

SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN: We have used our good offices and we have brought them to the negotiation table. About the discussions which have taken place, it is not possible for me at this stage to disclose what they have done, but normally what happens in such a situation is that the party which can consider and give something offers initially the minimum and the party which asks, normally asks for the maximum. This is the situation.

Economic Cooperation Between India and the U.S.S.R.

*24 †**SHRI SHARAD DIGHE:**
SHRI S.M. BHATTAM:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether two agreements on economic co-operation were signed between India and the U.S.S.R. during the visit of the Prime Minister to Moscow in May 1985; and

(b) if so, the main features thereof?

THE PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY TO THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The two Agreements signed were as follows:

(1) Agreement on Economic and Technical Cooperation

This Agreement provides for Soviet participation in industrial projects in the power, coal, oil exploration, ferrous metallurgy and machine building sectors. Under it, the USSR Government will extend a credit of upto Rouble 1000 million to cover the cost of equipment and services provided by them for these projects.

(2) Agreement on Main Directions of Economic, Trade Scientific and Technical Cooperation upto 2000 AD:

This Agreement relates to long-term cooperation in leading sectors of industry, as well as in trade, and in science and technology. Broad possibilities in this regard have been indicated in the text.

SHRI SHARAD DIGHE: These Agree-

ments, no doubt, will go a long way in strengthening the friendly ties and economic cooperation between these two countries. I must say that the hon. Prime Minister must be congratulated for securing these Agreements...

PROF. N. G. RANGA: Not 'securing' 'signing'.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Prof. Ranga, hear, hear!

SHRI SHARAD DIGHE: I would like to know this by way of clarification. In a certain section of the press it has been commented that it takes a very long time to utilise these credits which are given to us. For example, it was stated that, when credit was given to us in 1957 to the extent of Rs 59.53 crores, a sum of Rs. 12.14 crores still remained undischarged. Similarly in the case of credit of Rs 250 crores which was signed in 1966 for use in the Fourth Plan, there is still an unutilised sum of Rs. 52.64 crores left over. In the case of the credit of Rs. 208.32 crores signed in 1977, the unspent balance at the beginning of the financial year was Rs. 39.52 crores. In 1980, a credit of Rs. 433.32 crores was given and of this, only a sum of Rs. 44.6 crores has been used so far. I would like to know whether these figures which have appeared in a section of the press are correct and if so, what special steps Government propose to take to utilise the present credit as early as possible.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN): It is difficult for me to verify the figures which have been mentioned by the hon. Member as having appeared in the press. But I would just like to mention that, whatever credit we get, we use it very judiciously because it has to be repaid.

SHRI SHARAD DIGHE: My question was about utilising it within a short time and not whether it will be utilised judiciously. I want to know whether it will be utilised within a short time and whether there is any plan or there are any steps proposed to be taken by the Government so that this credit can be utilised within a very short time.

SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN : We will utilise it most gainfully and in the shortest possible time. But we cannot really say that we would use it within any specific time and just spend it away without proper planning.

SHRI S.M. BHATTAM : Which are those various industrial projects in power, coal oil exploration etc, in respect of which we are getting credit and what is the amount of credit which is going to flow in respect of these industries ? If it is a big list will the Minister be pleased to place it on the Table of the House ?

SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN : The projects are in the power sector, petroleum sector, coal sector, etc. and the details about all these will have to be worked out now.

SHRI S.M. BHATTAM : What are the names of the projects ? That is the question I have raised.

SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN : I have mentioned that the names and other details will have to be worked out now. This is the broad spectrum where this credit will be applied.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : Is it not for specific projects ?

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : They are for specific projects. A number of specific projects are there.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : We want to know whether the loans are related to specific projects and if so, which are those projects ? If the list is too long, as Mr. Bhattam said, will the Minister be pleased to place it on the Table of the House ?

MR. SPEAKER : When finalised, he will let you know.

SHRI S.M. BHATTAM : The discussions should have taken place on specific projects.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : One wrong impression will go round the country because what he said is that this credit of 1

billion roubles and more is not for specific projects and it is a general thing, and that now they will have to decide what it will be used for. Is that so or is the whole of it or a major part of it is for certain specific projects ? He should clarify this.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : You will put them into difficulties.

SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN : I have mentioned broadly the heads under which this credit will be utilised.

SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR : As per the first agreement, USSR is to make available to India a credit of 100 crores Roubles and the repayment is to be made not in Indian rupees but in terms of Indian goods. I would like to know from the Minister what impact it will have on our projections for improving the bilateral trade with Soviet Union. Soviet Union is already India's major trading partner with Soviet Union and the earlier projections were that our trade will improve and become twice every 5 years. Is this 100 crore Rouble credit going to be in addition to the projections of trade which have already been made ?

SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN : The credit which has been promised by the USSR Government will be utilised for the services and goods supplied to India by the Soviet Union.

5-Day Week Work Schedule

*25. †**SHRI C.P. THAKUR :**

SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the advantages and disadvantages that have occurred after the introduction of 5-day week work schedule in Government offices ;

(b) whether there has been any cost-benefit analysis of the scheme ; and

(c) whether any study has been made after its introduction regarding its superiority over the previous work schedule ?