

# LOK SABHA DEBATES

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## LOK SABHA

Statement

Tuesday, May 30, 1972/Jyaishta 9, 1894  
(Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

## ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

MR. SPEAKER : Shri S. M. Banerjee.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE (Kanpur) : Sir, before we start the questions, may I request you to allow us to say something about the late Prithviraj Kapoor ? He was a great man and was respected all over India. He was a member of the Rajya Sabha for eight years. I know the practical difficulty, but he was above Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha. So, could you allow us to say something ? (Interruption) He was greater than Meena Kumari.

MR. SPEAKER : This should not come; I shall explain it to you later on.

### New Trade Agreement with U.S.S.R.

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\*1041. SHRI S. M. BANERJEE :  
SHRI P. M. MEHTA :

Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a trade agreement has recently been signed between India and the U.S.S.R.; and

(b) if so, the main features of the agreement ?

THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI L. N. MISHRA) : (a) and (b). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

The Trade Plan for 1972 with the U.S.S.R. was finalised during the visit to Moscow by the Minister of Foreign Trade in the first week of May, 1972. The salient features of the Trade Plan are as under :

(i) India's requests for increased supplies of fertilisers, kerosene, non-ferrous metals, newsprint and asbestos have been agreed to by the U. S. S. R.

(ii) India has agreed to supply increased quantities of consumer items, viz. ready-made garments, handicrafts, detergents, cosmetics, tobacco, de oiled cakes, castor oil and tea. Automobile ancillaries, linoleum, and magnetic tapes also find a new place in the export list for U.S.S.R.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : Sir, from the statement, it appears that India's requests for increased supplies of fertilisers, kerosene, non-ferrous metals, newsprint and asbestos have been agreed to by the U.S.S.R. I would like to know what are the terms and conditions under which these articles are to be imported from the U.S.S.R.

SHRI L. N. MISHRA : The terms and conditions are, rupee payment conditions; deferred payment. We are also exporting a number of items to them under the usual terms and conditions which we had accepted when we had our Five Year Plan-trade Agreement in December, 1970.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : I would like to know, after this agreement, to what extent our exports will increase in those items which we would like to send to the U.S.S.R., compared to 1971.

SHRI L. N. MISHRA : Compared to 1971, it should be an increase of about 20 to 25 per cent. The total export will be Rs,

263 crores and the imports will be Rs. 124 crores, making up Rs. 387 crores. The total increase in the exports will be in the neighbourhood of Rs. 20 crores to Rs. 25 crores.

**SHRI P. M. MEHTA :** I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether it is a fact that the imports of machinery from the Soviet Union have fallen short in recent years because of the fact of the growing self-sufficiency in our country. Now, the Soviet Union is interested in reversing the trend by selling special purpose sophisticated plants to our country. If so, I should like to know the names of special purpose plants and the value of the plants imported during the last year.

**SHRI L. N. MISHRA :** We have been importing plants and machinery from the Soviet Union for our steel, heavy engineering and power plants. It is not fair to say that they are pressing us to take these as they want to get rid of some of their surplus machinery. As a matter of fact the Government of India have been pressing them to give us some plants which we are not manufacturing ourselves or which we cannot get from other countries. There is no such attitude in the Soviet Union. On the other hand their attitude is to help us as far as they can. They have not gone out of their way but they have been extremely kind in giving us new orders which were not in the trade plan at all.

**SHRI JAGANNATH RAO :** We have imported heavy machinery from the U.S.S.R. for our public sector projects such as earth moving machinery, etc. They are not working because of lack of spares and the U.S.S.R. has not appointed agents to have spares, as a result of which heavy machinery worth crores is lying idle. Is it also part of the agreement that spares required for the machinery supplied by the U.S.S.R. would be supplied by them ?

**SHRI L. N. MISHRA :** There is provision for spares also, ranging from 5 to 15 per cent, whatever is necessary. So far as agents are concerned, we generally want to import through the S.T.C.

**SHRI RAGHUNANDAN LAL BHATTIA :** We used to get certain supplies from

the United States. Since America has cut down its supplies to us may I know if we are contemplating getting all these supplies from the U.S.S.R., which we used to get from the United States before ?

**SHRI L. N. MISHRA :** It is mentioned in the statement. I cannot say the quantum. Most of the critical and strategic items which the United States has been supplying us, we have been able to get from the U.S.S.R., especially non-ferrous metals and other items which have been denied to us by the United States.

**श्री भार्गवसिंह शौरा :** मैं जानना चाहता हूँ क्या इम एग्जिमेंट में यह भी शामिल है कि जो ट्रैक्टर वहाँ से आते हैं, सोवियत यूनियन से, वह प्राइवेट एजेंसी के जरिए से आते हैं और इस बात का आपको पता है कि उसमें बहुत ब्लैक होती है इसलिए वह ट्रैक्टर गवर्नमेंट एजेंसी के जरिए मंगवाये जायें ताकि यहाँ लोगों को असली कीमत पर दिये जा सकें ?

**श्री एल० एन० मिश्र :** समझोते में तय है कि पाँच करोड़ के ट्रैक्टर हम खरीदेंगे उनसे, पहले जो 14 हासंपावर के खरीदते थे वह नहीं खरीदेंगे, 30 हासंपावर के हम खरीदने जा रहे हैं। यह उसी तरह के ट्रैक्टर हम खरीदने जा रहे हैं जिनका मैन्युफैक्चर इस देश में होगा। धीरे-धीरे हम खुद उनको बनायेंगे।

जहाँ तक एजेंट्स का सवाल है, अभी एस० टी० सी० के जरिए से इम्पोर्ट करेंगे और एग्री इंडस्ट्रियल कार्पोरेशन जो विभिन्न प्रान्तों में हैं उनसे आग्रह करेंगे कि ट्रैक्टरों का वितरण उसके माध्यम से करें।

**SHRI P. VENKATASUBBAIAH**  
Tobacco is mentioned in the list of consumer goods to be exported. Andhra Pradesh is one of the biggest producers of tobacco. Hitherto U.S.S.R. was buying through individuals and companies and they are making huge profits to the detriment of the producers. May I know whether the articles mentioned in the list will be routed through the S. T. C. and not entrusted to individuals ?

**SHRI L. N. MISHRA :** Tobacco is one of the important items of export and Andhra Pradesh is a big producer; there is no doubt about it. About individual sellers, it depends upon the buyers also. If they have established some channel of communication or some purchasing agents, they can purchase from the private sector also. But there has been an understanding that between U.S.S.R. and India, purchases and sales should be made mostly through public sector agencies. But if there are private sector agencies, I cannot say they will not be allowed. Much depends on the purchaser also.

**SHRI K. SURYANARAYANA** rose—

**MR. SPEAKER :** Don't be standing throughout That will be a disqualification because you distract the attention of the Chair. I will allow you this time.

**SHRI K. SURYANARAYANA :** As our friend said, tobacco is lying with the traders as well as the growers in Andhra Pradesh. May I know how much of tobacco Government purchased last year and this year from the growers for exporting to Russia ?

**SHRI L. N. MISHRA :** What purchase was made last year, that figure is not with me. But the hon. Member knows that S. T. C. came into operation in January and helped the kisans to a considerable extent at a time when tobacco was passing through a great crisis.

**Loss suffered on Uneconomic Railway Lines during 1971**

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\*1042. **SHRI G. Y. KRISHNAN :**  
**SHRI SUKHDEO PRASAD**  
**VERMA :**

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have sustained loss on the uneconomic lines during 1971; and

(b) if so, the extent of loss sustained and the extent to which the suggestions and recommendations of the Review Committee on Uneconomic Branch lines have since been implemented ?

**THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI) :** (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The estimated loss in the year 1970-71 was Rs. 7.69 crores including the dividend of Rs. 2.32 crores paid to General Revenues. A statement indicating the action taken on the recommendations of the Uneconomic Branch Lines Committee, 1969, is laid on the table of the Sabha.

*Statement*

Particulars	Number
Number of Recommendations accepted and implemented (or to be constantly kept in view for implementation)	48
Number of Recommendations accepted in part or with modification.	10
Number of Recommendations accepted but yet to be implemented.	20
Recommendations not accepted.	18
Number of Observations noted with or without qualifying remarks.	8
Total finalised.	104
Recommendations under consideration.	64

**SHRI G. Y. KRISHNAN :** In view of the fact that these uneconomic lines are causing loss to government, why not convert these lines into broad gauge in view of the passenger and goods traffic ?

**SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI :** On a rough estimate, the conversion of these lines into B. G. would cost about Rs. 240 crores. The railways do not have that much finance now available.

**SHRI G. Y. KRISHNAN :** Will the Government be pleased to reconsider this matter because it is a long process and the loss can as well be made up ?

**SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI :** I have already stated that it is a question of availability of funds,