SHRI P.A. SANGMA : I think I have clarified the reasons why the export of guar gum—has come down. This particular product is mainly used for the oil drilling and during 1981-82 the export had gone upto Rs. 108 crores because that was the period when there was the oil boom ; various countries went on drilling oil ; the offtake was very high. But now the position is very different. Many countries have slowed down oil drilling and so the requirement has decreased. That is the reason why it has not been going up. As far as further efforts are concerned, we have already commissioned a study by the Indian Institute of Foreign Trade which is going into all the aspects, including the aspect as to how we can meet the challenges from other countries.

Indian Exports to Singapore

*798. SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the visit of Singapore trade team to India in April, 1985 was beneficial to Indian export trade ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) the extent of increase in export

expected during the next five years as a result of the discussion with the Singapore trade team ; and

(d) the new products which are likely to be exported to Singapore ;

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.A. SANGMA) : (a) to (d). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The team largely consisted of representatives of trade and industry and came to establish contact with their Indian counterparts and get a first hand knowledge of the progress made in India, particularly in the engineering sector. The team visited a number of industrial units in Delhi, Bombay, Madras and Bangalore with a view to identify opportunities for joint ventures and increased trade between the two countries.

(c) It is not possible to forecast the extent of expected increase in exports as a result of discussions with Singapore Trade Team.

(d) The new products that are likely to be exported to Singapore include high-tech. products, computer software, electronic components, heavy engineering items, granite, marble, construction materials and scooters.

SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM : The Minister has stated in the Answer that the Government has identified certain new products for export to Singapore. I would like to know from the Minister whether it is true that the import from Singapore is as much as three times of our export to that country. If it is so, I would like to know whether some more items are identified to be exported to Singapore, so that our export value is at least on par with the import

value.

SHRI P. A. SANGMA : Sir, I can give the figures of exports and imports. I do not know whether it is three times higher or not. I do not think it is three times more. In 1982-83, our exports were Rs. 121 crores and imports Rs. 395 crores ; in 1983-84, exports—Rs. 195.17 crores and imports—Rs. 384.96 crores ; and in 1984-85, provisional figures upto April—September, exports—Rs. 84.12 crores and imports Rs. 270.62 crores. And I do not think, if you calculate, it will come to three times.

SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM : Is it true that the Singapore Government is importing goods from India and then the same goods are exported to other developing countries with their trade names ? If so, is any effort being made to capture the markets, in those countries and export to them directly by us ?

SHRI P. A. SANGMA : This is a trade practice followed by several countries. Singapore can follow this. We can follow this too. We can import from one country and then export to another country. This is a trade practice and I do not know why we should have any objection.

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO : The Finance Minister at a press conference in Lucknow on 7th April had this to say and I quote—

“The Union Finance Minister, Shri Vishwanath Pratap Singh today cautioned the people against the impending foreign exchange crunch and said it was time the country applied brakes on the bulk trade which consumes foreign exchange.”

These are the actual words and now the only solution to avoid what the Finance Minister has called—‘the impending foreign exchange crunch’ is to increase substantially our exports and reduce, if possible our imports. I would like to

know from the hon. Minister how it happens that whilst we keep on saying that we are the tenth largest industrial country in the world and the third country with the largest scientific and technological manpower, it becomes so very low in the world map as far as our foreign trade is concerned, both with regard to goods as well as consultancy and services. What is the Government doing in the field of exports. Just by increasing exports by one crore of rupees is not enough. There should be a substantial drive so that this foreign exchange crunch is avoided.

SHRI P.A. SANGMA : I do not think his question arises out of this particular question. But I may remind the hon. member that though we are the tenth largest industrial country in the world, we also have the second largest domestic market in the world. Next to China, we are the largest in the domestic market.

SHRI K. RAMAMURTHY : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Singapore Trade Delegation to our country comprised even the electronic industry people who are settled in Singapore and also some other industrialists who are very much interested to get goods from our country, apart from the traditional items like handlooms, spices and other things. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Trade Team which visited our country from Singapore has identified certain areas of manufactured goods in the field of engineering as well as electronics for importing to Singapore. If so, is there any proposal regarding the visit of our Indian team to Singapore in the near future to sort out this problem ?

SHRI P.A. SANGMA : The Trade Team was not the official team. It was a private team which has come to India. But I think that was in response to my personal request to the Minister of Commerce of Singapore, when I visited Singapore in September last year. We found that Singapore was not aware of the capabilities of India as

to what is good and what is bad. So, we invited them saying that they should sponsor a trade team to India and in response to that they have sponsored this team. They have come and they were busy here from 4th to 17th. They visited various parts of the country, including Bombay, Madras and Bangalore and they had seen all aspects of our industry and some items had been identified for the new thrust, which I had replied to part 'd' of the main question.

[*Translation*]

**Availability of Wool for Traders in
Uttar Pradesh**

*800 **SHRI HARISH RAWAT :** Will the Minister of SUPPLY AND TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that the traders of Dharchula, Mursyari, Didihat areas in Uttar Pradesh purchase wool in large quantity from Nepal;

(b) if so, whether these traders have not been getting wool from Nepal for purchase in desired quantities for the last two years ; and

(c) if so, the steps Government propose to take to make good quality wool available in these areas so as to protect the interests of local wool traders and weavers ?

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF SUPPLY AND TEXTILES (SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH) : (a) to (c). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b). The Government have received reports about shortage of Nepali wool in the hilly areas of Uttar Pradesh including Cherchula, Munsyari and Didihat.