

बिल है, सेक्टर के मातहत है, इसलिये प्राप
वहाँ की सीब पर जितना भी विचार कर
सकते हैं, करें, क्योंकि अगर इस में देर हो
जायेगी तो और ज्यादा प्रश्न पड़ जायेंगी।
इसलिये इस सदन को चाहिये कि वह इस
विषयक को पारित करने की कृपा करें।
इस में और कोई लम्बी बात नहीं है।

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Shri Jogendra
Sen.

Shri Jadhav: Sir, before the hon.
Member begins to speak, let us be
fortunate enough to know how many
Acts are there and what are their
names.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: That point was
already disposed of, I am told, by the
Chairman.

Shri Jadhav: What difficulty is there
in stating the names?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The Chairman
has given directions that the list be
given

Shri Jadhav: After this Bill is pass-
ed?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Before it is
passed

Shri Jogendra Sen (Mandi): Mr.
Deputy-Speaker, Sir. At the very start
I should like to thank you for having
given me this opportunity to speak on
a very important piece of legislation.
The Bill which is before us does not
even mention any of the Acts which it
seeks to validate. It does not also
mention the resolutions and other
things which the defunct Assembly
passed from 1st July, 1954 to 31st
October, 1956. I will not, therefore,
say anything at this stage on the merits
of the legislations of which even a list
has not been supplied to us. But the
Chair has very kindly said that a list
will be supplied by the Government.
If and when that list is supplied to
us and, as my hon. friend on the
opposite benches just said—when
these Acts also are supplied to us, or

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at least made available to us some-
how—I mean those so called Acts
which are said to have been already
passed—the defunct Assembly of
Himachal Pradesh.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Then he might
speak after the list is supplied. We
shall now proceed to the next item—
Present Trends in the Export Trade.
Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri.

15 hrs.

PRESENT TRENDS IN THE EXPORT TRADE

**The Minister of Commerce and
Industry (Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri):**
Sir, I beg to move:

“That the present trends in the
export trade of India, and the state
of the textile industry which con-
tributes materially to that trade,
be taken into consideration.”

I am thankful to you that an oppor-
tunity has been given to us to have a
full discussion on the problems of the
textile industry as also on general ex-
ports. It is well known that the pro-
gress of rapid industrialisation in the
country is largely tied up with our
capacity to pay for the import of
machinery, industrial equipment and
industrial raw materials. We have
used up a greater part of our foreign
exchange reserves in building up the
country's industrial potential. Our
import requirements to maintain a
steady rise in industrial and agricul-
tural production continue to be heavy.
We can pay for these requirements
only if we succeed in augmenting our
export earnings. The setback which
our efforts in this direction have
recently received is, therefore, a
matter of great concern to us all.

With your permission, Sir, I will try
to place the present position in its
proper perspective. It was in the
year 1954 that the Commerce and
Industry Ministry initiated special

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steps to build up the country's export potential. One of the first such steps was the formation of Export Promotion Councils for specific commodities with considerable export potential. The Cotton Textile Export Promotion Council came into being in October, 1954, and ten other Councils each dealing with the specific commodity were set up in the following years. The Commodity Boards for Coffee, Tea, Coir, Handicrafts and Handlooms were asked to pay special attention to export markets and the State Trading Corporation and the Export Risk Insurance Corporation were organised in 1956 and 1957 respectively in an effort to build up our export trade.

Steps were also simultaneously taken to strengthen a Directorate of Exhibition and Commercial Publicity to re-vitalize the Director-General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics and to strengthen our trade representations abroad. In July, 1957, the Foreign Trade Board was set up to co-ordinate and guide the country's commercial effort and the Directorate of Export Promotion was organised to implement the Board's decisions and to provide prompt and effective service to the exporter.

These organisational efforts, together with the number of other measures which were taken over the last two to three years and to which I propose to refer a little later, made it possible for the country to claim for itself a share of the improvement in international trade.

It will be recalled that in 1954 our export earnings stood at Rs. 558 crores. In 1955 our exports reached the figure of Rs. 602 crores. A further improvement was recorded in 1956, bringing up the total for that year to Rs. 613 crores. This improvement was maintained for the first nine months of 1957. But the effects of recession in economic activity in some of the highly industrialised countries of the world began to be felt in the last quarter of that year.

In October, 1957, exports shrank by Rs. 8 crores and although there was some improvement in November, the downward trend was resumed in December, 1957. Export earnings continued to decline over the first five months of the current year until the lowest point was reached in June, when partly because of the strike in our ports, we earned only Rs. 28 crores.

I am, however, somewhat relieved to report that from July, 1958, the trend can be described to have taken a hopeful turn. In July, the earnings mounted up once again to the more satisfying figure of Rs. 54 crores and in September, 1958, the performance was on par at over Rs. 58 crores with the figure for the corresponding month in the last year.

There is reason to believe that the hopeful trend in our export trade which has been noticed in the third quarter of the current year will endure. True we cannot afford to be complacent but I would also like to suggest that we need not, at the same time, feel unduly depressed by the disheartening experience of the nine months ending June, 1958. This decline, as I have said before, had in fact resulted largely from the decline in commodity prices, and from the setback in economic activity in some of the highly industrialised countries of the world, more particularly in the United States and later in Western Europe.

The House will be interested to know that imports into industrially advanced countries suffered a significant decline during this period, and consequently most of the undeveloped countries dependent on the export of primary products were unable to maintain a high level of imports. The export earnings of some of the South American countries declined by nearly 25 per cent and of some of our neighbours shrank by as much as 20 per cent. My colleague had occasion to tell the House this morning

that on an average the unit value of the export of some of our primary products slumped during this period by as much as 18 to 20 per cent. So, there has been a widespread recession in international trade and we have also been effected by it.

I would also crave your indulgence to call attention to some bright spots in this otherwise depressing picture. It is important for the House to know what we have been able to achieve during the last nine months. Partly as a result of the fall in prices of imported industrial raw materials and partly in consequence of the tight import policy we have been following, it has been possible, even during this period of nine months, to narrow down the gap between our exports and imports. For instance, during the months January to September, 1957, the adverse balance of trade had aggregated to Rs. 265.8 crores. During the same period this year, the gap between total imports and exports had come down to Rs. 157.5 crores only. Indeed, the trade figures for the month of September 1958, which are the latest available, show that during this month, we were fortunately able to realise a small surplus. It is also somewhat encouraging to note that in the face of falling demand, it was possible for us to secure quantitative increases in the export of tea, cashewnuts, tobacco and linseed oil. We also succeeded at the same time in improving significantly our cash earnings from the export of some of our manufactures, notably sewing machines, fire extinguishers, some small machinery items, leather manufacturers, woollen piecegoods and artificial silk fabrics. It is true that manufactured items still constitute only a small fraction of our foreign trade. But the success of our concentrated efforts we have been able to achieve in this limited field, coupled with quantitative increases in some traditional items, serve to reinforce confidence in the resilience of our economy.

Nevertheless, for many years to come, we have to continue to depend

for our export earnings mainly on our staple items of export. It is for this reason that the fall in export earnings from cotton textiles, manganese ore, gunnies, castor oil, hides and skins, raw cotton and raw wool, has caused us special concern. I propose to deal at some length with the problems of the textile industry. In exporting textiles we really face an uphill task.

Exports for the January to September, 1958 both mill made and handloom, were about 467 million yards. On this basis, our annual exports for the current year would be of the order of 625 million yards. Judging from the 1957 figures, which stood at 878 million yards, the drop has been considerable. I would, however, say that such drops have occurred in the past. In 1950, for example, we exported over 1,100 million yards, but in 1951, they dropped to 778 million yards and further dropped to 602 million yards in 1952. That, of course, gives us no satisfaction and we have to go carefully into the causes of the current decline.

Apart from the general recession in the western countries in the latter half of 1957, there has been a shrinkage in the international trade in cotton textiles. Many countries are setting up their own textile mills. We have also had to face more serious competition in this shrinking field; and some countries have had, because of their own foreign exchange difficulties, to restrict imports.

When the first signs of this decline were noticed earlier in the year, I had set up a high power committee on which all interests were represented, to go into the several problems of textiles. This committee, as you are aware, has examined all these aspects. Certain specific suggestions were made by the committee to improve our exports and Government have, after careful consideration, implemented several measures in pursuance of those suggestions.

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In the import policy programme for the current half year, facilities have been provided to exporting mills to obtain their requirements of textile chemicals and dyes; in the case of co-operatives, they have been enabled to import finer counts of yarn in addition to dyes. We have also permitted mills to obtain their requirements of special machinery. Facilities for importing foreign cotton have also been provided subsequently on the recommendations of the Cotton Textile Mills Federation.

Hon. Members would be naturally much concerned with the state of our textile machinery. Our this morning questions were asked about the closure of mills. The textile enquiry committee noticed that a large majority of the machines in existence today were installed more than 40 years back and had outlived their usefulness. In fact, it would perhaps be almost impossible to revive some of the closed mills. Their machines are so old and outmoded that these mills may have to be wound up and it will be almost impossible to revive them. Against this background the Committee also referred to the definite preference in the markets abroad for flawless cloth produced only on automatic looms and indicated that our mills in due course should equip themselves with a large number of such looms. I hope the industry, in co-operation with labour, would take note of these observations and avail more liberally of the facilities available to them. In regard to additional automatic looms for export promotion, the stringent conditions for installation have been sufficiently relaxed and I hope the industry will fully avail of these facilities and install 3,000 automatic looms under this scheme at an early date. I also hope the industry will make better use of the facilities available with the National Industrial Development Corporation and devote greater attention to the re-equipment of the industry at an early date.

I do not now propose to deal at length with other commodities. But I would only like to say that with some difficulty, we have been able to maintain the exports of iron ore and other minerals at a reasonably high level. But the difficulties of the steel industry in the United States and in Europe have caused a sharp fall in the international demand for manganese ore, the impact of which has been more keenly felt in producing areas such as India, which are situated at considerable distances from consuming mills.

As regards agricultural products, however, the position is somewhat different; our agricultural products, notably cotton, oil seeds, oils, oil cakes, spices, tobacco, fruits and vegetables are well-known throughout the world. But because of the rising level of demand at home, we have been unable to release sufficient surpluses for sale in overseas markets. Recently in spite of the fear that the prices of vegetable oil or groundnut oil will rise, we have announced quotas for the export of groundnut oil and other edible oils and a substantial part of the quota announced for the groundnut oil has been utilised. It is essential that we should concentrate on the export of edible oils. There is no doubt that there is a great demand for our oils in foreign countries. We have to concentrate on the export of oils, and I have no doubt that in a few months time it should be possible for us to release larger quotas for export. But, side by side, it is essential that our production should also increase, in all kinds of oils whether it is groundnut oil, mustard or other oils. We have recently discussed that with the Food and Agriculture Ministry and every effort is being made to increase our production of oil seeds etc. If production goes up, it will not affect internal consumption and our consumers in the country and it will also help in the furtherance of the export of those commodities.

There are many other items which can reasonably be expected to yield

increased export earnings. These are raw wool, hides and skins, coal and coffee. The real difficulties in all these items is not one of salesmanship but of production and prices. The problem of production has to be solved, and it is true it may take some time. But we must pursue that effort. Nevertheless, I would like to tell the House that we are doing our best in this regard and given determined effort on the part of those concerned, it should not be too difficult for us to generate significant surplus for export to overseas markets.

So far as Government are concerned, we are constantly engaged in making it possible for exporters to improve the competitiveness of Indian products. Export duties have been withdrawn from all items, except one or two. Import duties paid on the imported content of as many as 80 items of export are now refunded. Exporters are also able to claim refund of excise duty. Special schemes for supply of accessories and raw materials, imported or indigenous are in operation. Measures for the control of quality have been introduced. Railways are offering special concessions to stimulate export traffic. Ship-owners have also shown some awareness of the need to provide better shipping opportunities and to adjust freight rates in an effort to increase export cargo from India. The impact of all these efforts in diverse fields is bound to be felt on our export earnings at no distant date. But the experience of the nine months during which we suffered a set back emphasises the fact that we can reasonably expect to improve export earnings only if international trade continues to expand. It is for this reason that the heavy adverse balance we have for some time been running up in our trade with some of the more advanced countries of the world have worried us. The problem posed by these adverse balances has been recognized in the Conferences which were recently held at Montreal, New Delhi and Geneva. It is also to be

hoped that the trade agreements which have recently been negotiated with some countries will also enlarge exports and to balance the trade at a high level.

I have almost finished. I have endeavoured to place before the House all the facts of the situation which have been undoubtedly a difficult one. I referred to certain developments in the international economic situation. Still I fully realise that we have to be alert, and vigilant. Above all, we have to discover the deficiencies, wherever they are, and take necessary steps to remedy them. So far as Government are concerned, we have during recent months taken a number of steps with a view to providing facilities and opportunities for an expansion in our exports. I have also taken several opportunities of having discussion on this matter with the representatives of industry and trade and various chambers of commerce. I do hope there is greater awareness now for the need to take bold and imaginative action for stepping up our exports. Our policy should be to produce goods at competitive prices with due regard to quality and the taste of consumers. Each industry has to take definite steps towards that end. Indeed, this is a continuous process in which Government would always be prepared to participate and to render every possible assistance.

It will be wrong to take one item or two or three items and to feel concerned over the decline of export of those items. It will also not be taking a very correct view to take up one or two countries in the case of which our exports have declined. It is necessary that we should take an overall view. I do not deny that there has been a decline. But this decline has been there for some time. It has not happened all of a sudden. So, I would appeal to House to take an overall and balanced view of the matter. They should also realise that in this difficult situation during the last five or six months we have made a special effort, concentrated effort, to arrest

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the decline. I do not want to depend upon the export and import figures of one month or two months. It is not quite correct to do so. Correct Agreement will be for the period of at least six months or one year. So, I do not want to claim much. But I merely want to mention to the House that a sincere effort has been made to tackle a very difficult problem and a very difficult situation, and the slight improvement that I see gives me some satisfaction, only to this extent that it may be possible for us to arrest the decline. But I will not merely be satisfied by arresting the decline. We must go further and we should be able to export much more. In fact my idea is that the real problem and the real solution of the foreign exchange difficulty is only by exporting more. Unless we are able to improve our exports, we will have to depend on other countries for a very very long time to come. Foreign loans, we may have to take and utilize. But we should try to be as much self-reliant as possible. So, in these circumstances, I fully realise the importance of increasing our exports and our efforts are in that direction and I am not at all pessimistic about it. I have full hope that we should be able to go ahead with our export targets and achieve better results.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Motion moved

"That the present trends in the export trade of India, and the state of the textile industry which contributes materially to that trade, be taken into consideration."

Shri D. C. Sharma (Gurdaspur) May I submit that the statement made by the hon. Minister may be circulated to the Members of the House

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: If the hon. Members so desire it can be done.

Some hon. Members: Yes it is very necessary.

Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri: Tomorrow it can be done.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: There are two substitute motions. I want to know whether they are moving them.

Shri Tridib Kumar Chaudhri (Barrhampore): I am moving my motion.

Shri Braj Raj Singh: I am also moving my motion.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Both the substitute motions are also before the House

Shri Tridib Kumar Chaudhri: I beg to move:

That for the original motion the following be substituted, namely:—

"This House, having considered, the present trends in the export trade of India, and the state of the textile industry which contributes materially to that trade, expresses its deep concern at the steady fall in our export trade and the shrinkage of our traditional export market is textiles, tea and other goods and the increasingly adverse balance of trade which results therefrom

The House is of the opinion that all steps taken by the Government so far for export promotion and for improving our trade balances have proved a complete failure and the House therefore, urges upon the Government to appoint a high powered Committee consisting of representatives of the Planning Commission, of the Ministries of Finance and Commerce and Industry, a few representative of both the Houses of the Parliament and of the principal trade bodies, as well as those of the Central Trade Union organisations, in order to take all emergency measures that might be found necessary in order to regain

our position in the world export market, to increase the volume of our export trade and attain a favourable balance of trade commensurate with the needs of the present tempo of India's economic development and re-construction."

Shri Braj Raj Singh: I beg to move.

That for the original motion, the following be substituted, namely:

"This House, having considered the present trends in the export trade of India, and the state of the textile industry which contributes materially to that trade, expresses its very deep concern at the declining trend in our export trade and the shrinkage of our traditional export market in textiles, tea and other goods,

This House is of the definite opinion that the Government have miserably failed to take adequate steps to maintain the volume of our export trade in tact. This House recommends to the Government that a Committee of Members of Parliament belonging to both Houses of Parliament assisted by technical experts be appointed immediately to go into the matter thoroughly and suggest ways and means by which the situation could be set right."

Shri Tridib Kumar Chaudhuri: Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I hardly need read out the motion, but I want to mention one or two facts that are here in it.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Just a minute May I have an idea as to how many hon. Members want to participate in this debate?

Several hon. Members rose—

Shri C. D. Pandé (Naini Tal): There are many.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I see about 25 rising in their seats or even 30.

Shri C. D. Pandé: May I suggest that time may be extended.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: That is what I am coming to. We shall have to limit the speeches. There are six hours. Shall we extend it still?

Shri C. D. Pandé: Let it be tomorrow full day in addition to today. That means we will have five hours tomorrow.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Let the debate proceed. Then we will see. In the beginning six hours seem quite a lot. Now, I suppose 15 minutes would be enough for each hon. Member.

Shri Rameshwar Tantia (Sikar) rose—

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I have seen particularly the hon. Member.

श्री रा० क० तन्तिया : (निमाड) :
श्रीमान जी मेरा यह सुझाव है यह एक महत्वपूर्ण मसला है इसलिये जिन लोगों की इसमें खास दिलचस्पी है और जिनका हमसे खास सम्बन्ध है उनको कुछ ज्यादा समय दिया जाय ।

उपाध्यक्ष महोदय देखा जायगा ।
प्रान्तबले मेम्बर को उन खास लोगों में शामिल कर लिया जायगा ।

Shri Tridib Kumar Chaudhuri: It is not enough that we should express concern at the falling trend of our export trade which I have sought to do in my motion. We should also put on record that attempts so far made by our Government to boost up our export trade have proved a failure. The hon. Minister sought to derive some comfort in the fact that in recent months' trends there is some slight indication of an improvement, but it is very doubtful whether that improvement will be sustained.

One thing that I want to emphasise is that our Government has not been

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sufficiently impelled by a sense of urgency about this matter. I remember early this year at the time of the Budget discussion in answer to one of the questions our new Finance Minister was asked as to what effect the recession in the United States was having on our foreign trade and on our economy in general and he replied very boldly that ours is a developmental economy and the U.S. recession does not affect us. It is some satisfaction that the hon. Minister of Commerce and Industry at least does not take that view and is more realistic in these matters.

I need not detail, because of shortage of time, the seriousness of the situation, but even then if we look at the long-term trends revealed over the past one or two years the situation is really alarming—much more alarming than the Government is prepared to admit. Here in my hand is the Reserve Bank of India Bulletin, October 1958. That is the latest available number that I could procure. Here there is a table on page 1182 giving us figures of India's exports of principal commodities. I am not taking one or two commodities but those commodities on the export of which the bluk of our volume of exports rests.

Here, in regard to Food, Drink and Tobacco, I find that the figure for January-June 1957 is Rs. 96.4 crores. In July-December, 1957 the export was Rs. 105 crores. There is a slight improvement. Then in January-June 1957 it was Rs. 94.8 crores. There is a decline in Tea which is included in the same item. From Rs. 62.0 crores the figure has come down to Rs. 57.8 crores in January-June 1958.

Similarly, with regard to raw materials we find that from Rs. 88.6 crores in January-June 1957 it has come down to Rs. 34.4 crores in January-June 1958. I am mistaken it has come down to Rs. 72.6 crores in January-June 1958. With regard to articles wholly or mainly manufactured I find the figure has come down from Rs. 141.2 crores in January-June 1957 to Rs.

118.7 crores in January-June 1958. In jute manufactures, which is our biggest dollar earner, there is a decline of Rs. 10 crores from Rs. 62.2 crores to Rs. 52.7 crores. In regard to cotton manufactures, of course, the position is well known. Here we find that the decline is from Rs. 43.3 crores to Rs. 31.5 crores. This gives the overall picture in a nutshell.

I need not add to the detailed figures which the hon. Minister has already given, but even then to illustrate my point it will be necessary to mention that in cotton textiles the decline this year has been Rs. 11.8 crores. The causes for this are keen competition from China, Russia, Japan and Hong Kong in the eastern and western Asian markets. In Tea export last year i.e. from 1956 to 1957, the decline was to the order of Rs. 30 crores. In U.K. markets the decline was to the tune of Rs. 27 crores and this year the decline is Rs. 9.9 crores. Here the main reason is detailed in this Bulletin as reduced offtake in the United Kingdom. The United Kingdom has reduced its offtake of tea from India but it has increased its offtake—I might mention incidentally—from East Africa, Kenya and Uganda side.

In jute exports the decline last year was Rs. 8 crores. This year, i.e., in 1957-58 the decline has been Rs. 10 crores. Regarding vegetable oils I have not been able to get the figures for 1957-58 but in 1956-57 the decline was Rs. 11 crores. In raw cotton the decline was to the tune of Rs. 8 crores.

Now, are we satisfied and are the Government satisfied that proper steps are being taken? I am prepared to believe the hon. Minister when he says that he is making very sincere efforts. We know that there are three export promotion advisory councils. We also know that there are eleven export promotion councils and a number of commodity boards, but if I may quote the hon. Minister against himself, I find that in this address to the Central Advisory Council for Industries, he said this year only that he

was shortly going to convene a big conference.

"It is my idea", he said then, "that shortly the representatives of each of our important industries should be invited to Delhi for discussions with the Director-General of Foreign Trade and the Ministry so that we may be able to better appreciate the difficulty that has to be resolved and what further steps could be taken for increasing the exports for each industry."

I do not know whether that has been done.

Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri: It has been done in the case of many industries.

Shri Tridib Kumar Chaudhuri: I also find here, there are laid down certain principles and I will very soon show how those principles are being observed in practice. Only a few days ago, on the 29th of November, there was a question put by several Members of this House to which written answer were given, wherein it was said that Export Promotion Advisory Committees in the three major ports were established. What was their function? It was, undertaking a detailed study of export potentialities of various commodities in their respective regions and to recommend specific steps for exploiting these potentialities. But, I find from an answer given earlier this year that the function of the Export Promotion Advisory Committees in these three ports is somewhat different. Their activities have been detailed with regard to all the three ports. This was also given in answer to a question put in the month of August in this House. Here I find that the major recommendations of these committees concern the difficulties that the exporters experience in the ports in regard to the export of their goods. So far as export potentialities of particular commodities, of particular goods of the different re-

gion are concerned, they hardly concern themselves with that.

So far as Export Promotion Councils are concerned, we are informed that there are 11 Export Promotion Councils. Excepting the Council appointed in regard to cotton textiles, I find that the other leading export goods do not have any Export Promotion Council. I am not against diversification of exports. But, the Export Promotion Councils which have been formed do not concern our most important export goods industries.

I do not have the time to go into the other details. But, I generally find that even in regard to incentives promised, the hon. Minister detailed the various types of incentives that they had awarded. Here, I may mention one. Some scheme for the grant of rebate of railway freight has been announced recently. What are the goods in respect of export of which these rebates have been announced? Motor vehicle batteries, Dry cells and batteries, Oil pressure lamps, Hurricane lanterns, Steel files, Bicycles, Textile machinery and parts, Wood screws, Fruit and vegetable preserves. Do the Government seriously want us to believe that they are really giving more facilities and more concessions to our export trade industries?

Lastly,—I must cut short my speech —I do not want to go into the details of my suggestions with regard to the textile industry. But, I feel that so far as the textile industry is concerned, we must modernise our industry. Whether we like it or not, we have to do it if we have to preserve our position in the international market. The steps taken by the Government up till now have not been very effective in that regard and I want that all the interests concerned, that is the employers, industrialists, the Government and the workers also should sit together and find out what sacrifices they can impose on themselves and find out what steps they need concretely take to step up the position and to improve the position of our cotton textile export trade.

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I do not have the time to go into the position of our principal export markets. But, I find there is one telling instance which I cannot resist the temptation to mention. The hon. Minister mentioned about vegetable oils. I find here in a report about Indo-German trade, that, in 1956-57, so far as vegetable oils are concerned, we supplied groundnut oil to Germany to the tune of German Marks 69.8 million. But, in 1957, it was just nothing. How can this sort of a thing happen? How are the possibilities and potentialities of export trade in the different markets not properly explored and definite steps taken to improve our position there? That is why suggest a Committee. I have suggested a Committee. But, it is not just an addition of one more Committee to the spate of committees that we already have. I want some sort of a committee with executive powers, which will take decisions and see that those decisions would be carried through and will not let those decisions to be smothered under heaps of files.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Four hon. Members have just now written to me that they will not be in Delhi tomorrow and therefore I will try to accommodate them first. Shri Morarka.

Shri Morarka: (Jhunjhunu): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, we are very grateful to the Minister of Commerce and Industry for making this statement which is so assuring and so hopeful. I say so particularly in the context of a question which he answered only a few days ago. The question was tabled by the hon. Member from Dehra Dun, Shri Tyagi and in the answer it was indicated that our exports this year might fall by Rs. 100 crores. The hon. Minister has given many reasons why our export trade is failing. But, I think, over and above those, there are three main reasons why our exports are not picking up and unless you do something basically, our export trade cannot pick up notwithstanding the various steps the Government may take and whatever

official agency the Government may organise and whatever new departments the Government may create.

The first thing is, our means of production have become outmoded. Take, for example, the textile industry.

This industry is completely worn out by the strain of production imposed on it during the war for increased production.

Pandit J. P. Jyotishi (Sagar): But how do these markets come there?

Shri Morarka: If you have some patience, you will listen.

If we want to export goods to other countries, we must have the capacity to compete with all other countries. If other countries have modern means of production, labour saving devices, if they can produce better goods and cheaper goods, and if we cannot do that then certainly the importing countries would go to them; they will not remain with India.

Whatever export trade we have in textiles was developed during the war and a few years after the war. Unfortunately, we could not keep that market. The reason was that even at the time when India could export we gave more importance, priority, to the consumption at home. We did not want our home needs to suffer. We rather sacrificed the foreign market. I remember that firm contracts had been entered into for which letters of credit had been opened, and suddenly by one notification the Government asked all the textile mills to cancel those orders irrespective of the consequences. True that was the emergency of the home market and the Government acted in the best interests of the country, but certainly by that action we scared the foreign purchasers the result is if they can buy the goods from any other country today for the same price for price for quality for quality they would not come to us.

My point is that if we want to keep our export markets, we must allow not only rationalisation, not only the rehabilitation of the textile industry,

but we must take active steps to see that our production is not only ~~abundant~~ but also better in quality. For that we may have even to import raw cotton from other countries.

The second reason why I feel our exports cannot pick up is the rigidity of our cost structure. Whatever the reasons may be—it may be the cost of raw materials, it may be the cost of labour, it may be the cost of management or anything—the cost structure in this country even in our exporting industries is becoming more and more rigid every day.

You would be surprised to know that this year the Government has exported sugar to some countries at a price of Rs. 33 per bag while the price of sugar to the consumer in this country is about Rs. 107 per bag. Just consider the difference. Our cost of production today per bag of sugar is much more than Rs. 33. Today the consumer in this country pays not less than Rs. 107 and even Rs. 110 per bag. The other day the Commerce and Industry Minister, in answer to Shri Tyagi, said that we cannot compete with China because China has a controlled economy, that the export price of that country has no relation to the cost of production. That is true, but in the case of sugar the same thing applies to this country which applies to the goods exported by China. Even in the case of cement, the consumer here has to pay more than what the foreign importer has to pay. If in other countries the cost of production of sugar can be Rs. 30 to Rs. 33 per bag, why can it not be less in our country? These are the basic things which must be examined. It is no use creating a Government agency and blaming the Government. The Government must tackle this problem basically, must go into the root cause of these things and must know how the industry can be made more efficient—whether it is in the public sector or the private sector is a small point in this context.

The thing reason which I want to point out is that for most of the indus-

tries in this country we have a secure market. The producer never feels the necessity of going in search of a market. He always finds a ready-made market at home. The price which the Indian consumer pays is always more than the price that the seller can get by exporting the goods. So, he never feels the urge or the necessity of going in search of markets. He is quite happy, quite content, and he gets more by selling the goods to the domestic consumer. Therefore, whatever other steps the Government may take—no doubt they would be useful—in my humble opinion they would be only temporary. If the Government wants to create a real export potential for this country the Government must make our industries efficient, must create certain incentive for the producers here to sell the goods in foreign markets. The cost structure must be made flexible, so that the industries can compete with the countries of the world.

My one criticism against the Government is that the Government does not regard, or has not organised, export promotion on an emergency basis, on the same basis as it was organised in England. I remember in 1948 when I went to England, it was facing almost the same situation in foreign exports which we are facing today. There, in the cold inter, England was exporting coal. The Englishmen could not purchase any woollen clothes which were of good quality in England. Everything was going for export. Even baby food, chocolates, sugar—all these things were earmarked for export. And look at the condition here. Last year there was a great cry against exporting groundnut oil because it was the poor man's food, and soon thereafter a ban was imposed on the export of guar because it was a cattle food. This is our emergency and we cannot export oil because it is the poor man's food. We cannot export guar because in Rajasthan and Punjab the cattle are accustomed to eat that food. If that is the priority

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of importance we give to our exports, I wonder how soon we can solve this problem.

Coming to incentives, there have been many incentives given by the Government. One incentive which has worked very well is the incentive of import quotas. That has been a very good incentive. It really persuades people to export because they export goods at a loss and that loss they make up and earn more money by importing against these quotas.

The Commerce and Industry Minister this afternoon told us that the export of artificial silk or such yarn, etc., is improving. That is only an artificial improvement. That improvement is not real. There is no demand for this type of goods, and India cannot compete in price. The exporters are incurring a loss, but they can afford to incur a loss because the import quota they get is much more lucrative.

This, in effect, means a selective devaluation of your currency. I must congratulate the Government on allowing selective devaluation of currency rather than resorting to general devaluation of currency. Our import pattern is so rigid that by devaluing the currency, you would not be able to cut down your imports. You have your commitments for different projects, for machines, and for various other things. You have no choice. You are bound to import them, whatever the cost may be, and therefore, instead of devaluing the currency in general and paying a higher price for the same goods, it is much better to give such import incentives allowing people to export even at a loss and make up that loss by importing other goods.

In this connection, I would make the suggestion that Government should fix a percentage of import quota for the foreign exchange that an exporter can earn—10, 15 or 20 per cent, whatever it may be, but let it be general. Do not tie one commodity with

another. Whatever one may export, allow him 10 per cent of foreign exchange for import, and let him import whatever he likes. Even if he were to make more money, that profit would only be temporary, because more importers would import the same things, there would be a bigger supply and the price would adjust itself, and ultimately only those commodities will come here which are needed.

So, I suggest for the serious consideration of Government whether they could not evolve a method under which imports may be allowed as a certain percentage of the export earnings that a person makes.

16 hrs.

I have one more criticism to make, and that is that Government appoints committees and commissions from time to time, but they do not take decisions on their reports quickly. Now, Government has appointed a committee, and that committee submitted its report quite some time back. The subject is quite urgent and emergent, and yet Government take their usual time in taking a decision on those recommendations. I am referring to two committees. The first is the Export Promotion Committee which was appointed in early 1957, which submitted its report some time in August, 1957, and the other is the Textile Enquiry Committee which submitted its report also quite some time back, but decision was taken on it only recently, some time in the middle of November.

If our export needs are so great—and I have no doubt that they are great—and the situation is so emergent, I think Government must wake up to the needs of the day and they must set up a special machinery now to re-examine these recommendations and accept them or reject them. They can take whatever decision they like, surely, but they should not keep things in suspense. The trade today looks to Government.

Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri: May I inform the hon. Member that so far as the Report of the Textile Enquiry Committee is concerned, it was considered fairly quickly, and the resolution of Government was announced within about three months' time?

Shri Morarka: I am sorry my conception of quickness differs from that of the hon. Minister. According to the hon. Minister, certainly it was pretty quickly done, but I made the same criticism even in one of the consultative committee meetings, and even thereafter it took quite some time before the decision came. However, that is a small point. I would only suggest to Government to consider it, and if they find it possible, Government may accept it

I am sorry I have to oppose the amendment to the motion standing in the name of Shri Tridib Kumar Chaudhuri. Among other things, the amendment of the hon. Member says:

"... the House is of the opinion that all steps taken by the Government so far for export promotion and for improving our trade balances have proved a complete failure."

If for no other reasons, only on this one ground, I should like to oppose it. It is a very sweeping statement to make that all steps taken by Government have proved a complete failure. I think but for the steps taken by Government, the position today would have been much worse. Whatever improvements we see, such as the arrest in the falling of our exports of textiles, and the improvement in the exports of manganese and iron ore, etc., are all mainly due to the incentives provided by Government. So, to say that Government policy has proved a complete failure is too sweeping a remark.

I am grateful to you for having given me this chance.

Shri S. M. Banerjee (Kanpur): I have carefully listened to the statement of Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri. I do not want to discuss all the points, but I shall confine myself to the Report of the Textile Enquiry Committee, and especially, to the chapter on exports. When we read the report, what do we find? We find that the only way to accelerate our exports is the immediate introduction of automatic looms. As explained to this House by the hon. Minister, there is a recession in the capitalist world, he has not used the words 'capitalist world', but the words 'international world'.

Previously, whenever this question was raised, and any question was asked whether this recession had any effect on our economy, we were told in this House unhesitatingly that ours was a developing economy, and, therefore, it had no effect. But now we have come to the conclusion that this recession in the capitalist world has had an adverse effect on our country's economy.

I should like to read a few lines from the Textile Enquiry Committee's report. At page 25, we find:

"It has been suggested to us with great force that exports cannot be maintained even at their present level and will continue to fall steeply unless we export cloth produced on automatic looms. The reason stated is that the preference in the markets abroad is definitely for flaw-less cloth which can be produced only on automatic looms and other countries including Japan and China have equipped themselves extensively with automatic looms."

I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister to one other thing. He has also said here in this House that in 1950, our export figure was 1,100 million yards of cloth. Was it produced on automatic looms? I fail to understand the reason. Was our cloth, which was exported to the tune of 1,100 million yards in 1950 to foreign

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countries full of flaw, and did those countries accept it at that time, taking into account our dependence on them? Was that cloth full of flaws? Our export figure in 1950 was the highest according to the information given by the hon. Minister. I do not know what happened in 1948 or 1949, but the 1950 figure is available, and that is the highest, and that indicates clearly that our cloth was of good quality.

When we discuss about the introduction of automatic looms, I realise that India has to keep pace with the world markets. India has to keep pace with the expansion and modernisation of the textile industry as such with the world. But are we in a position to do so? Why is there opposition from the labourers? The Textile Enquiry Committee has also stated that the labourers should be taken into confidence in implementing this scheme. But they have also stated that there had been indirect introduction of rationalisation in various textile mills. As you know, at the time of the Fifteenth Labour Conference, certain agreements were reached between the employers, Government, and the employees' representatives regarding the introduction of rationalisation; and those conditions are very well known to this House and to the hon. Minister. But without respecting those decisions, those agreements and those conditions, there had been indirect rationalisation in most of the mills. That has been clearly admitted by the Textile Enquiry Committee in their report, and that has been reproduced also in their report. I would read out that particular portion. At the bottom of page 25, they say:

"We have noticed, however, that as in other forms of rationalisation of the industry including modernisation, labour have been progressively responsive and we have no doubt that in the field of introduction of automatic looms also, they would respond well."

I do not know when the labourers and the workers responded well to this indirect rationalisation. I come from Kanpur, and I know there was an 85-day old strike in Kanpur against the introduction of power looms. Ultimately a Committee was appointed called the Bindubhasini Committee. It submitted its report. It gave certain suggestions. That particular report has not yet been accepted. So the suggestion that the workers accepted introduction of rationalisation, even through backdoor, is not correct.

Then I am surprised to see that this particular Committee did not meet the many labour organisations in the country. It met only those who were in favour of introduction of automatic looms.

In the concluding remarks of the Committee, they say:

"Our country is well set on planned, progressive economic development. The demand for cloth, must, therefore, inevitably grow. In this total demand, the textile industry is assured of a steady and major share. The industry is also the best organised among various sectors producing cotton textiles."

Yet my hon. friend, Shri Morarka, says that the entire industry is worn out! The Committee says that we have a bright future. But the bright future is that today 34,000 workers are on the street and about 34 mills are closed and some more are partially closed—I do not remember the exact number stated by Shri Manubhai Shah.

So I say that the workers' organisations should be consulted. I feel that there is internal market also. But what did we do to modernise these mills? Why did some mills produce only coarse and medium cloth? They were also interested in producing that particular cloth because there was reduction after reduction in excise duty. When the market was full,

when there was stock, they said: 'We want a further decrease in the excise duty.' Certain impossible conditions were placed on the Government by saying 'Either you accept or we close our mills.' I feel the closure of certain mills has no reason behind it. Many mills are likely to be closed because of their pressure tactics on Government. That is clear. They ask the workers, 'Either you accept retrenchment and starvation or agree to the introduction of automatic looms or at least rationalisation through the back door.' This is not fair.

My submission is that the problem has to be considered from a different angle.

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Kanungo): What does the hon. Member mean by 'rationalisation by back-door'?

Shri S. M. Banerjee: They were never consulted about rationalisation. It was introduced at the pistol point. It came through the back-door. The hon. Minister knows about it much more than I do.

I know that a section of the working class led by some organisations want automatic looms to come. We do not oppose it. But we want to have a proper discussion on this. Are we in a position to introduce automatic looms in this country without having any retrenchment? Will it not involve tremendous retrenchment? Will it not increase our number of unemployed people?

They could not have rationalisation introduced in the name of internal market. Now they are trying to do it by invoking the excuse of exports. They say that if exports have to go up, automatic looms have to be installed. They want to do it in the name of shrinkage of exports.

As stated by my hon. friend, Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri, our future is not so bad. Even the figures of export from July, 1958, till November are

encouraging. So let us analyse the whole thing as to what is in the mind of the millowners. What do they actually want? In the name of exports, they want to introduce automatic looms. In the name of exports, they want to throw thousands of workers on the streets and aggravate the situation and make it impossible for the Government and the working class leaders to tackle the situation. They want to create chaotic conditions in the industry.

This particular Committee led by Shri Joshi went to Kanpur and wanted to consult some people. Whom did they consult? There are organisations led by the I.N.T.U.C. and the Sooti Mill Mazdoor Sabha. They never consulted them. They only consulted the Kapada Committee. Only that Committee was allowed to place its views before the Committee. What is the Kapada Committee? They are the selling agents of some millowners! They were allowed to place their views before the Committee; they were allowed to present their memorandum. Actually the workers were never consulted. They were not allowed to express their viewpoint before this Committee which was actually appointed at the instance of the working class. It was appointed when this matter was exhaustively discussed at the Nainital Conference at which my hon. friend, Shri Manubhai Shah, was present. He was very helpful in having this Committee appointed. But what has happened is that the workers were not allowed to place their views before them.

Now when the question of export comes, they say that there is shrinkage in exports. So automatic looms will have to be introduced. They say 'either accept automatic looms and retrenchment or the foreign exchange position will deteriorate'. This sort of threatening will not work.

Let us discuss this entire question with the workers' representatives. In this regard, I am sure all the central trade union organisations will be

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unanimous, though it said that the Madhya Pradesh textile organisation has expressed a different view. I do not know whether it is the I.N.T.U.C. or some other body. It must be I.N.T.U.C. They say they have no objection to automatic looms and they have already sacrificed 5,000 workers from 1948. That stand cannot be taken by us because we represent the workers, not at the cost of the nation. If there is something really wrong, on behalf of the workers I assure you I shall not back up their cause. But we cannot tolerate this kind of coercive methods, trying to force on workers something which they do not want, unless there is a national emergency and the entire economy of the nation is in jeopardy and it becomes a matter of national necessity. It has been clearly stated in the Labour Conference that unless there is a real national emergency, rationalisation should not be implemented.

As regards Kanpur, I am very much indebted to Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri, Shri Kanungo and Shri Manubhai Shah. They are giving their constant attention to the Kanpur problem. But the Kanpur problem has become a cancer. It has been created by the friends of the Government, and we have to solve it. Nothing is acceptable in Kanpur now. No scheme, whether good, bad or indifferent, is acceptable. The suggestions of the Bindubhasini Committee are not accepted. There the J.K.s, Birlas and the notorious speculator, Mundhra and others are interested in putting up a common front against the workers. These millowners are robbing the Government of their receipts. In reply to an unstarred question of mine wherein I had asked about the receipts of income-tax realised from them and the total of the amount yet to be realised. The reply is: 'Yes. Steps are being taken under the Income Tax Act. The total amount collected upto 31st October, 1958, from the different mills is Rs. 55,20,486. The amount to be collected is Rs. 24,25,438.' This is

the income-tax arrears. Sales tax will run to the tune of lakhs. The provident fund which they have not paid amounts to Rs. 15,75,000. Electricity charges come to Rs. 2 lakhs; water charges Rs. 3 lakhs. They do not want to pay anybody, not even the lay off wages to the workers. This is what is happening in Kanpur. I would request that specially in Kanpur action should be taken against these anti-national and anti-social elements. He should have enough power in the hands of Government to take over these mills. Otherwise, we will become a sad spectator of this entire show. I do not expect that our Government should become so weak when it is a question of Padampat Singhanla or Jaipuria and others. I am facing this trouble

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: When the hon. Member says Kanpur, everybody is covered. Why name individuals?

Shri S. M. Banerjee: Because I represent Kanpur and I have the privilege of meeting these persons.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: No need to repeat individual names.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: I will rectify.

Shri Tangaman: The names are an institution.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: I will only request this House to take note of it. The hon. Minister and the Government may be honest about promoting our export trade. But in the name of export another swindling may not take place and the speculators and sharks may not take advantage of it and slaughter thousands of workers. Today there are 34,000 men—and if we take the families into account, at least 1½ lakhs of men, women and children—on the streets. Let there be no slaughtering of the workers.

With these words I request that this matter be discussed at the highest level. The workers' organisations

should be invited and a full-fledged discussion should take place. That is my submission and I hope the hon. Minister will take note of the suffering and distress of the workers in Kanpur at the hands of these sharks who are a nuisance to society.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The hon. Member does not seem to be in a hurry; he was saying these things as if he was going to catch a train.
Shri Damani.

Shri Damani (Jalore): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, at the outset I want to thank the hon. Minister of Commerce and Industry for moving a motion on the present trends in the export trade of India and the state of the textile industry which contributes materially to that trade.

This has given an opportunity to the hon. Members of this House to express their views on this vital subject. Our exports during the current year are rather disappointing. According to the estimates, our exports during the current year will be about Rs. 550 crores as against our export during 1956 of Rs. 613 crores and in 1957 of Rs. 605 crores. That means that during the current year our exports will be about Rs. 63 crores less than what it was in 1956 and about Rs. 55 crores less than it was in 1957, last year. When this fall is there at such a critical moment when we want foreign exchange and when in the next two years we will require more of foreign exchange, it is essential that every effort should be made to augment our exports to the best of our ability.

During the current year Government have taken several measures to augment our export trade. They have reduced the export duty on several items; they have also appointed several advisory committees to augment exports. They have given several import licences for raw materials in order to augment our export trade. In every way Government have tried their level best to increase our exports. But shortfall is experienced due to competition from China, Japan and other

communist countries. Therefore, it is the duty of the industry and Government to meet these competitors in the traditional markets which are the Near East, the Middle East and U.K.

Our major exports are jute and textile goods. Now, iron ore and manganese ore are also coming up as foreign exchange earners. Now, I take the textiles.

During 1956, our export of the textile goods was worth about Rs. 87 crores. It amounted to 860 million yards. But this year, according to the figures available or estimates made, our exports will be only about 600 million yards which would amount to Rs. 40 crores. Out of the total fall of about Rs. 55 crores in our export earnings, about Rs. 25 crores is attributable to the fall in the exports of textile goods alone. This fall is due to the keen competition from Japan and China and other communist countries in our traditional markets. Previously we had to compete with Japan only but now China has come in. Their prices are so low that it is very difficult for the manufacturer here to compete with them. So, it is essential that some special incentives should be given to the textile industry to maintain the export trade. We export mainly medium and coarse varieties and it amounts to 92 per cent of the total exports of textiles to the Middle-East and Near-East countries. There are some other reasons for the fall in our exports, apart from the keen competition. So, it is essential that we should contribute more towards augmenting these exports and see how the exports could increase. Recently the Government has announced some incentives for import of dyes, chemicals and colours against our exports and it has also formulated some scheme for importing raw cotton against the export of textile goods. The scheme for import of raw cotton, will, according to me, be of doubtful benefit because most of the cloth exported is of coarse and medium counts and the coarse and medium count cloth mills are already running at a heavy loss. All these mills which

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have closed down were also manufacturing coarse and medium count cloth and the foreign exchange earned by the export of cloth is mostly by those mills. Therefore, I want to suggest that against the export of cloth, import of cotton should be allowed on a percentage basis. Certain percentage should be fixed for importing cotton against the exports. That will be a proper incentive and it will be helpful in augmenting our exports to these countries. The percentage of import of cotton should be fixed on the basis of textile exports. Certain targets had been fixed. But the percentage should be fixed on the basis of exports as I explained.

We have to stand keen competition in these countries. They have controlled economy and modern machinery. Therefore, it will not be possible to reduce our selling price without sufficient incentives. Therefore, my submission is that this matter should be considered by the hon. Minister seriously and I think, if proper incentives are given, we would be in a position to regain our exports properly. I think, Sir, this is the proper time when something should be done immediately to augment our export trade.

Dr. Krishnaswami (Chingleput): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, my hon. friend the Commerce Minister in the resolution that has been moved states that we should consider the present trends in the export trade of India and the state of the textile industry which contributes materially to that trade. I should like, with your permission, Sir, to just present a few figures which I have culled from official statistics. They serve to underline the seriousness of the situation, and before one suggests any prescriptions to be followed it would be proper to have a correct diagnosis. The total exports were of the order of Rs. 594 crores in 1957-58 as compared to Rs. 637 crores in 1956-57 and Rs. 641 crores in 1955-56. If these exports are compared with

earlier years it will be found that in 1954-55 our exports were of the value of Rs. 596 crores, in 1953-54 Rs. 539 crores and in 1952-53 Rs. 602 crores. I exclude the year 1951-52 which was the year of the Korean War when we achieved a maximum export trade of the value of Rs. 732 crores.

What is important to remember,—and I think it is proper that I should refer to this fact at the outset,—is that while exports are currently around the 1952-53 level, imports have arisen from Rs. 633 crores in 1952-53 to Rs. 1,175 crores in 1957-58. In fact, Government imports, apart from food and defence, for almost entirely for developmental purposes. These have gone up from Rs. 190 crores in 1952-53, Rs. 190 crores in 1953-54 to about Rs. 493 crores in 1957-58 and probably currently, they are running at a higher rate. In short, while exports have remained around the same levels, imports have very nearly doubled.

This is reflected in the trade balance, which has worsened over the last five years. In 1952-53 the adverse trade balance was Rs. 31 crores, whereas in 1957-58 it was Rs. 580 crores. Let us realise that we as a nation could afford this only because we had accumulated savings in the form of sterling balances. But these have declined now from Rs. 746 crores in 1955-56 to about Rs. 160 crores, and this decline is in spite of the withdrawal of 200 million dollars from the International Monetary Fund and the accelerated repayment of pension funds from the United Kingdom under the Pension Resettlement from the United Kingdom and other miscellaneous aids.

Obviously this state of affairs cannot continue. The alternatives would be either to reduce imports and/or increase exports and/or seek additional foreign aid. Already we have cut imports down to the barest minimum for the maintenance of our economy. The stocks of consumer goods and, even more, the stocks of imported raw materials have run

down to dangerous levels. No further curtailment is possible, and in fact, any further increase in industrial production would depend on the additional raw materials which we can import from abroad. Our import requirements are likely to increase rather than diminish in the process of industrial development which we have embarked upon. It would be futile to seek relief by a further curtailment of imports. This leaves only three courses open to us: either we seek additional foreign assistance and/or we export more, or else we reduce the size of our developmental effort with all its social and political consequences which would be of a serious nature.

Let us face the fact squarely, that without a considerably larger volume of exports our entire developmental effort would remain tied up with the availability or otherwise of foreign aid. No doubt, Sir, foreign aid is essential in the early stages of development. But ultimately even the quantum of foreign credits which a country can receive is dependent upon its own efforts in the field of exports. The servicing of foreign loans in the way of interest and repayment of capital would place a further burden on our balance of payment in 1960 or roundabouts. By the time the second Plan ends, we would have an external liability of over a thousand crores of rupees and the very servicing of this loan would entail a net burden of at least Rs. 50 crores to Rs. 60 crores on an average. In some years it probably would be much more. This provides the context for a consideration of our export policies. The problem to my mind is not one of merely encouraging exports. It is really a problem of either we export or we stagnate. For some years to come, we will be exactly in the same position as the United Kingdom in the immediate post-war years was or Japan is even today. We will have to live on our exports and our development will, therefore, be conditioned by our success in the promotion of exports.

In stark and rough terms this is our position. One-fifth of the value of our exports is obtained by exporting tea. Raw materials of all kinds constitute one-fourth, and manufactures including cotton and jute textiles constitute forty per cent. Indeed, unlike a number of other undeveloped countries we are not, fortunately for us, dependent on a few primary commodities the prices of which fluctuate widely. Malaya for instance can have a justification for saying that because its exports of rubber declined in a particular year it had to face a depression. But we have, no one else to blame except ourselves for our poor performance.

A part of our decline in exports has been up to now—and I do not blame the present Commerce Minister but ourselves for what has happened—the result of our policies. The classic example is of course the export of vegetable oils. Because of our restrictions on exports, our export earnings declined from about Rs. 40 crores in 1955-56 to a mere bagatelle of about Rs. 13 crores in 1957-58.

Shri Ranga: Much earlier it used to be much better.

Dr. Krishnaswami: But I am narrating the story from 1955-56. By the time we released vegetable oils for exports, world prices had fallen; other suppliers had captured our traditional markets and in spite of our removal of restrictions very little business has been transacted.

In the case of tea we have lost and we are fast losing our pre-eminence as exporters. By persistently refusing to lower export duties or remove them, by encouraging excessive wage demands and by allowing the State Governments to impose all kinds of sundry taxes, we have created a new tea industry in East Africa. I wish the Government would advert to some of the consequences of their policies. The result has been to create a new tea industry in East

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Africa which is growing in strength and which in the next three years will bring our whole tea industry into jeopardy.

I want the Government of India and I want the various State Governments to realize the seriousness of this threat. It is in the context of this threat that we will have to re-think our labour policies, our systems of taxation and the incentives that we will have to offer to various export industries. I know it will be suggested that the State Governments have the right to levy certain taxes and that, therefore, they are availing themselves of what is constitutionally permitted. But I am surprised that in the National Development Council, the threat to the existence of an industry should not have been brought to the notice of the various State Governments, and the seriousness of the threat to the tea industry in Assam and Bengal should not have been brought to the notice of the State Governments. Had the seriousness of this threat been brought to their notice, I am sure that they would have acted as patriotically as any right thinking citizen would have done that they would have been the first to realize that some of these taxes which they are levying are only pennywise and pound-foolish.

The plain truth of the matter is that in spite of the marginal concessions and encouragements which my hon. friend has given quite recently, we still tend to accord exports only a secondary place.

It is time we realised that exports should be given a primary place; it is time we realised this, because without doing thus, all talk of having a gigantic third Plan would be but empty talk. I suggest to my hon. friend, the Commerce Minister, that he should take special steps to bring about a greater co-operative atmosphere not only as between labour and capital, but also as between States

and the Centre, and to remind the States that the seriousness of the threat has to be taken into account by them. If the States do not act with wisdom now, in another four or five years, our tea industry will be a thing of the past.

It is time we orientated the whole complex of our policies towards export promotion. This would imply, firstly, provision of special incentives to those engaged in export trade and those units manufacturing for export. The Government has only recently introduced certain concessions in the shape of special facilities bill market, which according to it would give a valuable incentive to exporters. But if we compare the concessions that are given here in India with the concessions given in the U.K., it will be found that the concessions provided by the Reserve Bank are of a very nominal character and do not appreciably afford incentives to exporters.

Therefore, I suggest that the provision of additional facilities to the export trade by way of concessional finance should be taken in hand by the hon. the Commerce Minister. This is a matter which has to be dealt with immediately. I am aware that in the Government of India, the rivalry between the various departments is much greater than the quarrels between different empires. But when the problem in its full complexity, faces us and the seriousness of it is apparent, I am sure the hon. Commerce Minister will bring to bear his tact and persuasion on other Ministers of the Government and make them realise that they can ill afford to adopt, a departmental approach that there should be a comprehensive approach to these various problems.

In addition certain other steps will have to be taken by the Ministry of Commerce. My hon. friend referred to the textile industry. I am aware of the concessions that have been given by the Government. The

recent concessions given to the textile industry, valuable as they are, do not solve the basic difficulties of that industry. We have not permitted the textile industry to modernise its structure and bring down its costs. I realise that in this matter, we are faced with certain social difficulties. I realise the value of employment. But surely, and this is a point of view which I wish to put forward to those who are interested in the welfare of labour, it is time that we emphasised the value of productivity. In the history of many countries, it is with the increase in productivity that there has been an increase in employment opportunities, and often—I do not say that we should commit ourselves always to it—we would have to strike the balance in favour of productivity.

Shri Tangamani: Are you suggesting that the productivity has fallen now?

Dr. Krishnaswami: Yes, productivity in the textile industry is low compared to what it would have been if the machinery had been modernised. I am certain that if automatic looms had been installed there would have been an increase in productivity.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The hon. Member must continue addressing the Chair.

Dr. Krishnaswami: I am addressing them through you. I would not dream of addressing them direct.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: He is turning his face to that side.

Dr. Krishnaswami: I am certain that when we are dealing with productivity, we have also to take into consideration the questions of employment. But it is possible to over-stress this factor of unemployment. If 6,000 or 7,000 people are unemployed as a result of rationalisation, we should find alternative schemes for absorbing them in other employments.

That is what we should do. Because if there is a possibility of increasing the productivity of the textile industry, there is also a possibility of our seeing to it that these 6,000 or 7,000 unemployed are absorbed in alternative occupation, and for achieving this our thought-process has not started functioning. We must realise that there will be many difficulties in our exports increasing in different areas of the world. We must realise that there will be keen competition from China. There is going to be keen competition from Japan. Indeed, we would have to meet these threats by organising and putting our house in order, by organising our industry in a more efficient manner. It serves no purpose to adopt a doctrinaire approach.

My hon. friend stressed the fact of the State Trading Corporation having played a notable part. Now, the State Trading Corporation may have many achievements to its credit. But certainly increasing the export trade of our country is not one of its achievements. Indeed, when the time comes for this House to have a discussion of the State Trading Corporation's activities, I venture to think we will have a lot to say on how that body can be improved upon and what steps should be taken to give it a new life and dynamism instead of making it purely bureaucratic and all enveloping in character.

But it is not so much the creation of new bodies that is important. It is the approach to this problem that is important. I venture to think that the Prime Minister, who has been suggesting that those who want the Plan to be curtailed are doing a disservice, —I venture to think that the Prime Minister should take a more intimate interest in how these exports should be promoted that he should see to it that in the National Development Council these matters are brought up for consideration before the various States representatives. The larger the volume of our exports, the greater

[Dr. Krishnaswami]

would it be possible for us to have a larger Plan. Indeed, the real enemy of the Plan is not this or that individual but the atmosphere of stagnation that threatens to creep and overwhelm us today and which can be transformed only by increasing our exports.

श्री रा० क० वर्मा : उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं अपने विचार रखने के पूर्व यह निवेदन करना चाहता हूँ कि इसके लिये समय बहुत थोड़ा रखा गया है और मुझे इन विषय में बहुत अधिक कहना है ।

उपाध्यक्ष महोदय : आप कहना तो शुरू करे ।

श्री रा० क० वर्मा : माननीय मंत्री महोदय ने जो अपने स्टेटमेंट में टेक्सटाइल इंडस्ट्री का जिक्र किया है, उस टेक्सटाइल इंडस्ट्री से मेरा १६ वर्ष की उम्र से सम्बन्ध रहा है और आज भी उसी तरह से है । जहाँ तक टेक्सटाइल इंडस्ट्री और कपड़े के एक्सपोर्ट का सवाल है, मे यह मानता हूँ कि हमारे देश में इस इंडस्ट्री के लिये सभी प्रकार की सुविधायें हैं जिससे हम अपने देश की जरूरतों को तो पूरा कर ही सकते हैं किन्तु एक्सपोर्ट करके उससे काफी फायदेन एक्सचेंज भी प्राप्त कर सकते हैं । लेकिन इस उद्योग के सम्बन्ध में मुख्य बात दृष्टिकोण की है वह होना चाहिये । दृष्टिकोण में तीन बातें मुख्य हैं । पहले उत्पादन, दूसरे क्वालिटी और तीसरे उद्योग का सुसंचालन । इसके सम्बन्ध में बोलते हुये मैं पहले यह निवेदन करना चाहता हूँ कि जहाँ तक टेक्सटाइल इंडस्ट्री का सवाल है, हमारे देश की टेक्सटाइल इंडस्ट्री अग्लेन्ड, अमरिक्नोल्ड और मिससिपि है । अगर यह तीनों बातें हमारे शासन के ध्यान में आ जाती हैं और शासन उन पर विचार करने के लिये तैयार हो जाता है, तो मैं ऐसा मानता हूँ कि इन दिशा में हम काफी तरक्की कर सकते हैं । मेरी समझ में नहीं आता कि टेक्सटाइल

इंडस्ट्री के सम्बन्ध में, एक कमेटी, दो कमेडिबल, तीन कमेडिबल, टैरिफ बोर्ड सब की रिपोर्टें शासन के सामने आती हैं लेकिन क्यों शासन उनके ऊपर गम्भीरता से विचार नहीं करता । मुझे ऐसा लगता है कि शासन को जितनी विलचस्पी टेक्सटाइल इंडस्ट्री के बारे में लेनी चाहिये वह उतनी नहीं लेता है, उसकी ओर उसकी उदासीनता है । दूसरे मुझे ऐसा लगता है कि हमारे देश की जनता को भी टेक्सटाइल इंडस्ट्री के बारे में अधिक जानकारी नहीं है । इसलिये जितनी भी एम्बेयरी कमेटीयों की रिपोर्ट होती है उनसे मायूस होता है, और अनुभव भी होता है कि हमेशा टेक्सटाइल इंडस्ट्री में गड़बड़ी रहा करती है । कपड़े का उत्पादन भी बढ़ता है लेकिन लोगों को रुचि और आवश्यकता के अनुसार कपड़ा नहीं मिलता । इस का मुख्य कारण क्या है, यह सारी बातें देखने के लिये मैं मदन में अपने विचार कुछ विस्तृत रूप में रखना चाहता था ।

श्रीमान्, मबाल यह हीं रहा है कि हमारी टेक्सटाइल इंडस्ट्री के जो मंचालक लोग हैं वे उत्पादन करने में जनता की चिंता का कोई ध्यान नहीं रखते और हमेशा अपने प्राफिट के आधार पर यह सारा उत्पादन करते हैं और बड़े मजों की बात तो यह है कि टेक्सटाइल एम्बेयरी कमेटी की रिपोर्ट में प्रोडक्शन फीज करने का एक सुझाव भी आया है और वह एक सुझाव यह आया है कि बड़े सिप्ट बन्द की जायें और स्विडिस और नूमन पाटनी बन्द किये जायें . . .

श्री कानूनगी : कौनसी रिपोर्ट में यह कहा गया है ?

श्री रा० क० वर्मा : इसी रिपोर्ट में यह कहा गया है । मैं आपको बताने ला । उसने एक सुझाव यह भी किया है कि मज-

दूरों की पन्द्रह दिन की संचेतन छुट्टी जो कानून के अनुसार होती है वह कपड़ा क्रीम करने की गरज से अमिकों को साल में पन्द्रह दिन के लिये बंद भेज दिया जाय ।

मुझे समझ में नहीं आता कि जब द्वितीय पंचवर्षीय योजना के अन्दर हमने साढ़े १८ गज प्रति व्यक्ति टारगेट ठहराया है और धाज जो हमारे पावर लूमस, हैंडलूमस और मिलों का उत्पादन होता है, एक्सपोर्ट और इम्पोर्ट किया जाता है उन तमाम का आउटपुट प्रति व्यक्ति १६.८ गज आता है और अब हमें १६.८ गज से १८.५ गज तक ले जाना है । और जब द्वितीय पंचवर्षीय योजना में यह बात आ रही थी कि प्रति व्यक्ति साढ़े १८ गज कपड़ा रक्खा जाय तब पूंजीपति और मिल उद्योग के मिल मालिक यह जोर दे रहे थे कि प्रति व्यक्ति १८^१/_२ गज कपड़ा बहुत कम होता है और वह २१ गज और २५ गज क्यों नहीं रक्खा जाता है और यह १८^१/_२ गज क्यों रक्खा जा रहा है । जब कि एन्वयामरी कमेटी में सुझाव है कि १७^१/_२ गज रक्खा जाय हालांकि द्वितीय पंचवर्षीय योजना में १८^१/_२ गज के लिये कहा है तो उस समय यह मिल मालिक २१ गज और २५ गज की बात करते थे । द्वितीय पंचवर्षीय योजना में १८^१/_२ गज के ऊपर भी हम नहीं पहुँचे हैं और आज १६.८ गज कपड़ा प्रति व्यक्ति हमारे बहा धा रहा है और मिल मालिक अब १७^१/_२ गज पर उतर कर आ गये हैं । श्रीमान्, मुझे ऐसा लगता है कि गवर्नमेंट के अन्दर काफी कनफ्यूजन है और जनता को इसकी जानकारी नहीं है कि यह जो कपड़ा उद्योग के मासिक है वह इतने किचर सिन्वे जा रहे हैं । धाज काफी मास भरा हुआ है । श्रीमान्, वह बेचना की ज़रूरत है कि धाज जनता का टूट क्या है और जनता की पकड़नी क्या है ? धाज जनता फाइन और सुपरफाइन के ऊपर आ रही है । जनता

मिडेड और फिनिश गृहस के ऊपर आ रही है लेकिन हम देखते हैं कि फाइन और सुपर-फाइन घटा कर मीडियम और कोर्स कपड़े का डेर लगा दिया गया है । इसके अलावा अब आप देखिये कि क्रॉट कपड़े का (कट पीस) का परसंवेब भी कितना बढ़ गया है ? क्योंकि मिल मालिक एक्सट्राण इयटी बचाने के लिये कपड़े के अच्छे धानों को पीने तीन गज के टुकड़े करके बाजार में बेचते हैं । मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि गवर्नमेंट को इसकी जानकारी है कि नहीं और यदि है तो वह इसको रोकने के लिये क्या कदम उठा रही है ? मैं गवर्नमेंट के ध्यान में यह चीज भी लाना चाहता हूँ कि आर्डर के बमुताबिक उद्योगपति कपड़े की जात का रजिस्टर मेंटेन करते हैं उसमें तो यही लिखते हैं कि कपड़े की किस्म ४० गीज और ४० पीक है लेकिन एक्चुअली डाली जाती है ३६ गीज और ३६ पीक । इस तरह से कमी कर यह लोग १० परसेंट सूत की तो गीज और पीक से ही चोरी कर लेते हैं और कंज्यूमर्स को धोखा देते हैं । जब मैं यह चीजें टैक्स-टाइल कमिश्नर साहब और गवर्नमेंट के सामने रखता हूँ और इसकी बाबत उनको लिखता हूँ तो मुझे कोई माफूल जवाब नहीं दिया जाता है और ऐसे मामलों में उनकी धोर मे कह दिया जाता है कि कोई खास बात नहीं है । इस प्रकार की जो गड़बड़ी टैक्सटाइल इंडस्ट्री के सम्बन्ध में चल रही है, इसको मैं एक नहीं बल्कि दो, तीन यज्ञा फाइनेंस मिनिस्टर साहब और उद्योग मंत्री महोदय के ध्यान में लाया और टैक्सटाइल कमिश्नर महोदय का भी इधर ध्यान दिलाया लेकिन उनका कोई खास कतीबा नहीं निकला ।

हरमसल में हूँ अपने देश की जनता की रुचि के अनुसार उद्योगों को पूरा करने के लिये ७ अरब ५० करोड़ गज कपड़े की ज़रूरत है जब कि धाज हमारे पास ६ अरब ५८ करोड़ गज कपड़ा है जो ७ अरब ५०

[श्री रा० क० वर्मा]

करोड़ के बहुत कम कपड़ा होता है। वह जो कपड़े का अधिक उत्पादन नहीं हो रहा है उसका कारण क्या है? श्रीमान्, टैक्सटाइल इंडस्ट्री में काम करने वाले मजदूरों से अपना उत्पादन किस तरह से बढ़ाया है वह हमारे देश के लिये भीर इस इंडस्ट्री में काम करने वाले मजदूरों के लिये एक बड़े गर्ब की बात है और हमारे शासन के लिये भी गर्ब की बात है। लेकिन मुझे अफसोस के साथ यह भीष कहनी पड़ती है कि हमारे वे पूंजीपति जो कि २०० पाँड़ से ज्यादा धन वाले होते हैं और कड़क टोपी, लम्बा झब्बा और डीली धोती पहनते हैं उनको उत्पादन बढ़ाने की चिन्ता नहीं रहती और वे तो केवल अपनी जेबें भरने में लगे रहते हैं और न उन्हें टैक्सटाइल इंडस्ट्री की पड़ी है और न वर्कर्स की पड़ी है और न ही उन्हें अपनी इस द्वितीय पंचवर्षीय योजना को कामयाब बनाने की कोई परवाह है। उत्पादन को हानि पहुंचा, टैक्स माफ करा मुनाफा कमाना ही उनका धंधा है।

श्रीमान्, टैक्सटाइल इंडस्ट्री की जो वर्तमान स्थिति है उसकी ओर सरकार द्वारा ध्यान दिया जाय ओ: इस सारे ट्रेंड के ऊपर गौर से ध्यान दिया जाय। अगर आप आज भी जो इस इंडस्ट्री में मिसमैनेजमेंट चल रहा है उस मैसेजमेंट को आप निकाल कर दूर नहीं करेंगे और ठीक से आप इसको कंट्रोल नहीं करेंगे तो इस इंडस्ट्री को जैसा कि आप उसे देखना चाहते हैं, नहीं देख पायेंगे।

श्री श्री बनर्जी ने आटोमेटिक लूम्स का जिक्र किया और यह बतलाया कि मध्य प्रदेश में आटोमेटिक लूम्स डाले गये हैं जिससे ५००० मजदूरों को कम किया गया है। मैं इसके बारे में यह निवेदन करना चाहता हूँ कि उन्हें पूरी जानकारी नहीं थी। टैक्सटाइल एम्प्लायरी कमेटी के सामने मैंने अपना जो मेमोरेण्डम दिया है वो वक्रा मेरी एविडेंस हुई है और मुझे एक मर्तबा बम्बई

बुलाया गया और दूसरी बार इंदौर बुलाया गया। वहाँ तक मेरे प्रदेश का ताल्लुक है, मेरे प्रदेश में एक भी आटोमेटिक लूम नहीं डाला गया है और न ही कोई श्रमिक फोरलूम चलता है।

इंडियन लेबर कान्फेंस के अन्दर जो निर्णय हुआ है और द्वितीय पंचवर्षीय योजना में जो श्रम नीति ठहराई गई है उसका पालन करना हमारे लिये उतना ही आवश्यक और पबित्र है जितना कि भारतीय संविधान का पालन करना आवश्यक है। द्वितीय पंचवर्षीय योजना पर प्रयत्न करना और उसको कामयाब करना हम अपना धर्म समझते हैं। हमारे प्रदेश में ५ हजार मजदूर कम हुये लेकिन बेकार किसी को नहीं होने दिया गया और आज भी हम इस बात को मानते हैं कि देश के विकास के लिये, प्लान को कामयाब बनाने के लिये और अपने देश को मजबूती से अपने पावों पर खड़े होने के लिये, हम और आप प्रागे बढ़ने के लिये तैयार हैं। हमारे सामने एक ही सवाल है कि कोई श्रमिक बेकार न हो। आदमियों को कोई काम दिया जाय। अब जहाँ तक आटोमेटिक मैशींस के इस देश में लगाने का सवाल है, उनका लगाना तो दुनिया की आज की गति और स्थिति में रुक नहीं सकता है। आज जब हमारे पार्लियामेंट के मेम्बर प्लेन (हवाई जहाज) से उड़ना चाहते हैं और उसके लिये फी पास चाहते हैं और उसकी लोक सभा में चर्चा करते हैं तब एक देहाती आदमी यह कहे कि भाई हमारी बैलगाड़ी ही हमेशा चलाई जाये रेलगाड़ी नहीं, हवाई जहाज नहीं तो उसके वास्ते कौन तैयार होगा? अगर हम वाकई प्रोग्रेसिव हैं और हम विकास पथ पर आगे बढ़ना चाहते हैं तो हमारे लिये यह बहुत जरूरी हो जाता है कि हम दुनिया के साथ साथ विकास के पथ पर बढ़ते चलें। हमारे लिये एक तो एम्प्लायमेंट का सवाल हीना

चाहिये और दूसरा कंजूमर्स की शर्तों को पूरा करने का सबाल होना चाहिये। इसके प्रतिरिक्त गवर्नमेंट जो एक बात धरती है और एक टैक्स-टाइल पालिसी रखती है, उस पर हमें कामना रहना चाहिये और उसे कामयाब बनाना चाहिये। इस सम्बन्ध में मैं गवर्नमेंट से यह निवेदन करना चाहूंगा कि वह टैक्स-टाइल के उत्पादन और उसकी भवालिटी कंट्रोल की तरफ सावध तौर पर ध्यान रखे और जब तक कि उसके उत्पादन और बवालिटी पर ठीक से कंट्रोल नहीं करेंगे तब तक वह इंडस्ट्री इस तरह झोले जाती रहेगी। सरकार को ध्यान जो इस इंडस्ट्री में अनुचित मुनाफाखोरी चल रही है उस पर भी बन्दिश लगानी चाहिये। मुझे यह देख कर खेद होता है कि धाब जो टैक्सटाइल इंडस्ट्री में मिलवैनेजमेंट चल रहा है और बढ रहा है उसे रोकने के लिये कोई सक्रिय कदम नहीं उठाया जा रहा है।

यह जो नई प्राधुनिक मशीनरी और आटोमेटिक लूम का बिक्रि किया गया तो उसके बारे में मुझे यह कहना है कि धाब होता यह है कि एक मिल जिसकी कि मशीनरी ५० साल पुरानी है और उसको धापने १०,००० स्पिन्डिल्स और ४०० नये लूम डालने की इजाजत दे दी तो वह धापको पता है कि कैसे डालता है? वह उसी ५० साल की पुरानी मशीनरी में नई मशीनरी ठूस देता है जो तरीका कि बिलकुल गलत है। धाप स्वयं समझ सकते हैं कि जब वह नई मशीनरी को उसी पुरानी मशीनरी के बीच में डाल देता है तो धापको उसका वांछित रिजल्ट कैसे मिल सकता है। पुराने लूम नये स्पिन्डिल्स कैसे ठीक बैठ सकते हैं और फल दे सकते हैं? इसलिये मेरा कहना है कि नई और पुरानी मशीनरी को एक में मिलाता नहीं चाहिये और जो नई मशीनरी हो उसका उत्पादन एक्सपोर्ट ही करना

चाहिये। ऐसा करने से धाप अपनी टैक्स-टाइल इंडस्ट्री को ठीक से चला सकेंगे और उत्पादन के धपने लक्ष्यों को प्राप्त कर सकेंगे।

17:8 hrs.

कितने ही ऐसे फैक्टर्स हैं जिन पर गवर्नमेंट को विचार करना चाहिये। सिर्फ इतना ही नहीं है। कम्पनी एक्ट है। मैंने टैक्सटाइल एग्ज्यायरी कमेटी के सामने भी निवेदन किया था और मिनिस्टर साहब को भी लिख कर भेजा है। उदाहरण के तौर पर एक मिल मालिक है और साल में ५ लाख रुपये ब्याज के देता है लेकिन एक दफा मिल साल में २५ लाख मुनाफा कमाता है। अब वह सट्टे के आधार पर उस रुपये से एक लाख मिल के शेयर खरीद लेता है। तो धाप देखें कि उस मिल और मजदूरों को इस दूसरी मिल जिसके शेयर खरीदे हैं क्या लेना देना है और क्या लाभ होगा?

उपाध्यक्ष महोदय : अभी तो माननीय सदस्य बहुत कुछ और कहना चाहेंगे।

जी रा० क० बर्मा : जी हां।

उपाध्यक्ष महोदय : प्रच्छा तो फिर धाप धागे जारी रखेंगे।

17-01 hrs.

*MEDICAL STUDENTS

Shri Harish Chandra Mathur (Pali):
I am so grateful to you for allowing this half an hour discussion which raises a point of great concern to us in Rajasthan in a particular part, and which also raises an issue of great national importance to my mind.

I put a very simple question to the hon. Minister asking him the number of graduates in the medical colleges who are taking their course at present and our capacity for training in medical science. I also asked him what was the expenditure which every