

they voted without fear or favour. Now that the S.V.D. Government has fallen, are the Government taking action against the party which subjected Muslim minority to harassment ?

SHRI K.C. PANT : The complaints to this effected are received sometimes as indeed my hon. friend has made before the House. Where individuals are concerned, action can be taken under the law in respect of some of the offences. Whether the State Government has taken any action or not, I do not know. But as far as the parties are concerned, as I stated earlier, a certain legislative proposal had been brought before the House for the specific purpose of enabling the Government to take action against the parties. But that was not accepted at that stage. We are considering the matter again.

Decline in Exports

*40 **SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA :** Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the performance of export in the first eight months current financial year had been much below expectations;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the measures taken to step up exports ?

THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI L. N. MISHRA) : (a)

Yes, Sir.

(b) Statement I is laid on the Table of the House.

(c) On account of the effective steps taken the growth rate of exports for the period April-December, 1970 has risen to 5.2% over the corresponding period of 1969, and against 2.4% achieved during April-November, 1970. Statement II in this regard is laid on the Table of the House.
[Placed in Library See No. LT-69/71.]

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : Sir, part (a) of the Question asked is whether the performance of exports was much below expectations and the reply given is yes. I would like the Minister to tell us, if the export performance was much below expectations, what was the actual fall in the foreign exchange earnings during this period and, secondly, whether or not it is a fact that the bulk of this fall took place in those sectors of the trade which were carrying on trade with hard currency areas and not so much or hardly at all with the rupee payment countries.

SHRI L.N. MISHRA : The answer to the last part of the question is yes. The shortfall is in the export of jute because of the long strike in Calcutta docks and the loss is to the tune of Rs. 60 crores of hard currency as a result of that.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : The Minister in the reply just now given as well as in the statement has tried to put the blame on the workers who went on strike particularly in ports and docks. I would like to ask whether there is not a contradiction between what he has said in part (c) of the question where he says that due to the strike there were not enough commodities available for exports and what he has stated in part (b) where he admits that the external demand for two of the country's major foreign exchange earners, namely jute goods and tea was extremely weak. That means that even if there had been no strike and the goods have been available for export, they may not necessarily have been sold because he admits in part (b) that the demand was extremely weak. So, I want to know from him as to why he is fighting shy of stating here as to what is happening here that in the face of severe competition—competition there is bound to be—the import demand from these hard currency countries has gone down sharply and, therefore, unless some stringent measures are taken to nationalise exports, the export trade and to channel it in a planned way

into markets which are willing to take it, we cannot get out of this crisis.

SHRI L. N. MISHRA : The demand for jute as also for tea has fallen but the main reason was, as I said, the strike in Calcutta. This Rs. 60 crores we could have earned because we have demand for these Rs. 60 crores worth of goods and our commitment was there.

As Mr. Gupta himself knows, there are three major items which we export from Calcutta, namely, jute, tea and engineering goods and there is a short-fall in the export of these three items. Therefore, this question of strike and dock workers' strike is there and it is largely because of that. I am not blaming the workers—I got the strike called off. But it is a fact, he can not deny that the fall in exports has been mainly because of the dock workers' strike in Calcutta.

SHRI S. R. DAMANI : I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether it is a fact that the export of textile goods has received a set-back. If so, what are the reasons? Is it due to increase in the cost of production due to abnormal rise in cotton prices and if so, what action has been taken to revive the exports?

SHRI L. N. MISHRA : There has been a shortfall in textiles also, but not to a large extent.

Secondly, as I have stated in my answer, things have improved considerably and in December we had a record figure of exports. Therefore, there is not much cause of worry at this stage.

SHRI SHYAMNANDAN MISHRA : Taking two years of the plan together, what has been the shortfall in exports against Plan stipulations?

(2) Is there any programme to augment the capacity in certain industries by additional capacity?

SHRI L. N. MISHRA : As against the total exports of Rs. 1413 crores in 1969-70 and Rs. 1043 crores in April-December 1969, our exports during April-December 1970 has reached a figure of Rs. 1097 crores. This is the difference upto December. But I have every reason to believe that in January-March we will be able to make up Rs. 400 crores. That leads me to believe that we will be able to achieve the plan target of 7% growth in exports by the end of March, i.e. by 31st March.

SHRI SHYAMNANDAN MISHRA : What about the second part of my question? It has not been answered. I wanted to know whether any programme has been prepared to augment the capacity in certain industries?

SHRI L. N. MISHRA : So far as exports are concerned, I have already laid out the Table of the House a copy of the Export Policy Resolution in July last and we are trying to implement the decisions mentioned in that Resolution. We are making every effort to boost the exports. But, we are facing tough competition especially in traditional items. In Jute we have to compete with Pakistan. In textiles also Japan is coming in. The attitude of Britain as regards textiles i.e. becoming hard. Therefore, it is difficult to say what we will be able to do. But, my feeling is that we will be able to achieve this 7% growth in our exports in the Fourth Five Year Plan.

SHRI PROBODH CHANDRA : It is not a fact that the quantity of tea and Jute imported by the importing countries has risen much more than the quantity imported in the previous years, but it is because of the Ceylonese competition that our exports of tea have fallen? If so, what steps have Government taken to fight competition from Ceylon in export of tea?

SHRI L. N. MISHRA : Tea is in better shape these days. Some four months back, we had a meeting of the Consultative

Committee of FAO in Delhi itself, when some important and helpful decisions were taken. At the moment, tea is governed by the decisions mutually arrived at with the good offices of FAO and I believe we would be able to improve our tea market.

Preaching of Communal Propaganda by Political Parties

*41. SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) Whether during the recent elections some of the parties have openly preached communal propaganda to suit their political ends; and

(b) if so, what steps Government desire to take to check further growth of such communal parties?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) and (b). There are reasons to suspect that in the course of the recent elections attempts were made to exploit communal sentiments with the intention of achieving electoral gains. Such activities would constitute corrupt practices for purposes of section 123 of the Representation of the People Act. The steps taken by Government to overcome the danger involved in the persistence of communal tension are well-known. The Criminal Law (Second Amendment) Bill, 1970, was specifically intended to check the growth of organisations indulging in activities prejudicial to the interest of communal harmony. The Bill had to be withdrawn in December, 1970 because of the objections raised by the opposition parties. Further action in this matter is under consideration of the Government.

श्री एस० एम० बनर्जी : मंत्री महोदय ने कहा है कि इस तरह की कार्यवाहियाँ

रिप्रिजेंटेशन आफ दि पीपल एक्ट के अनुसार करके प्रैक्टिस मानी जाती हैं। क्या उनके ध्यान में यह बात आई है कि जब पाकिस्तान में कुछ बदमाशों ने हमारे एक हवाई जहाज को फूंक दिया, तो कुछ पोलिटिकल पार्टीज ने उनका नाजायज फायदा उठाने की कोशिश की ? इस सिलसिले में मैं खास तौर से जनसंघ का नाम लेने में मजबूर हूँ। उन्होंने कानपुर में मुसलमान इलाकों में लिखा, "हिन्दू बीरो जागो"। बाद में क्या करो, यह उन्होंने नहीं लिखा, लेकिन शायद वे लिखना चाहते थे, "मुसलमानों के मकानों को फूंक दो"। उन्होंने इस तरह दहशत पैदा करने की कोशिश की। (व्यवधान)

श्री जगन्नाथ राव जोशी : यह आरोप बिल्कुल गलत और निराधार है। जनसंघ ने कहीं कोई ऐसी बात नहीं लिखी। (व्यवधान)

SHRI S.M. BANERJEE : Let there be an enquiry and I will prove it.

SHRI JAGANNATH RAO JOSHI : It is baseless. (Interruptions).

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : Taking advantage of that situation, may I know whether Muslim minorities were threatened by Jan Sangh and they were asked not to vote ? May I know whether this has been brought to the knowledge of the minister? Apart from treating it as a corrupt practice, which could never be proved may I know whether any penal action was taken against parties or will be taken in future ?

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA : Instances of the nature mentioned by the hon. member have reached the Government. Apart from action under the Representation of the people Act, which could be taken only in proceedings of election petitions, there are other provisions under the Indian Penal Code, to which resort can be had. Report from the State