

Appointment of a Com-
mittee to enquire into
the unemployment
problem.

श्री हजाराज सिंह : उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, बेकारी की समस्या आज देश में भयंकर रूप धारण किये हुये है और उसे देखते हुये ऐसा लगता है कि चाहे जितने भी साधन हम इस दूसरी पंचवर्षीय योजना को सफल बनाने के लिये जुटायेँ. हमारे देश का उत्थान नहीं हो सकेगा। इसलिये इस पृष्ठ भूमि में हमें यह देखना होगा कि इस समस्या को किस तरह से हल करें, खास तौर से जहां ५० लाख नये लोग हर साल इस देश में पैदा हो जाते हों। उसके प्रति अगर सरकार भली प्रकार से जागरूक नहीं होती है तो मेरा निवेदन है कि हम किसी भी प्रकार अपनी योजना को सफल नहीं कर सकेंगे और जाहिर है कि जब यह पंचवर्षीय योजना सफल नहीं होगी तो उनकी उन्नति भी कभी नहीं हो सकती। इसलिये बेकारी की समस्या को हमें एक नई पृष्ठ भूमि से देखना पड़ेगा।

हमारी यह द्वितीय पंचवर्षीय योजना बनी है उसमें यह ध्यान रखा गया है और १५ हजार की पूंजी लगाने के बाद कहीं एक व्यक्ति को जाकर काम मिलता है। अब हिन्दुस्तान जैसे मुल्क में जहां पर बेकारों की संख्या करोड़ों में है यदि १५ हजार की पूंजी लगा कर एक आदमी को काम मिले तो हम उतनी पूंजी तो कभी भी जुटा नहीं सकते भले ही हम विदेशों में पूंजी क्यों न मांगते फिर और विदेशों में हमारे द्वारा मांगने पर भी हम उतनी पूंजी नहीं जुटा पायेंगे जिससे कि हम अपने देश में फौली हुई बेकारी की समस्या को हल कर सकें। इसलिये हमें सोचना पड़ेगा कि क्या कोई इस तरह का साधन अपनाया जा सकता है या तरीका सोचा जा सकता है जिससे कि ८०० या १००० की पूंजी लगा कर किसी एक व्यक्ति को काम

दिलाया जा सकता है और अगर हम ऐसा कर सके तो इस समस्या को हल करने में बहुत आसानी होगी।

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The hon. Member may continue his speech the next time. Now, the hon. Finance Minister.

17.30 hrs.

TEA (ALTERATION IN DUTIES OF
CUSTOMS AND EXCISE) BILL.*

The Deputy Minister of Finance (Shri B. R. Bhagat): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Indian Tariff Act, 1934, and the Central Excises and Salt Act, 1944, for the purpose of altering the duties of Customs and Excise on Tea.

Sir, with your permission, I would like to make a brief statement on the Bill.

The House would recall that, for sometime past, the question of granting duty relief to common teas has been engaging the attention of the Government so as to make their prices competitive, consistent with their comparative quality in the world markets as also within the country. A decision has now been taken in the matter and the present Bill is being introduced to amend the relevant provisions of the Central Excise and the Indian Tariff Acts. Under this Bill, which will come into effect immediately by virtue of a declaration under the Provisional Collection of Taxes Act, 1931, the maximum rate of export duty has been reduced from 75 naye paise to 30 naye paise per lb. The maximum rate of excise duty on loose tea would be 19 naye paise per lb., and in the case of package tea, 21 naye paise per lb. plus the duty leviable on loose tea if not already paid.

However, under a notification, which is being issued simultaneously, the tea-growing areas of India will be divided into three zones depending upon the weighted average price of all teas in a particular zone sold in the internal and export auctions in India; and for the present, excise duty will be levied at the rates of 2 naye paise, 4 naye paise and ten naye paise per lb. fixed for the zones I, II and III respectively. In respect of package tea, against the present rate of three and a half annas (21.88 naye paise) the duty will be 21 naye paise per lb. over and above the duty on loose tea cleared from the tea gardens.

Under another notification, export duty will, for the present, be levied at a flat rate of 26 naye paise per lb. No refund of excise duty will, however, be paid on tea exported except of 21 naye paise per lb. in the case of package tea.

As a result of these notifications, the total incidence on tea exported will be 28 naye paise per lb. in the case of tea from areas in zone I, giving a relief of 10 naye paise per lb. as compared to the export duty currently applicable, viz. 38 naye paise, 30 naye paise per lb. in the case of tea from areas in zone II, giving a relief of 8 naye paise per lb.; and 36 naye paise per lb. in the case of tea from areas in zone III, giving a relief of 2 naye paise per lb. In the result, teas of different grades whether exported or consumed internally will bear taxes on a graduated scale more in accordance with their prices. The relief that will thus accrue to the industry should enable it to improve its competitive position in the foreign markets.

It is estimated that the loss of revenue as a result of this relief will be approximately Rs. 1 crores in a full year.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Indian Tariff Act, 1934 and the Central Excises and Salt Act, 1944, for the purpose of altering the duties of Customs and Excise on tea".

The motion was adopted.

Shri B. K. Bhagat: Sir, I introduce* the Bill.

17.08 hrs.

SUPPLY** OF COTTON TO U.S.A.

Shri Rameshwar Tantia (Sikar): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, I want to speak on two points. One is as to why our exports of short staple cotton are going down. The other is whether we can use more such cotton in our own country in place of the higher grade imported cotton. Our exports of short staple cotton are going down every year. In 1955 we exported 4,65,000 bales of cotton worth Rs. 24 crores. Apart from that we exported Rs. 10 crores worth of cotton waste, making a total export worth Rs. 34 crores. In 1956 it came down to 3½ lakh bales and Rs. 7 crores worth of waste. In 1957 we exported only 1,75,000 bales of cotton worth Rs. 13 crores and Rs. 6 crores worth of waste. That means our exports have reduced by Rs. 15 crores in three years.

At the same time, our stocks of such cotton have gone up. The crop is bigger and our stocks have increased. Then, why is it that we could only export less. The reason is the policy of Government in regard to giving quota to foreign buyers. Foreign buyers were reluctant to buy Indian cotton because they were not sure whether they would get further quotas or not, as quotas were not given to them at a time.

*Introduced with the recommendation of the President.

**Half an hour discussion.