

SHRI Y. ESWARA REDDY : In how many countries have we got our Embassies, and in how many of them are there special trade staff also ?

SHRI A. C. GEORGE : I require notice for this specific question.

SHRI N. K. P. SALVE : The Foreign Trade Ministry is in the habit of giving figures in absolute terms, and they do not speak in terms of percentage which will give a real idea. May I know from the Minister whether our exports to these 44 countries in terms of percentage of the import trade of these countries, has increased or not increased ?

SHRI A. C. GEORGE : I gave a figure which will speak for itself. In 1970-71 the export was Rs. 139 crores. It is easy to calculate the percentage from that.

SHRI N. K. P. SALVE : He has not understood my question. Take the total import of these 44 countries as the basis and determine your percentage. We are saying that our export has increased in absolute terms, but seeing the over-all export of the world, our percentage has decreased. It is in that light I want to find out from whether in percentage also there is similar increase.

SHRI A. C. GEORGE : These figures I do not have right now.

DR. RANEN SEN : Encouragement of establishment of joint ventures has also been included in the statement. May I know how many joint ventures our Government has with those African countries, how many joint ventures with private capital existing in India which are monopolies, and whether the establishment of joint ventures includes those empires built up in Africa by Indian monopoly capital with the help of the Government of India.

SHRI A. C. GEORGE : We have sanctioned and approved 52 joint ventures in the African countries. Out of this, 15 are already in production. Another 15, for one reason or other, have been abandoned. The rest of them are in various stages of implementation. We do not have State joint ventures with African countries.

DR. RANEN SEN : My third point has not been answered. I wanted to know whether in this category of encouraging the establishment of joint ventures, Indian monopolies doing business there and establishing factories and mills, are included or not.

SHRI A. C. GEORGE : These joint ventures, since they are in foreign countries, are governed by the laws of those countries, and we see to it that our image is not spoiled by exploitation by the industrialists there.

DR. RANEN SEN : The answer has no relation to question. I wanted to know the facts, and he is going into the policy.

MR. SPEAKER : You may give a separate notice, or you can draw your own conclusion.

Steps to Increase Exports to East European Countries

*449. SHRI H. N. MUKERJEE : Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is wide scope for expanding India's Exports to the East European Countries ; and

(b) if so, whether steps are being taken to fully utilise the possibilities expanding exports to these countries ?

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) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government has under constant review the various possibilities of expanding exports to the East European countries. Among the steps taken to utilise the potential of expanding exports to East European countries are annual bilateral trade negotiations with these countries, namely Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, German Democratic Republic, Hungary, Poland, Rumania, U. S. S. R. and Yugoslavia, for bringing

about rapid expansion as well as a progressive diversification in India's exports of wide variety of goods. Indian firms/Public Sector Organisations and Export Promotion Councils are encouraged to participate in fairs/exhibitions held in these countries from time to time. Sales-cum-study teams and market surveys have been arranged to study export prospects in these countries. Purchase delegations from those countries are given facilities to visit the various manufacturing centres in our country connected with exports to those countries.

SHRI H. N. MUKERJEE : In view of the growth rate of our exports being rather sluggish, as Mr Salve suggested just now, — it was about 4 per cent in 1971-72 as against the world average of 8 per cent in recent years— may I know if any calculation has been made about our reaching a 10 per cent growth rate target, which is not too ambitious, especially when the Minister says in his reply to part (a) of the question that the scope for expansion of Indian exports to the socialist countries is very wide ?

SHRI A. C. GEORGE : India's export to East European countries has increased during the past decade by 363 per cent. Our exports at the global level have increased by 46.5 per cent. In absolute terms, the contribution of the East European countries was 7.5 per cent in 1970-61. In 1968-69 it was 19.61 per cent and now it is 23.7 per cent.

SHRI H. N. MUKHERJEE : What progress has been made towards the 10 per cent increase ?

SHRI A. C. GEORGE : We have not reached the 10 per cent target. We have only reached 8 per cent.

SHRI H. N. MUKHERJEE : May I know if any progress, and if so, what, has been made with the idea mooted as early as 1964 at the UNCTAD that the socialist countries were ready to cooperate by way of long-term agreements and contracts and coordination development plans, exchange of technical know-how and all that sort of thing ?

SHRI A. C. GEORGE : It is a welcome idea and we are still pursuing it. It is in various stages of implementation.

SHRI PILOO MODY : May I know whether it is true that the Ministry of Foreign Trade has taken some steps in the recent past towards drastically reducing our trade with the East European countries ?

SHRI A. C. GEORGE : It is not the policy of the Government of India to reduce our trade with the socialist countries.

SHRI K. P. UNNIKRISHNAN : May I know whether the minister is aware of the fact that some officials of his Ministry in collusion with some officials of the Ministry of Finance are trying to sabotage our exports to East European countries and whether in the name of switch deal a number of raids have been conducted and they are deliberately trying to reduce the volume of our trade with East European countries ?

MR. SPEAKER : It is your own suggestion.

SHRI N. K. P. SALVE : To what extent is the switch trade cutting at the root of exports ? That is the question.

SHRI A. C. GEORGE : I deny that there is any collusion on the part of officials to sabotage the policy of the Government. Regarding the term "switch deal" used by the hon. Member—I do not contribute to that term—I do not think the so-called switch deal is cutting at the root of our exports.

Distribution of Power to different States from Kalpakkam Atomic Power Plant

*450. **SHRI VAYALAR RAVI :** Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether an agreement has been reached between the Central Government and Tamil Nadu Government regarding the distribution of power amongst the different States from the Kalpakkam Atomic Power Plant, when it is completed;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof; and

(c) what will be the share of Kerala under this agreement and its cost per unit ?