

श्री राम चारु शर्मा : क्या मंत्रीजी बताने का कष्ट करेंगे कि अगले वर्षों में एक्सपोर्ट के लिए कौन-कौन से इंजीनियरिंग गुड्स तैयार होने जा रहे हैं और उनके उत्पादन के लिए सरकार कौन कौन सी योजनाएं चलाना चाहती है ?

**SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE:** There are a large number of items, consumer durables, capital goods, iron materials based on cast iron and pig iron. If the hon. Member is interested in the detailed list of items, I will give him.

In regard to the scheme, practically we ensure that they get the necessary raw materials to produce engineering goods. Arrangements are being tied up with shipments and getting orders from various countries.

**SHRI KAMAL NATH:** Project Exports are a very important ingredient of engineering exports. Is the Government considering any special steps to promote project exports and, if so, what are those steps?

**SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE:** The Project Equipment Corporation itself is a subsidiary of the STC which is looking after the project exports. We are having a good response and, particularly, in some of the Middle East countries, we are having good market for our project equipment of this nature. For instance, in one country alone, we are having projects worth Rs. 700 crores.

#### **Tax Burdens on Polyester Clothing**

\*394. **SHRI N. E. HORO:** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that durable and essential item like polyester clothing had been pushed beyond the common man's reach due to excessive tax burdens on both the polyester staple fiber and its yarn including blends;

(b) whether any memorandum has been submitted to him regarding the already existing 'crippling' duty burden which had further increased due to

den and the escalating input costs the recent hike in the prices of petroleum products and the increase in railway and road freight; and

(c) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SAWAISINGH SISODIA):** (a) to (c). Representations have been received in the matter of excise duties on polyester staple fibre and its yarn including blends. But, Government consider that the present level of duties on such fibre and yarn does not appear to be excessive, particularly since the fabric stage duty on such fabrics is consciously kept at a low level to balance higher levies at fibre and yarn stages. Even the cumulative excise duty burden is reasonable in relation to the retail price of such fabrics.

**SHRI N. E. HORO:** The very fact that representations have been submitted to the Government is clear enough to show that the taxes are high and the general public, who use this polyester, find it difficult to buy because it has gone beyond their means. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether he would reconsider the whole question and have a second look into it.

**SHRI SAWAISINGH SISODIA:** I am sorry I cannot reply to this question because it is a budget matter.

**SHRI M. RAM GOPAL REDDY:** The Minister has said that there is no intention of reducing the taxes at present. I want to know from him whether, on account of the high taxes, the consumption has gone down.

**SHRI SAWAI SINGH SISODIA:** No, it is not a fact.

#### **Decline in export of Foot-wear**

\*395. **SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA:** Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been any decline in the export of foot-wear

particularly to the Soviet Union and other countries during the past few years;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof; and

(c) the details regarding the current Year's targets regarding the export of foot-wear to the Soviet Union?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI KHUR-SHEED ALAM KHAN):** (a) Export of footwear to USSR has registered a downward trend during the last few years. Total export of footwear to other regions are generally on the increase, except in the case of North America.

(b) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

(c) There is no separate export target for the current year for export of footwear to the Soviet Union.

#### Statement

The decline in export to USSR is mainly attributable to the fact that the quality of foot-wear demanded is not commensurate with the prices offered. Besides, USSR is shifting her interest from purchase of shoes to shoe uppers for utilising indigenous production capacity.

Exports to North America are mainly comprised of Sandals, Chappals and casual wears. Exports to this market had been adversely affected due to recessionary trend and also on account of prolonged cooler summer.

**SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA:** Since exports to the USSR have declined, may I know from the hon. Minister what action Government propose to take or has taken, so that the exports of footwear will increase?

**SHRI KHURSHEED ALAM KHAN:** Exports to USSR only have declined because they have been asking for more uppers than complete shoes because they wanted shoes to be prepared mechanically from one particular unit,

and that was not possible because in our country the shoes are prepared by various small units and are supplied to the customers. Besides this, they had raised the standard of the quality of shoes but at the same time they had not raised the price. That was the difficulty. Therefore, they have not been taking more complete shoes, but they have been placing orders for uppers.

**श्री बालकृष्ण राव सारण :** मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि जो जूतों का विदेशों में निर्यात होता है, जो छोटे कर्मचारी हैं, हाथ से काम करने वाले हैं या हाथ की मशीन से काम करने वाले हैं, उनकी विशेष प्रशिक्षण देकर उनके जूतों को बाहर भेजा जाए और उनके विशेष योगदान देने के अवसर क्यों प्रदान नहीं किए जाते हैं।

**श्री सुशील दासगुप्त साहू :** मैंने भी वही कहा है कि रूस का जो आर्डर कम हुआ है, वह इस लिए कम हुआ है कि मशीन से बने हुए जूते ज्यादा चाहते थे, लेकिन हम चाहते थे कि जो छोटे कारीगर हैं, उनके हाथ से बने हुए जूते ज्यादा एक्सपोर्ट किये जायें।

#### Crisis in Tea Industry in Darjeeling

\*396. **SHRI CHITTA BASU:** Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the tea industry in Darjeeling in West Bengal is facing a crisis;

(b) if so, whether Government have since identified the causes thereof; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take to remove the causes?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI KHURSHEED ALAM KHAN):** (a) and (b). The Tea Industry in Darjeeling has some special problems. The Tea Board had commissioned a comprehensive Techno-Economic survey of Darjeeling Tea Industry. The special problems identified in the survey are low yield,