

LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Friday, May 2, 1975 | Vaisakha 12, 1897
(Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

(Mr. Speaker in the Chair)

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

News Report Captioned 'Cotton Export to Avert Glut'

*855. SHRI VASANT SATHE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of Government has been drawn to the news report appearing in the 'Economic Times' dated the 9th April, 1975, under the caption "Cotton export to avert glut"; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government to the various observations made therein and facts of the matter?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (PROF. D. P. CHATTOPADHYAY):

(a) Government have seen the news report in question.

(b) It has been decided to permit some limited export of long staple cotton which will be canalized through the Cotton Corporation of India.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: Sir, the policy of the Government is like bolting the stable after the horses have run away. The long staple cotton produced in the country is nearly fourteen lakhs bales more than required. Sir, today the price of long-staple cotton has fallen even below what the Agricultural Prices Commission had fixed in Andhra and other parts. I would like to know in view of the fact that the mill-owners are opposing the export what is the policy of the Government? Are you going to pur-

chase this surplus 4 lakh bales through the Cotton Corporation or are you going to allow them to export this surplus and earn foreign exchange? What is the meaning when you say that only limited quantity will be allowed to be exported?

PROF. D. P. CHATTOPADHYAYA: Sir, the question of mill-owners' opposition may be relevant but we are not going to listen to whatever they say. In this respect although there was some opposition from some sections of industry yet Government have not accepted their suggestion and have decided to exporting some quantity of long-staple cotton. It will not be advisable in our own commercial interests to disclose the quantity. That might have an adverse effect on the price realisation. Whatever we can—consistent with the desired level of price—we will try to export and help the growers.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: Unfortunately. I have not been able to understand whose commercial interest has the hon. Minister in mind when the prices have already gone below even the support price. There is a Punjabi phrase:

“बाप खाने नहीं देता, मां भीख नहीं मागने देती।”

You are neither purchasing from the grower nor are you allowing them to export. I am not really able to understand whose commercial interest you are talking about. Will you clarify what are you going to do about these 4 lakh surplus bales?

PROF. D. P. CHATTOPADHYAYA: The surplus was estimated to be 4 lakhs or 6 lakhs. The latest position is that the production has gone upto 17 to 18 lakh bales of long and extra-long staple cotton. It has developed a curious situation. While in respect of medium and short staple cotton there is shortage and, therefore, there is high price, but because of the fact

that the long and extra-long staple cotton has been produced much more than merely 4 to 6 lakh bales—according to the latest estimates it is 8 to 9 lakh bales—I think, it will be an inadvisable proposition to assure a high price only by exporting more and more raw-material. Sir, when I say it will not be advisable to disclose the quantity in the commercial interest, I have also the growers' interest in mind, because price realisation of the country, and therefore of the growers also, who will be allowed to export, will come down.

डा० लक्ष्मी नारायण पांडेय : मंत्री महोदय ने इस बात को स्वीकार किया है कि लम्बे रेशे की रुई का उत्पादन अधिक हुआ उस के कारण उस का भारी स्टॉक जमा हो गया किन्तु काटन कारपोरेशन के पास फण्ड नहीं है जिस से किसानों से किसी प्रकार का ऋय नहीं किया जा रहा है और किसानों के पास भारी मात्रा में स्टॉक जमा है। किसान बहुत परेशान हैं। बजार में कोई लेने वाला नहीं है। काटन कारपोरेशन खरीदता नहीं है। आप ने सीमित मात्रा में निर्यात करने की बात कही है। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि किसानों के पास जो स्टॉक है चाहे वह महाराष्ट्र के विदर्भ क्षेत्र के हों या मध्य प्रदेश के निमाड हों उन किसानों से यह रुई काटन कारपोरेशन या अन्य किसी एजेंसी द्वारा कब तक खरीद ली जायेगी जिस से कि किसानों को किसी प्रकार का नुकसान न हो ?

PROF. D. P. CHATTOPADHYAYA: Sir, the Cotton Corporation is already purchasing from the pockets where long staple and extra long staple cotton are produced. Our idea is to purchase right from the growers. But, as we have said, because of the limited credit availability the Cotton Corporation is not in a position to go in for extensive purchases. But whatever possible is being purchased. Formerly, our idea was to give the price, half in bond and half in cash. But the growers found it very difficult. Therefore, in deference to their wishes, we have decided to pay the full

price in cash. The operation is going on smoothly.

SHRI R. S. PANDEY: Sir, the hon. Minister has now stated that in the commercial interest, he is not able to mention the quantum, how much is going to be exported. We had squandered foreign exchange to the tune of Rs. 100 crores in the last few years. We have potential in the country for producing long staple cotton. Now, I would like to know, are you going to ban the import of long staple cotton?

PROF. D. P. CHATTOPADHYAYA): Sir, long staple cotton is not being imported. It is being exported.

SHRI R. S. PANDEY: I am telling you that you had squandered foreign exchange to the tune of Rs. 100 crores in the last few years. Is it not a fact? It is good that you are exporting now. But, earlier, you have been importing long staple cotton.

PROF. D. P. CHATTOPADHYAYA): I have already said that we used to import long staple cotton formerly from Sudan and Egypt when we did not produce enough to meet our own internal requirements. Therefore, to say that we have squandered away money for importing cotton for our own requirements. I think, is not a right way of describing the situation which obtained at that time.

श्री श्रीकृष्ण अग्रवाल : जो सवाल यहां पूछे जा रहे हैं उन से यह पता चलता है कि हमारे यहां रुई ज्यादा है लेकिन क्या यह सही है कि 20 करोड की रुई प किस्तान से अपने यहां मंगाई जा रही है ?

PROF. D. P. CHATTOPADHYAYA: Sir, I think there is a little misunderstanding. Perhaps, I could not make myself sufficiently clear. The Cotton that is being imported from Pakistan is of medium variety, which is in short supply in the country to the extent of ten lakh bales. We are importing only 2 lakh bales. The export that we are talking about is of long staple and extra long staple variety.

श्री. राज सिंह भाई : मंत्री महोदय ने फरमाया कि लम्बे रेशे की रुई और मीडियम के समान भाव है। हमारे यहां मीडियम की कमी है। क्या मंत्री महोदय इस पर विचार करेंगे कि लम्बे रेशे की रुई और छोटे रेशे की रुई की मिक्सिंग कर के इस कमी की पूर्ति की जाय ताकि क्लाय के अंदर भी क्वालिटी में सुधार हो ?

PROF. D. P. CHATTAPADHYAYA: This technical aspect is being looked into.

**Terminal Building at Civil Aerodrome,
Ahmedabad**

*858. **SHRI P. G. MAVALANKAR:** Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the existing terminal building at civil aerodrome, Ahmedabad is at present being renovated, expanded and modernised with a view to making it serviceable to a decent minimum expected level for the increased air traffic in Ahmedabad and Gujarat;

(b) if so, the full details thereof;

(c) when will the said developmental work be completed and at what total cost; and

(d) whether the area in the vicinity of the said terminal building is also being developed and if so, how and when?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJ BAHADUR): (a) to (c). The terminal building has already been extended and renovated. The areas for passenger facilities have been increased from 4031 sq. ft. to 13,655 sq. ft. Further minor modifications are also in progress for providing a separate area for security cleared passengers. Arrangements are also being made for providing additional furniture. The cost of the entire scheme is expected to be Rs. 5.5 lakhs.

(d) Yes, Sir. This includes dust proofing of certain areas, improvement to gardens etc. Instructions have been issued for taking up these works quickly.

SHRI P. G. MAVALANKAR: While I do appreciate some of the steps taken by Government with regard to development of the existing terminal building at the Ahmedabad airport, are Government satisfied that this has been done with a view to making the airport at Ahmedabad come up to the decent minimum expected level about which I had specifically asked in my question? He will kindly see that this is in terms of certain facilities like quick disposal of baggage, provision of a conveyor belt, certain air-conditioning facilities—because Ahmedabad almost all the year round except for the winter months is full of heat—and some allied facilities. In all these matters, have Government satisfied themselves that the present building has come up to the decent minimum expected level?

Also, he has not fully replied to part (c) of my question, 'when will the said developmental work be completed and at what total cost?' He has given the total cost but has not indicated the date by which this will be completed?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: Taking the last question first. I have stated that the terminal building has already been extended and renovated. I can give the various items. For example, the arrival concourse, departure concourse and baggage delivery have been extended and completed; departure holding is also there which was not there before; reserved lounge of 224 sq. ft. has been given; then the restaurant has also been extended. Sanction has already been accorded for additional furniture to be provided in the VIP room, extended portion of the lounge etc. These are in the process of being given.

As for the first question about what he calls a decent, minimum expected level, while the ideal is always to be