

maintained. They have also considered and agreed that arrangements can be worked out for large-scale industrial collaboration involving technology and investment.

They have identified a number of areas also. I can give some instances, e. g. electronics and components, oil refining equipment, telecommunications, high speed gear hobbing machines, ripple control equipment, micro meters, audio-magnetic tapes, glass lined equipment material, handling and conveying equipment etc. Food processing is also there. These are the main items they have discussed and identified.

One more point my friend asked about, is trade between the two countries, i. e. Government to Government, and private trade. We do not have separate figures with us. I can say that for 1980-81, exports were for Rs. 146.94 crores, as against imports for Rs. 288.30 crores. Similarly, in 1983-84, the exports were for Rs. 53.84 crores and imports were for Rs. 84.66 crores, upto September.

He had also asked about the number of projects that we have, in collaboration with the French Government. This figure is also with us. I can give them later on.

DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI :
According to the information of the Minister, the increase to the level of \$ 51,000 million is both in respect of trade with Government, and with private business managements. Now the figures which he has given are : exports Rs. 146 crores, and imports Rs. 220 crores. So, the trade gap is much more.

The leader of the team, Mr. Roger Chalyon Dmersey apprehended that due to this industrial policy, there is some bottleneck for industrial collaboration. What is the explanation of the Government therefor ?

Secondly, he has already elaborated in his reply, about industrial collabora-

tion, but he has not said what are the materials which India wants to export, to double the exports from India, and particularly the fields India and France have decided for collaboration, and the projects taken up during discussions in the third meeting.

SHRI NIHAR RANJAN LASKAR :
The first point that the Hon. Member made was that there were some difficulties on our side, which is not a fact. We have not received any complaints from the French side. I will give the facts which will bear this out. In 1983, we have cleared about 673 collaborations. Amongst them 40 are with the French. In one year, we have done this. If there had been some difficulties, these figures could not have been achieved by now. So this is not a fact. Anyhow, if there is a little difficulty here and there, we are trying to take it up and see that the things should move easier. The main export items to France generally are clothing, textile, pulses, precious and semi-precious stones, leather and leather goods. We are also trying to develop our furniture industry with the French people.

Stoppage of Purchase of Cotton in Gujarat etc. by Cotton Corporation of India.

*391, **SHRI AMAR SINGH RATHAWA† :**

SHRI NAVIN RAVANI :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Cotton Corporation of India has stopped purchase of Cotton in Gujarat and in other parts of the country ;

(b) if so the reasons therefor ;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the farmers of Gujarat are facing great hardship to dispose of their products ; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken by Government in this respect and to save the farmers from being ruined ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SUPPLY (SHRI NIHAR RANJAN LASKAR) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) In order to protect the interests of the cotton growers, Government of India every year announces minimum support prices for different varieties of kapas. The current prices of kapas in Gujarat are much higher than the support prices.

(d) Does not arise.

श्री अमर सिंह राठवा : अध्यक्ष महोदय, गुजरात में जो कांटन की कीमत चल रही है, उससे न तो कपास पकाने वालों को लाभ हो रहा है और न दवाई खाद का भाव ही उनको मिल रहा है। इसलिए मैं आपके माध्यम से माननीय मंत्री जी से पूछना चाहता हूँ कि अब तक कांटन कारपोरेशन आफ इंडिया ने गुजरात में कितनी कपास खरीदी है, कितना खरीदने का अनुमान था और किस भाव में खरीदी है ?

SHRI NIHAR RANJAN LASKAR : India so far purchased 8096 bales of cotton from Gujarat upto 30th March, 1984. For each variety of cotton, there is a support price. For 4, in 1983-84, the support price was 547. But the growers are selling it at the market prices which are much are higher. In January 1984, it was 697. Similarly, for S6, it is 540. In January, the current market prices are 619 to 662. So these prices are much higher than the support

अध्यक्ष महोदय : कांटन कारपोरेशन का मैनेजमेंट बहुत पक्की है। अपनी जगह से हिलती नहीं है। यह टैंक्सटाइल इंडस्ट्री के लिए है या किसानों के लिए-यह पूछ लीजिए।

श्री अमर सिंह राठवा : अध्यक्ष महोदय, डा. कुरियन घानन्द डेयरी के चेयरमैन हैं। कांटन कारपोरेशन, व्यापारी वर्ग और अधिकारी मिलकर किसानों के कपास के भाव में गठबंधन कर लेते हैं। जिस की वजह से किसानों को भाव नहीं मिल रहा है। कम से कम जो 40 प्रतिशत भाव है, वह तो उनको मिलना ही चाहिए। मैं आप से पूछना चाहता हूँ कि कांटन कारपोरेशन आफ इंडिया किसके लिए है ? अब किसानों को उचित भाल नहीं मिलेगा, तो देश की क्या हालत होगी ?

वाणिज्य तथा पूति विभाग मंत्री श्री बिश्वनाथ प्रताप सिंह : अध्यक्ष महोदय कांटन कारपोरेशन प्रांशन के जरिये और सील्ड टैंडर के जरिये खरीद-बिक्री करता है। जहां पर मंडियां हैं, वहां पर खुले में खरीद करते हैं। इसलिए इसमें साझेदारी और हिस्सेदारी का सवाल नहीं उठता है। जहां तक भावों का सवाल है, इस संबंध में मेरे सहयोगी ने बता दिया है।

SHRI MAGANBHAI BAROT ; May I invite the attention of the hon. Minister in this connection to the fact that on the one hand the Corporation is not giving the full facility for the export of arn, and the highest beneficiary is in the circumstances the textile industry ? Does the hon. Minister know that the textile industry has not passed on the benefit derived from these conditions either to the consumer or in running

hand, they are closing down. In the circumstances, may I know whether the Government is prepared to consider that the benefit really goes to the farmers, or if it is as a result of the policy, to the consumer and not to the industrialists as it is today ?

SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH : So far as the prices are concerned, the prices have been ruling higher than last year, not only above support price, but also for comparative periods they have been ruling higher than what they were last year for the same period.

MR. SPEAKER : Due to the failure of the crop, I think.

SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH : There is the problem. That is precisely the question. You have almost answered my full question. The overall availability of cotton is slightly shorter than what we require. So that being the position we have to see as to what action is to be taken, for export of yarn, which was mentioned by the hon. Member. It precisely come to this point, that for the first time very early in the season, the exports of cotton were made. But seeing the overall shortage, and the failure of crop in the Punjab, in Maharashtra, further exports were stopped as it was considered that we should have a second look and only then we can decide. And so far as passing on the benefit is concerned, the prices of cotton are quite high at this moment, not that their prices are lower and therefore the benefit has to be passed over. If the hon. Member makes it clear what element of the cotton price can be passed over, that can be considered.

SHRI MAGANBHAI BAROT : Both to the consumer and farmer, I said.

श्री राजेन्द्र प्रसाद यादव : क्या मंत्री महोदय को जानकारी है कि भारतीय कपास निगम जानबूझ कर बाज़ार में उस समय

तथा उस समय जो अच्छी किस्म का कपास आता है उसे बिचौलिये खरीद लेते हैं, इससे लाचार होकर किसान को डिस्ट्रेस सेल करनी पड़ती है ? क्या मंत्री महोदय बतलायेगे कि किसान को इस डिस्ट्रेस सेल से बचाने के लिए आपकी कारपोरेशन शुरू से काटन की खरीद करेगी ? आप मार्केट को कन्ट्रोल करने और किसानों को मुविधा देने की बात करते हैं-मैं जानना चाहूंगा कि आप टोटल खरीद कितने परसेंट कर पाते हैं ? यदि आप अधिक परसेन्टेज में खरीद नहीं कर पायेगे तो फिर कन्ट्रोल कैसे होगा ?

श्री विश्व नाथ प्रताप सिंह : जहां तक काटन कारपोरेशन द्वारा शुरू से खरीद करने का सवाल है, उसकी कोशिश रहती है कि सीजन के शुरू से ही खरीद करे और वह लगातार खरीद करती है। जहां तक डिस्ट्रेस सेल का सवाल है, इस वक़्त सर्पोट प्राइस के ऊपर भाव चल रहे हैं इसलिए डिस्ट्रेस नहीं हैं। जहां तक हिस्सेदारी और साभेदारी की बात बतलायी गयी है, मैंने कहा है कि कारपोरेशन आक्शन और सील्ड टेण्डर के माध्यम से खरीदती है इसलिए इसमें साभेदारी वाला प्रश्न पैदा नहीं होता है। लेकिन अगर कहीं कोई गड़बड़ है और ध्यान में लायी जाती है तो कार्यवाही की जाती है।

जहां तक परसेन्टेज का प्रश्न है, प्रतिशत के रूप में तो हमारे जानकारी इस समय नहीं है लेकिन 75 से 80 लाख बॉलज की प्रोडक्शन होती है उसमें से 1981-82 में 10.56 लाख बॉलज खरीदी गई।

SHRI SATISH AGARWAL : That

श्री विश्वनाथ प्रताप सिंह : आप गणित हम से अच्छा जानते हैं, आप से मदद मिल गई।

1982-83 में 9.7 लाख वैल्स खरीदी गई। अगर प्रोडक्शन कहीं घट गई, तो टोटल बाइंग भी घट सकती हैं। इस से आप प्रतिशत निकाल सकते हैं, आंकड़े हम ने दे दिये हैं।

Increase in Revenue Earned by AI on Gulf Route in 1983-84.

*393 SHRI SKARIAH THOMAS† : SHRI V.S. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state ;

(a) whether there has been an appreciable increase in the revenue earned by Air India on the Gulf route in 1983-84 as compared to the previous year ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) whether there is now a demand for reducing the airfare in the Gulf Sector ; and

(d) if so, the decision taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI KHURSHEED ALAM KHAN) : (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Statement

(a) and (b) : There has been an increase of about 20% during the period April-December 1983 compared to April-December 1982. The total revenue earned on this sector for this period is given below :—

India/Gulf (Rs. in crores)	Percentage increase over April- December 1982
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April-December, 1983 : 232.13 +20%

April-December, 1982 : 193.43

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The airfare on this route is agreed to by concerned Governments and is the same as charged by other airlines on this sector. It is not open to change fares unilaterally.

SHRI SKARIAH THOMAS : There has been a demand from the Gulf passengers as well as from responsible political leaders of Kerala that the present airfare in the Gulf sector should be reduced. According to the statement of the hon. Minister the revenue from the Gulf sector has gone up by 20 per cent in 1983. In view of the fact that majority of the Gulf passengers are ordinary labourers working in those countries, will the Government consider the request to reduce the fare in consultation with the concerned countries ?

SHRI KHURSHEED ALAM KHAN : It is a known fact that unilaterally we cannot change the fares which are fixed in consultation with IATA and approved by various Governments concerned. In fact sometime ago, most of the concerned Governments wanted to increase the fare by 4 per cent, but we did not agree. Therefore, they could not increase the fare. Unless all the Governments agree and all the airlines which are operating agree, it will not be possible for us to unilaterally reduce the fare on any route.

SHRI SAKARIAH THOMAS : I want to know whether airfare charged by Air India in other sectors for the same distance is less and there is an element of subsidy in it, and if so, whether the same concession will be given to the Gulf passengers also ?