

ister restore the old practice and present the accounts for the year ended also in his presentation of the budget for the year 1978-79?

SHRI H. M. PATEL: I can only say at this stage that I shall do my best to revert to whatever is the correct practice.

MR. SPEAKER: He will examine that.

SHRI H. M. PATEL: The reason is that there has been this change in the system. Therefore, until all these things come back to normal, we cannot possibly, I cannot possibly give any firm date.

"Agriexpo—A massive non-event"

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*452. **SHRI SHIV SAMPATI RAM:**
SHRI D. G. GAWAI:

Will the Minister of **COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND CO-OPERATION** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Agriexpo fair in Delhi was inaugurated on the 13th November, when it was not complete and the construction was going on in several pavilions;

(b) whether the attention of Government has been invited to a press report in the *Hindustan Times* dated 21st November, 1977 under the heading "Agriexpo—a massive non-event"; and

(c) the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION (SHRI ARIF BEG): (a) to (c). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

Except one or two pavilions which were receiving the final touches, all the pavilions were ready on the day of inauguration. The Government is

aware of the news item referred to in the Question.

The points raised in the press report are not borne out by facts. The Agri-Expo. 77 was conceived with the intention of providing an integrated exposition of the developments of the field of agriculture and its allied sectors. Its primary aim was to project the progress already attained, the programmes in hand and the projections into the future in the vital area of agriculture. The Exposition served the purpose of educating a large number of people from the rural areas who visited the fair and also of acquainting people of the urban sections of our society with the achievements in the rural areas and in increasing their awareness of the vitally important role of agriculture, to our economic well-being. As is common in all fairs, the number of daily visitors gradually increased after the inauguration of the fair; from 18,000 per day to almost 2 lakh per day towards the close of the fair. The fair's popularity became evident by the persistent demand for its extension. This, however, was not found possible in view of the prior commitments of the Trade Fair Authority of India and the fair ground. In all more than 16 lakh persons visited the fair including over 2 lakh farmers and artisans for whom arrangements of free board and lodging were made. They were acquainted with the progress made in the development of high yielding variety of seeds, fertilisers, pesticides, plant protection equipment and the adoption of modern science and technology to agriculture. The fair was visited by more than 75,000 students and a large number of foreigners and visiting delegations.

श्री शिव सम्पति राम: क्या माननीय मन्त्री जी बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि अब तक कितने मेले लगाये गए हैं और क्या अब तक इतने मेले लगाने के बाद भी अभी तक बच्चे ही बने हुए हैं ? कब तक मेथ्यारिटी आयेगी ताकि मेलों में कोई क्विट न रह सके ?

श्री आरिफ बेग : माननीय सदस्य ने नम्बर पूछा है तो एग्जिक्ट नम्बर हमारे पास इस वक्त नहीं है कि जने मेले लगाये हैं लेकिन यह कहना सही नहीं है कि तजुर्बा नहीं है। मैं आप के जरिए यह बताना चाहता हूँ कि जो मौजूदा एग्जी-एक्सपो मेला लगा यह देश में अपने तीर पर सबसे बड़ा मेला था। मैं यह भी बताना चाहता हूँ कि यह सबसे अधिक पापुलर हुआ, करीब 16 लाख आदमियों ने इसको देखा। यह इस बात का सबूत है कि ट्रेड फेयर आफ इंडिया ने बहुत तजुर्बे के बाद इस मेले का आयोजन किया और राष्ट्र की जनता ने इसको पसन्द किया।

श्री शिव सम्पति राम : मंत्री जी कहते हैं कि हमारा मेला बहुत लोगों ने देखा। उन्होंने यह भी अपने उत्तर में लिखकर दिया है कि इसके कुल कागजात जो ये वह अंग्रेजी में थे। यह मेला किसानों के लिए लगा हुआ था तो क्या मंत्री जी बता सकते हैं कि हिन्दुस्तान के काश्तकार अंग्रेजी जानते थे और अंग्रेजी समझते थे ?

श्री आरिफ बेग : मैं माननीय सदस्य को बताना चाहता हूँ कि उनकी यह जानकारी सही नहीं है कि मेले का जितना प्रदर्शन था वह सब अंग्रेजी में था। मैं यह सूचना देना चाहता हूँ कि मेले में जितने भी पोस्टर्स आदि लगे थे वह हिन्दी भाषा में भी थे और साथ ही साथ अलग अलग स्टेट्स में क्षेत्रीय भाषाओं में भी थे। इसलिए यह बात कहना कि अंग्रेजी में थे, गलत है।

श्री शरद यादव : मैंने एग्जी एक्सपो पूरा घूमा है। सिर्फ रूस का जो पण्डाल था उसमें हिन्दी में अपनी भाषा में लगाये गए थे लेकिन अधिकांश पण्डालों में अंग्रेजी जानने वाली मेमों खड़ी थीं और वे किसानों को बता रही थीं। वे अंग्रेजी जानती थीं, इसके सवाय हिन्दी का एक शब्द भी नहीं जानती

थी। मेरा यह कहना है कि जो प्रान्त जिस भाषा के थे, उसी भाषा में क्यों नहीं इन्तजाम किया गया, अंग्रेजी का चलन क्यों चला ? माननीय मंत्री जी साफ-साफ बतलायें कि इस तरह की गलती उन्होंने क्यों की ?

श्री आरिफ बेग : मैं माननीय सदस्य को बतलाना चाहता हूँ कि हमेशा इस बात का ख्याल रखा जाता है और रखा जाता रहेगा कि हम अधिक से अधिक अपने क्षेत्र की भाषाओं, अपने देश की भाषाओं का इस्तेमाल करें और इस समय भी इस बात का ख्याल रखा जा रहा है।

श्री शरद यादव : ख्याल नहीं रखा जा रहा है।

SHRI C. N. VISVANATHAN: May I know from the hon. Minister whether it is possible for him to say, out of 16 lakhs, how many non-Hindi speaking people and how many farmers who do not know Hindi visited the Exhibition?

MR. SPEAKER: I do not know whether the Minister will be able to say that.

श्री आरिफ बेग : इन 16 लाख लोगों में 2 लाख फार्मर्स थे और इन फार्मर्स में अधिकांश अपनी क्षेत्रीय भाषा को जानने वाले थे।

श्री दुर्गा चन्द : मैं माननीय मंत्री महोदय से जानना चाहता हूँ—इस मेले में कितनी स्टेट्स के पैवेलियन्स थे, कितनी स्टेट्स ने इन में पार्टिसिपेट किया है ? क्या हिमाचल प्रदेश का भी पैवेलियन था, अगर नहीं था तो क्यों नहीं था ? क्या उन्होंने पैवेलियन के लिये एप्लाई किया था ?

श्री आरिफ बेग : हिमाचल प्रदेश और बिहार को बाकायदा सूचना दी गई थी कि किस प्रकार से यह मेला यहां पर राष्ट्रीय

स्तर पर लगाने जा रहे हैं। लेकिन दोनों ही सरकारों ने अपनी कठिनाई बतलाई कि हम लोग इस समय इस मेले में भाग नहीं ले सकते हैं।

SHRI T. A. PAI: It is the normal tendency of the Minister to defend whatever the Department says....

MR. SPEAKER: Is it your personal experience?

SHRI T. A. PAI: I am speaking from my personal experience. The only way these things can be corrected is, when mistakes are pointed out by the Members of Parliament, they are taken up seriously. We do not expect the Minister to be responsible for what happens. I would like to know whether the Department has taken care to find out the deficiencies in this Exhibition so that they may not be repeated again. The Minister said that the Department has considerable experience in holding these exhibitions. In my speech on the General Budget I had said that the performance of our exhibitions elsewhere outside India is a very poor show. Either we participate seriously or we do not participate at all. It is the poor image of the country that is being reflected. I would very much like that whenever questions of this type are raised, instead of being on the defensive, the Minister should carry out whatever suggestions are made.

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND CO-OPERATION (SHRI MOHAN DHARIA): I do appreciate the suggestion made by the hon. Minister....

MR. SPEAKER: The ex-Minister.

SHRI MOHAN DHARIA: The hon. Member. Old habits die hard.

SHRI KANWARLAL GUPTA: It is really a tragedy that the Minister does not understand himself that he is a Minister. He still thinks that he is a Member.

SHRI MOHAN DHARIA: There is nothing like a tragedy. Old habits die hard.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: It may be an expression of the things to come.

SHRI MOHAN DHARIA: It shall be a fortunate day for the country when Mr. Sathe comes down from his dreams.

I do appreciate the anxiety and the suggestion of the hon. Member. I do feel that the deficiencies as pointed out by the Members of Parliament and by others must be taken serious note of. Some of my friends who had visited this Exhibition have brought to my notice certain deficiencies....

MR. SPEAKER: Including seating arrangements for Members of Parliament.

SHRI MOHAN DHARIA: I shall be making a separate statement on that. Certain deficiencies have been brought to my notice. We have already taken up the matter; yesterday itself, I had a meeting with the Chairman and the Managing Director of the Trade Fair Authority, and several suggestions have come out. One is—for the benefit of farmers—instead of having one exhibition in Delhi, it should be dispersed all over the country, we should have regional centres at State Capitals. It is a very valid suggestion. It can be done in collaboration with the State Governments. I have already told the Trade Fair Authority to have such exhibitions in the various parts of the country. It is necessary if we really want these to reach the farmers. I entirely agree. There are other suggestions also—I will not go into them in detail—for making this Trade Fair Authority more competent and more efficient. I do agree with the hon. Member that several new innovations shall have to be accepted. They will be accepted. I would like to be absolutely responsive to the suggestions coming from hon. Members, and with these suggestions, we shall see that this Authority—one of the

important Authorities in the country —is given all possible strength and it functions with all possible assistance.

MR. SPEAKER: What do you want to say about seating arrangements for Members of Parliament.

SHRI MOHAN DHARIA: There is a separate statement that I shall be making on that. If you want, I can make it now....

MR. SPEAKER: Yes; you may make it now. It is connected with this.

11.16 hrs.

STATEMENT RE. SEATING ARRANGEMENTS MADE AT THE CLOSING CEREMONY OF AGRI-EXPO. 77

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND CO-OPERATION (SHRI MOHAN DHARIA): Sir, I rise to make a statement in pursuance of the directions issued by you at the end of a brief discussion regarding the arrangements made for seating of invitees at the closing function of Agri-Expo. 77. Sir, while making arrangements for seating of the invitees at the closing function, the Trade Fair Authority of India had issued instructions to ensure that the Warrant of Precedence of the Government of India is followed. However, it is apparent that there had been some lapse in the compliance of these instructions. As a result, some people lower in the Warrant of Precedence than Members of Parliament had taken seats in the front of some Hon'ble Members of Parliament. I would like to express my sincere regrets for this lapse. I have issued clear instructions to ensure that such lapses do not recur, that the Warrant of Precedence is strictly followed in all public functions and that the dignity and status of Hon'ble Members of Parliament is fully respected.

11.18 hrs.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTION—
Contd.

Closure of Bone Mills

*453. DR. VASANT KUMAR PANDIT: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND CO-OPERATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been large scale closure of bone mills in the country and if so, the reasons therefor; and

(b) whether producers are demanding ban on export due to manipulation of price slump by foreign buyers and if so, the export policy in this regard and action taken to save the mills?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION (SHRI ARIF BEG): (a) and (b). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

No, Sir. On the basis of present information with the Government there has been no large scale closure of crushed bone mills in the country.

2. The producers of crushed bones are not asking for a ban on exports and are in fact requesting the Government for unrestricted exports. On the other hand Ossein and Gelatine Manufacturers Association who manufacture ossein and gelatine which are value added products made from crushed bones have been requesting the Government for a long time to restrict the exports of crushed bones so that their raw material is available to them and these value added products can be exported in greater quantities by the country. Based on these considerations the Government have taken a decision to place a ceiling on the exports of crushed bones with effect from 1st October, 1977.

DR. VASANT KUMAR PANDIT: Will the hon. Minister, who has not given the details will give the House the figures of total production of bones