

tea promotion activities with the different types of economic organisations, we have so far not felt the need to establish Tea Board offices in the USSR and other socialist countries. As and when we are faced with problems which we feel could be tackled by opening Tea Board offices, we will never hesitate to do it. In the case of the other Tea Board offices, it is more to retain our trade; and there is stiff resistance and we have to tackle it.

**SHRI SAROJ MUKHERJEE:** Will the Minister fight this reactionary and corrupt practice of the Indian Tea Board when the Government has declared that we are to develop our export trade in tea and other commodities with the socialist countries?

**SHRI A. C. GEORGE:** The Tea Board is not an autonomous body, and it is subject to the control of the Government. Naturally, there cannot be any reactionary forces working in the Tea Board. (*Interruption*).

**SHRI B. K. DASCHOWDHURY:** It is quite clear from the hon. Minister's statement that in the recent years our tea exports to the socialist countries, particularly USSR and other east European countries, have gone up, whatever the figures in terms of the quantum or the amount that has been mentioned by the Minister. I would like to know further whether it is a fact that the USSR alone receives from our country as much as 95 per cent of our total export of Darjeeling tea. This also should be found out. What are the reasons that in the past two or three years the exports have gone up to a larger extent. May I know whether it is a fact that such tea exported to the USSR and other east European countries is being diverted to the hard currency areas in the western countries? In view of this, I would urge upon the Minister to say whether he will immediately open tea centres in the socialist countries to stop this gap and also to have more foreign exchange earnings from tea.

Secondly, the hon Minister has not yet said clearly what are the advantages that obtain by having these tea centres in the various parts of the world, though the hon. Minister said that he has not found it quite necessary to open tea centres in the socialist countries.

**SHRI A. C. GEORGE:** I am very happy that the hon. Member who is also a member of the Tea Board has put this specific question. It is true that our export of tea to the USSR has gone up. From 1970, when it was at that time at the level of 28.76 million kg., it has gone up to 41.52 million kg in 1972. The value also has gone up. But I will not agree with the hon. Member that any of the socialist countries is purchasing tea from us and switching it over to hard currency countries. This is a false notion that is prevailing. I categorically refute that impression if it is prevailing. Tea is freely exported to whichever destination that is prepared to purchase. We can only assure the House that additional efforts will be made to see that our tea is consumed more in the international markets and more free foreign exchange is earned.

**SHRI J. MATHA GOWDER:** I want to know from the Minister whether the Government have entered into an agreement to export tea to the USSR during the current year and, if so, how much of tea will be exported.

**SHRI A. C. GEORGE:** A sizeable quantity of tea is included in the 1973 trade plan. (*Interruption*). We have a trade plan with the USSR wherein tea is also included as a quota item. I will not be able to tell the precise quantity now.

#### जूता उद्योग में संकट

\*63. श्री शिव कुमार शास्त्री : क्या वाणिज्य मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या कच्चे चमड़े के निर्यात के कारण भारत के जूता उद्योग में संकट आ गया है ; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो संकट का सामना करने के लिये सरकार ने क्या कार्यवाही की है ?

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

#### STATEMENT

(a) On account of large exports of semi-processed hides and skins, there is shortage on supplies of leather to some extent and there has also been a rise in the prices. As a result, the footwear industry is facing some difficulty.

(b) The following steps have been taken by Government to meet the situation:—

- (i) Exports of footwear of all categories and to all destinations have been canalised through the State Trading Corporation of India with effect from 14-11-1972.
- (ii) Exports of semi-processed hides and skins including crust leather have been canalised through the State Trading Corporation of India with effect from 14-12-1972.
- (iii) A ban has been imposed on the exports of all types of raw hides and skins (except lamb fur skins) with effect from 20-1-1973.
- (iv) Restrictions are being placed on the exports of semi-processed hides and skins by introduction of a quota system with effect from 1-4-1973.
- (v) A scheme is under consideration for assisting the footwear industry with a view to neutralising the adverse effects of shortage in the supplies of leather and increase in leather prices.

श्री शिव कुमार सास्त्री : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मंत्री जी ने जो बक्तव्य सभा-पटल पर रखा है, उस में लिखा है कि अर्थ-साधित खालों तथा चमड़ियों के भारी मात्रा में हुए निर्यातों के कारण चमड़े की सप्लाई में कुछ हद तक कमी आ गई है और कीमतों में भी वृद्धि हो गई है, जिस के परिणामस्वरूप जूता उद्योग को कुछ कठिनाइयों का सामना करना पड़ रहा है । कुछ दिन पहले इस मदन में एक प्रश्न के उत्तर में यह कहा गया था कि चिच्छड़ों के आयात के बदले गर्म कपड़ों की गांठों पर गांठें आ गईं और यहां का गर्म कपड़े का बाजार गड़बड़ हो गया था, अब यह कहा जा रहा है कि चमड़े की खाले इतनी अधिक मात्रा में निर्यात हो गई हैं कि जूता उद्योग संकट में पड़ गया है । मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से जानना चाहता हूं कि क्या सरकार का कोई विभाग इस प्रकार का नहीं है जो आयात और निर्यात पर दृष्टि रखता हो, जब गड़बड़ हो जाती है तब आपको पता चलता है ।

SHRI A. C. GEORGE: Frankly speaking, the question of the hon. Member is slightly confusing. The semi-finished leather is a raw material for footwear or finished leather.

SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYYA: What is "semi-finished"?

SHRI A. C. GEORGE: Whatever is not completely finished is semi-finished. I have not yet finished; semi-finished!

MR. SPEAKER: I hope, that is not for the footwear

SHRI A. C. GEORGE: In 1971-72, the export of semi-finished leather was to the tune of Rs. 84 crores. But in 1972, between April to December, in these 9 months, our export of semi-finished leather has gone up to Rs. 105 crores. This may apparently look to be an encouraging sign. But the real truth is that the raw material for

finished leather and footwear will not be sufficiently available internally. It is our endeavour to see that more and more finished items go out so that the value added is more. The proportion between semi-finished leather and finished leather is 2:3. If we export more of finished leather, we will be realising more.

श्री शिव कुमार शास्त्री : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैंने जो प्रश्न पूछा था उस का उत्तर नहीं दिया गया—आयात और निर्यात संतुलित रूप में, बैलेंस रूप में रहे—क्या इस की देखभाल नहीं की जाती ? अगर देखभाल की जाती है तो फिर यह कैसे हो गया कि मन्दाई ज्यादा हो गई ?

SHRI A. C. GEORGE: It is not exactly an imbalance. As the hon. member himself suggested there was a Committee to go into this problem under the Chairmanship of Dr. Seetaramaiah. They submitted a report and they suggested that it will not be a healthy practice to allow more and more of semi-finished leather to go out. So, it has been suggested that we put a ceiling to the extent of what was exported in 1971-72 and, progressively, during the next five years, we try to reduce the export of semi-finished leather so that more and more of raw material will be available for footwear industry.

श्री शिव कुमार शास्त्री : उत्तर अभी भी नहीं आया। मैं दूसरा प्रश्न पूछना हूँ—आप ने यह कहा कि जूता उद्योग की सहायता करने के लिये आप किसी योजना पर विचार कर रहे हैं। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि उस योजना को रूप-रेखा क्या है और आप किस प्रकार से उन की सहायता करेंगे ?

SHRI A. C. GEORGE: The scheme for footwear industry is to charge a sort of levy or a cess on the export of semi-finished leather and what is accrued from this cess is to be passed on so that an encouragement may be given to the footwear industry. The

scheme is under consideration and we hope to implement it by 1-4-73.

SHRI M. RAM GOPAL REDDY: Recently there was drought and famine in Maharashtra and some parts of Telangana and there was death of cattle for want of animal feed. Is there any increased supply of skins and hides from Maharashtra and Telangana?

SHRI A. C. GEORGE: I am not sure whether we can connect drought conditions with availability of raw hides and skins.

SHRI M. RAM GOPAL REDDY: When he says there is shortage of skins and hides, I am saying there is plenty of supply. I want to know from him whether it is a fact or not.

श्री हुक्म चन्द कछवाय : मंत्री महोदय ने अपने वक्तव्य में कहा है कि यह बात सही है कि बहुत बड़ी मात्रा में अध-पका हुआ चमड़ा हमें बाहर भोजना पड़ा, उसके फल-स्वरूप यह कमी आयी है और मूल्यों में वृद्धि हुई है। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि मूल्यों में कितने प्रतिशत वृद्धि हुई है ? जब आपको पता था कि देश के अन्दर भी चमड़े की आवश्यकता लोगों को पड़ती है और हम इतनी अधिक मात्रा में निर्यात करेंगे तो यहाँ के जो छोटे छोटे उद्योग धन्धे हैं, जो कारीगर काम को करते हैं वे संकट में पड़ जायेंगे तो बाहर भोजते हुये क्या आपने संकट पर विचार किया था ? यदि विचार किया था तो क्या विचार किया ? आपने अन्त में कहा है कि हम उन्हें राहत देने के बारे में विचार कर रहे हैं. इस विचार पर निर्णय कब तक हो जायेगा, उन्हें तत्काल कौन सी राहत देने जा रहे हैं तथा उसकी रूप-रेखा क्या है और यह कब तक अन्तिम रूप ले लेगा ?

SHRI A. C. GEORGE: I said at the outset that the export of semi-finished leather has gone up and the price also has gone up exorbitantly. When we found this situation on

14-12-1972 we canalised the export of semi-finished leather goods so that Government may have better control over the export of semi-finished leather. About the latter part of the question I answered already that we hoped by 1-4-1973 we would be able to implement the scheme of giving relief to the footwear manufacturers.

श्री हुकम चन्द कछवाय : मेरे प्रश्न का उत्तर नहीं आया। आपने उत्तर में कहा कि निर्यात ज्यादा हो गया—ज्यादा कैसे हो गया ? आपके ज्यादा निर्यात कर देने से लोगों का व्यापार ठप्प हो गया, कीमतें बढ़ गयीं। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कितने प्रतिशत कीमतें बढ़ी हैं और इसके लिये आप क्या करने जा रहे हैं ? इन्होंने कहा है कि विचार कर रहे हैं, राहत देंगे—मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि कौन-कौन सी राहत देने जा रहे हैं ?

MR. SPEAKER: He is asking a specific question. By what percentage the price rose?

SHRI A. C. GEORGE: The exact percentage we may not be able to give now.

श्री हुकम चन्द कछवाय : कब जवाब देंगे ? 20 से लेकर 40 प्रतिशत तक कीमतें बढ़ी हैं—किस आधार पर आपने कहा है कि कीमतें बढ़ी हैं, वह बतलाइये ?

SHRI H. M. PATEL: Can he not indicate even the approximate rise in price? What was the quantum? He can give some indication at least.

SHRI A. C. GEORGE: The general rise is more than 30 per cent.

श्री अचल मिह : क्या मंत्री महोदय को मालूम है कि जूता इण्डस्ट्री एक खास इण्डस्ट्री और उसमें आज बहुत कमी आ रही है। उसके सुधार के लिये आप क्या कर रहे हैं ताकि रशिया को ज्यादा एक्सपोर्ट हो सके जिससे हम को करोड़ों रुपये की आमदनी होती है ?

SHRI A. C. GEORGE: We have a scheme to have semi-finished leather converted into finished leather, footwear and other leather manufactures. For this some imported machinery is needed and we are trying to build the infrastructure for building up the industry for conversion of semi-finished leather into footwear and other leather goods.

श्री राय सहाय पांडे : अध्यक्ष महोदय, अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय बाजार में भारतीय जूते बढ़े प्रसिद्ध हैं। भारतीय जूते टिकाऊ हैं, सस्ते हैं और अच्छे हैं लेकिन जो कन्साइनमेंट एक्सपोर्ट के हुये उसमें एक बार रशिया को दाहिने पैर के जूते ही गये, बायें पैर के भूल ही गये। जब वहा से प्रोटेस्ट हुआ तब यहां से बायें पैर के जूते भेजे गये। यही कारण है कि जूतों का निर्यात बन्द हो गया। अब फिनिश और सेमी फिनिश गुड्स जाने लगे हैं। यदि यह बात सच है तो इसके लिये क्या प्रबन्ध हो रहा है ताकि यहां से जूते भेजे जा सकें जिससे लेबर को फायदा हो सके, कच्चे माल को बचा कर पके माल को भेजा जा सके ?

SHRI A. C. GEORGE: This confusion about right and left happened as a stray incident in 1968. Afterwards, we have made enough precautions and there are no more complaints.

#### Trade with Bangladesh

\*64. SHRI R. N. BARMAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) what was the quantum of export of various Indian goods to Bangladesh during the last year;

(b) what percentage of such export was through private trade agencies; and

(c) what was the total import to India from that country?