

this Government has no responsibility for the development of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. When the Prime Minister has taken very seriously development of Scheduled Castes and Tribes in the 20-point programme, he should not express like this that they have no scheme or machinery. It is really very disappointing. Another point is that rural banks are established in the tribal areas in the name of 'welfare of tribes', and if no concession is given for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes what is the use? At the same time, they are not at all vocal. Then who will help them, if the Central Government give such a reply? I want to know from him whether the Central Government has any responsibility or not to develop the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

**SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE:** I most respectfully submit for the information of the hon. Member that we have the responsibility for the development of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, and the recommendations of the Committee headed by the hon. Member were considered seriously. The question is whether a separate institution, a separate administrative machinery in the nationalised banks, would alone be enough to take care of the problem, and my reply to that is that it is not enough. We have to put all the existing agencies together for their benefit. The development of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes is uppermost in the mind of the Government.

**SHRI N. E. HORO:** One of the constraints why persons belonging to scheduled castes and scheduled tribes are not able to get loan is that the commercial banks do not loan out to persons living beyond five miles of the bank. I would like to know, whether the hon. Minister is prepared to remove this constraint and ask the banks to give loan even beyond five miles.

**SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE:** It is ten kilometers,

but that is not a hard and fast rule. This point was also earlier discussed on the floor of the House and we have issued a directive to the banks that they can go even beyond this territorial limit, but they should be able to manage. They have to see that the area in which they are operating is within the operational efficiency of the Branch Manager or the Bank. It is no use extending the area without working efficiently.

#### Export of Garments by S.T.C.

**\*615. SHRI R. N. BARMAN:** Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether State Trading Corporation proposes to set up captive plants to manufacture garments for export; and

(b) if so, the main features of the scheme with reference to the orders generated abroad and how will it affect the private trade?

**THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (PROF. D. P. CHATTOPADHYAYA):**

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

**SHRI R. N. BARMAN:** May I know, whether it is a fact that because of the duty relief that this trade enjoys, many monopoly houses and even multi-national companies have entered in this trade of export of garments and as a result the small entrepreneurs are being pushed out of business? If so, what steps are being taken to ensure that at least in this sphere, the monopoly houses are not allowed to enter?

**PROF. D. P. CHATTOPADHYAYA:** These large industrial houses are allowed in this trade only if they take the obligation of exporting 100 per cent of their manufacture because in export of garments, it is not only the production which is important, but the marketing is even more important. Only this sort of large business houses have the market tie-up with the foreign

buyers. Therefore, they have been allowed, but in a very limited and restricted manner in one or two cases not more than that and it has been taken care of that the interest of the small units is not affected.

**SHRI B. N. BARMAN:** May I know, whether it is a fact that fabrication of ready made garments is employment-oriented and if so, what facilities like bank loan, accommodation at cheaper rate non-harassment by DDA of fabricators etc. are being given so that more unemployed youth are attracted towards this business and stand on their own feet?

**PROF. D. P. CHATTOPADHYAYA:** There are different schemes of the banks for unemployed youth. They are eligible for this scheme also. There was some problem regarding the supply of handloom material, the crape and checks, from South. This has been supplied. And there was a complaint regarding non-availability of power supply to some of the units. That has also been taken care of in consultation with the Delhi Administration.

**DR. RANEN SEN:** The Minister has said that only such big business houses are allowed to export, which are export-oriented and which have links with foreign countries. May I know, whether it is a fact that so long small business houses or small business companies were engaged in the production of garments and their export? But now monopoly houses like Mafatalal have entered in this business and they are not exporting any of their garments to other countries, but to the same countries—socialist countries—where the small business houses were exporting? If so, why have the Government allowed these monopoly houses to enter in this business, which would eliminate the small businessmen?

**PROF. D. P. CHATTOPADHYAYA:** As I have said, in the export field it is not necessarily the size which is the main consideration. It is an important consideration. But the market

tie-up, as I have said, and acquaintance with the upto-date fashions and market surveys are more important and this is not possible for the smaller units even if in terms of notional freedom we permit them to avail of it. So, they are there. But it will be wrong to think that in the last 4-5 years it is only the big business houses that are doing most of this business. In fact 3000—4000 small units have come up in the last 2-3 years and, as a result of that, garment exports have shot up from Rs. 11 crores in 1971 to Rs. 145 crores currently and next year it is going to be Rs. 225 crores. It is not because of the large business houses but because of the smaller unit mainly.

**SHRI H. N. MUKHERJEE:** Will the Minister please explain how it can be that a concern like the Union Carbide, of all the things, is given permission to send out Indian garments as exports? Do I take it, in view of what the Minister has said that our State Trading Corporation has not yet developed either the expertise or the resources to make sure of our export markets and to utilise the work which has been done by our small-scale workers, that that the Union Carbide and all the rest of that kind of crowd are allowed?

**PROF. D. P. CHATTOPADHYAYA:** As I have already said, for acquaintance with fashions and demands of the foreign buyers, foreign tie up in respect of marketing is absolutely necessary and the Union Carbide and such other big companies can make the initial investment. It is an integrated production programme which smaller units cannot do. Moreover, there is a 100 per cent export obligation. So they are not disrupting our home market. As I have already said, not the STC, but the Handicrafts and Handlooms Exports Corporation, a public sector corporation, is doing this garment export business and they are not, as if, debarred. They are doing it.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Mr. Vekaria—not here.

SHRI SHASHI BHUSHAN: What about my question?

MR. SPEAKER: It has been transferred to 12-5-1976. The hon. Members, I think, are informed. Have you not been informed? I think you have not looked into your papers.

SHRI M. C. DAGA: About 400 of my questions have been rejected.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is not disallowed, it has been transferred to 12-5-1976... (*Interruptions*). Order, please. Let Mr. Rajdeo Singh put his question.

### Coffee Export

\*618. SHRI RAJDEO SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the value of coffee export during the last decade had registered an eight-fold increase from Rs. 71.6 million in 1960-61 to Rs. 585.3 million during 1974-75; and

(b) whether this increase in value of coffee export during the last decade and in the years following will be proportionately maintained irrespective of the adverse medical opinion recently expressed about the drinking of coffee?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) During the last few years, there have been press reports of conflicting medical opinion on the effect of coffee-drinking on human health but these may not have much impact on exports.

SHRI RAJDEO SINGH: Some medical opinion have reported about the harmful effects of coffee. I want to know the name of the country to which those medicines belong. I also would like to know whether these

opinions have been inspired by some agencies marketing other light beverages.

SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH: There were some press reports in the *Hindustan Times* one Dr. Walter Reed saying that coffee would be harmful. But there are also favourable reports—one Dr. Charles Hennekens saying that coffee has no such harmful effect. I can assure the hon. Member that we are interested in our coffee exports and coffee is such a fascinating drink that people will sip it in spite of the fear to their life even if it be there, though it is not correct.

MR. SPEAKER: The Question-Hour is over now.

### SHORT NOTICE QUESTION No. 3

#### Steps to check fire incidents in suburban trains in Bombay Area

S.N.Q. 3. SHRI DHAMANKAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railway Administration is taking drastic measures to check frequent fire incidents in suburban trains on both Central Railway and Western Railway in Bombay area; and

(b) if so, the measures being taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI): (a) A statement is laid on the table of the Sabha.

### STATEMENT

In view of the recent fire accidents, special immediate measures have been adopted to prevent fire incidents and to minimise the damage. Some of the steps taken are as under:

- (i) Strengthening the insulation arrangements on the roof of the motor coaches.