

LOK SABHA DEBATES

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LOK SABHA

Tuesday, April 18, 1972|Chaitra 29,
1894 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the
Clock

[MR. SPLAKIR in the Chair]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

India's Approach to U.K. for Extension
of Existing Trade Arrangements
upto 1975

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*441. SHRI N. K. SANGHI :
SHRI P. K. DEO :

Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE
be pleased to state :

(a) whether India has approached the
British Government to continue existing
preferential arrangement. for Indian goods
in British market till 1975 ; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the British
Government in this regard ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI
A. C. GEORGE) : (a) and (b). A statement
is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b). On the 21st February, 1972
an *Aide Memoire* was handed over by the
Government of India to the British Govern-
ment dealing with problems relating to
India's exports and urging for early consul-
tation with the Government of India with
a view to finding suitable solutions for
these problems.

2. The *Aide Memoire* points out *inter
alia* that the British Government have given

assurances of protection until 31st January,
1975 of the trade interests of commonwealth
countries in Africa and in the pacific and
Caribbean regions and suggest that similar
assurances be given in respect of India's
trade. It has also been proposed in the
Aide Memoire that even if it is found not
possible to give such assurances in respect
of India's entire export trade with the
United Kingdom, sufficient protection might
be provided now, before U.K. enters the
Community in respect of at least the principal
products of India's exports for the
interim period until 31st January, 1975,
pending the conclusion of satisfactory trade
arrangements between the European Economic
Community including Britain and the
Government of India.

The reply of the British Government to
the points raised in the *Aide Memoire* of
21st February, 1972 is yet to be received.

SHRI N. K. SANGHI : It used to be
said in the past that the agreements would
be finalised after the entry of Britain in the
European Economic Community. May I
know what progress has been made in the
negotiations by the Government in the
matter of the European Economic Com-
munity to restore our export to the Common
Market ? Further, what are the points of
difference between the African countries and
Caribbean regions on the one hand, which
have been given special status for the ex-
port to the Common Market, and India on
the other ?

SHRI A. C. GEORGE : After UK enters
the European Economic Community on
1-1-73 many of the preferences that we are
now enjoying will not be there any more.
But there will be special arrangements for
the African and Caribbean countries whereby
they will enjoy preference on some com-
modities upto 1975. We have taken up this
matter and requested that we may be treated
on par with African and Caribbean coun-
tries up to 1975. We have sent an *Aide
Memoire* on 21st February, 1972. Subse-
quently, our Minister of Foreign Trade had

discussions regarding this matter with Sir Alec Home in March and further talks with Sir Max Brown. The matter is still pending and their reply is awaited.

SHRI N. K. SANGHI : The hon. Minister knows very well that the most important member in the European Common Market is France, which vetoed twice the admission of UK into the European Common Market. May I know whether this topic of exports to FEC was raised when recently Shri L. N. Mishra had discussions with the French officials on his way to the UNCTAD Conference ?

SHRI A. C. GEORGE : It is true that the Minister of Foreign Trade had discussions with the Ministers of France. But the details are not available since he has not come back from Santiago, Chile.

SHRI JAGANNATH RAO : Since Britain have not agreed to continue the preference, may I know what is the possible loss that India would incur in the matter of textile exports to U.K. ?

SHRI A. C. GEORGE : Our textiles used to enjoy free entry to U. K. After this new arrangement, we are given only a particular quota of two million sq. yards and there is an imposition of duty of 15 per cent. To that extent our export of textiles will definitely suffer. It is too early to assess how much the loss that we may incur will be.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU : Is it a fact that there is an anomaly in India of not subjecting British goods to import duties as a measure against their activities ?

SHRI A. C. GEORGE : This new arrangement is not a discrimination against India because it affects all the Asian Commonwealth countries. So, I cannot contribute to the hon. Member's view that there is a discrimination against India.

Looting in Lucknow-Agra express

*442. **SHRI P. M. MEHTA :**
SHRI AMARNATH CHAWLA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether fifty passengers travelling by the Lucknow-Agra Express were robbed of their valuables worth about rupees one lakh by the dacoits on the 18th March, 1972 ; and

(b) if so, the brief facts of the incident and the measures taken by Government to check the incidents of looting in the running trains ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K. HANUMANTHAIYA) : (a) Yes, Sir. On the night of 19-3-1972, between 0055 to 0130 hr., valuables worth about Rs. 55000/- were robbed by 6-7 dacoits from the running train.

(b) A statements giving brief details is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

Details in brief are as under :-

On 19-3-72 between 0055 to 0130 hours, just after the departure of 13 Up Lucknow-Agra Express from Kannauj, 6 persons, equipped with fire arms, boarded two tier coach No. GTCW 7657 which was fourth from the rear. They fired four shots in the air and looted the personal belongings of the passengers worth Rs. 55000/- approximately and threw out the same from the compartment. They got down by pulling the alarm chain near Jasoda railway station. As soon as the train stopped the Government Railway Police escort party and train guard visited the victimised compartment. The train was pushed back to a distance of 5 KM and luggage worth Rs. 39000/- approximately thrown out by the dacoits was recovered.

Seven (7) criminals have been arrested so far and efforts are being made to arrest their other associates also.

In this connection, the Government Railway Police, Farrukhabad have registered case No. 44 under section 395/3/7 IPC on 19-3-72 and further investigation is in progress.

The following measures are taken for preventing dacoities, robberies and other