

Economic Cooperation between India and Japan

*86. SHRI VEKARIA:

SHRI D. P. JADEJA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal has been made either by India or by Japan for economic cooperation between the two countries; and

(b) if so, the salient features thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANTRAO CHAVAN): (a) and (b). Economic cooperation in many fields between the two countries already exists, and Japan has been extending assistance to India for several years. Areas to which such assistance can be usefully extended continue to be under consideration.

SHRI VEKARIA: In the statement the hon. Minister has said that Japan has been extending assistance to India in several fields. What are the areas which are under consideration?

SHRI YESHWANTRAO CHAVAN: There are many areas in which we can certainly have co-operation with them. But, recently, we have emphasized three more important areas, namely, oil exploration, fertilisers and steel production. These are the three important areas.

SHRI VEKARIA: May I know from the hon. Minister whether the co-operation and assistance in all these sectors with Japan is increasing or it is decreasing in any field?

SHRI YESHWANTRAO CHAVAN: No.

Re-structure of India's External Trade

*87. SHRI NARENDRA SINGH: Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal under the consideration of Government to formulate a radical plan to re-structure the country's external trade in consonance with the growing accent of self-reliance during 1972-73; and

(b) if so, the main features thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI L. N. MISHRA): (a). There is no specific proposal as such, but appropriate action to restructure the country's external trade with a view to earn more foreign exchange is taken as and when the need arises. The exploration of foreign markets, stepping up of export production and the generation of export surpluses are continuous processes. Efforts towards these are being made under the Import Policy for 1972-73.

(b) The question does not arise.

SHRI NARENDRA SINGH: Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to say whether, while formulating the new foreign trade policy, special attention will be paid towards developing countries of Asia, Africa and some of our neighbouring Arab countries which are longing for economic development and establishment of new trade relations.

SHRI L. N. MISHRA: I have been emphasizing time and again that the main plank of our new export policy or foreign trade policy is to depend more and more upon the developing countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America. That is the structural change we are bringing about in our import and export policy and, as suggested by the hon. Member, that is the only way to develop trade in the present situation since the developed countries are not co-operating in the economic development of the developing countries like ours in many ways.

SHRI NARENDRA SINGH: I would like to know whether attempts will be made to abandon foreign technical know-how for setting up new types of industries because in our own country there is ample talent available in this

regard. It will serve a two-fold purpose, namely, one we need not strain our slender foreign exchange resources, and secondly, we will be giving encouragement to our own local talent.

MR. SPEAKER: It is a suggestion for action, I think.

SHRI L. N. MISHRA: If the suggestion is that we should restrict foreign know-how, as is known to the House, we are having foreign know-how only in fields where it is absolutely necessary. I agree that here in India we have got talent and we do encourage talent. Where it is a question of raw material, we also import raw material required and give it to the exporter and our effort is to see that they could compete at international prices.

SHRI JAGANNATH RAO: Most of the foreign trade is to the traditional countries and they are in respect of traditional items alone. Have they built up foreign trade in respect of any new items and in respect of any new countries, instead of the traditional items and traditional countries? If so, what is the percentage?

MR. SPEAKER: That is a separate question. He has answered it a number of times. I think this was answered during the last session also.

SHRI L. N. MISHRA: Mr. Jagannath Rao is a student of economics and he reads a number of journals, and it is within his knowledge that we have given lots of encouragement and facilities to those who go in for non-traditional items. We have made considerable progress in regard to the export of non-traditional items, and there are some of the new countries also and there are some new fields which have been explored. We develop those markets.

SHRI JAGANNATH RAO: What I wanted was the percentage of increase.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Is it true that in industries like textiles, the textile magnates have been pressuring the Government to have disproportionately more imports of foreign cotton so that the price of indigenous cotton may fall and thereby they can increase their margin of profit?

MR. SPEAKER: These are all leading questions and suggestive questions, giving information themselves, but in the shape of questions. I do want to discourage this practice. The previous question was also like this. Hon. Members should put them in the form of questions, not suggestions.

SHRI L. N. MISHRA: The decision to import foreign cotton is taken after taking into account various circumstances. The indigenous crop year before last was bad. It was a bad year and we imported large quantities of foreign cotton. Last year we had a better crop. This year also we expect good crop and there will be less of import of foreign cotton.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: I asked whether they wanted disproportionately more imports.

SHRI L. N. MISHRA: There is no pressure at all. We are not yielding to any pressure.

SHRI NATWARLAL PATEL: What are the names of the countries not interested in trade with India at present?

MR. SPEAKER: The main question relates only to 're-structure' of foreign trade. What you are asking is quite different.

SHRI NATWARLAL PATEL: There are some big countries at present not interested especially in trade with India. In the past such countries were very much interested in trade with India. That is why I want to have this information from the hon. Minister.

MR. SPEAKER: I did not expect that you should make a speech over it.

SHRI L. N. MISHRA: I don't think that any country is not interested, because, it is all a question of quantum. How can I say this country is interested that country is not interested etc.? We want every country to be interested and we want to trade with all countries.

SHRI MANORANJAN HAZRA: In view of what he has stated, may I know whether the Government is contemplating to begin trade with China?

प्रध्यक्ष सहोदय : मंत्री मर्यादा कुछ उन की मदद लें और वहां से ट्रेड करें।

SHRI L. N. MISHRA: We have no objection.

MR. SPEAKER: Please do it.

SHRI L. N. MISHRA: Once our relation normalises we will have trade with China.

मध्य प्रदेश की वित्तीय सहायता

*93. श्री धनशाह प्रघाल : क्या वित्त मंत्री यह ब्रतने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या मध्य प्रदेश सरकार ने सूबा एवं अतिभूषिट से 40 प्रतिशत फसल की क्षति होने के कारण केन्द्र से 12 करोड़ रुपये की सहायता मांगी है; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो इस पर केंद्रीय सरकार की क्या प्रतिक्रिया है ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YESHWANTRAO CHAVAN): (a) and (b). No specific requirement of funds has so far been mentioned by the State Government. In response to a request from the State Government, a Central team has been asked to visit the State to make an on-the-spot assessment of the situation and to recommend ceilings of expenditure for purposes of Central assistance.

श्री धनशाह प्रघाल : मैं आपके माध्यम से वित्त मंत्री जी से यह जानना चाहता हू कि तात्कालिक व्यवस्था करने का भी आपका कोई विचार है। मध्य प्रदेश का अधिकांश भाग अकाल से पीड़ित है, वहां सूखे की स्थिति है, पानी की कमी है, मकानों की कमी है, ठंड अधिक पड़ रही है। मैं जानना चाहता हू कि उन गरीबों के लिए क्या कुछ व्यवस्था करने का सरकार का विचार है ?

श्री यशवन्त राव चव्हाण : इसीलिए जो हमने टीम भेजने का फैसला किया है। टीम के जाने के बाद ही जो कुछ काम करना है या कुछ पैसा मंजूर करना है, उसका फैसला किया जाएगा।

श्री धनशाह प्रघाल : टीम जाएगी और आयोगी और जाने के बाद अपनी रिपोर्ट देगी। इस में ही एक साल लग जाएगा। मैं जानना चाहता हू कि गरीब आदिवासियों के लिए आप तत्काल क्या व्यवस्था करने जा रहे हैं ?

SHRI YESHWANTRAO CHAVAN: I am sure the Madhya Pradesh Government must be attending to the problems there. Since they have raised the question with us, we have indicated our willingness to go and see things and try to help them wherever it is necessary.

SHRI R. S. PANDEY: May I know whether the hon. Minister has received a comprehensive report about the drought conditions in Madhya Pradesh? In so many districts, in fact, in almost half the State, drought is prevailing, and relief work is going to be started for which money is required. May I know whether the hon. Minister has received any communication requesting for money? May I know when the work of the team which the Centre is proposing to send there will be completed, and when the money is going to be released?