

Production and Export of Tea

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*465. **Shri C. K. Bhattacharyya:**
Shri S. S. Kothari:

Will the Minister of Commerce be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Tea Production in India in 1966 showed an increase of 96 million kgs. over the figure for 1965;

(b) whether it is also a fact that during the same period, exports went down by more than 20 million kgs.; and

(c) whether the imposition of export duty of Rs. 2 per kg. contributed to the fall in export?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Dinesh Singh): (a) No, Sir. Tea production in India during 1966 was 10.5 million kgs. more than that in 1965.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) While it is true that the incidence of export duty at a flat rate of Rs 2 per kg. imposed following devaluation could be considered disproportionately heavier on medium and low priced teas exported, it would not be correct to attribute the fall in tea exports during 1966 entirely to this or any other single factor.

Shri Vasudevan Nair: In the statement, reference is made to the problem of shipping facilities for our tea export. Recently reports have appeared that certain shipping lines have increased freight rates by 17.5 per cent and they have taken shelter behind the recent conflict in West Asia also for that purpose. How will this increase in freight rate affect our free export and what do Government propose to do to bring home to the shipping lines the necessity for keeping the present rates unaltered?

Shri Dinesh Singh: I entirely agree with the hon. Member that there should not be any increase in the rates. Some discussions are going to take place, I believe, next month, and

we shall endeavour to see that the rates do not go up at least disproportionately in any way.

Shri Vasudevan Nair: In the statement several measures are stated to have been taken for the increase in production of tea. I should like to know what is the rate of increase in production during the last ten years due to these measures taken.

Shri Dinesh Singh. The measures have not been taken during the last ten years, but I have the figures. If you like, I shall place them on the Table of the House or send them to the member.

श्री यशपाल सिंह : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि इस कमेटी में टी-प्रमोशर्स के नुमाइन्दे कितने बैठते हैं। जो लोग कायम करते हैं उन के कितने नुमाइन्दे को इस कमेटी में बुलाया जाता है?

Shri Dinesh Singh: Which Committee?

श्री यशपाल सिंह : भेरा मतलब यह है कि जो लोग टी-प्रमोशन कमेटी में बुलाये जाते हैं, उन में टी-प्रमोशर्स, जो किसान हैं और जो चाय पैदा करते हैं, का कितने फ्रीसवी रिप्रेजेंटेशन होता है?

श्री दिनेश सिंह : माननीय सदस्य कामध टी-बोर्ड की बात कर रहे हैं। उस में प्रमोशर्स भी होते हैं।

Shri S. S. Kothari: Will the hon. Minister kindly inform us as to whether drawback in respect of excise duty paid on tea is permitted on tea exported; if not, why not?

Shri Dinesh Singh: My recollection is that they got the drawback.

Shri N. K. Soman: They do not get it. The question is: why not?

श्री सि० बं० झा : अध्यक्ष महोदय, डिबेल्यूशन इस विषये किया गया था कि टी का एक्सपोर्ट काहर के देशों में ज्यादा हो,

लेकिन हम देखते हैं कि डिबैल्यूएशन के बाद भी सीलोन की चाय की खपत इंग्लैंड में ज्यादा हो रही है। क्योंकि उनका प्रचार का सिलसिला हम से ज्यादा अच्छा है। डिबैल्यूएशन के बाद भी हिन्दुस्तान की चाय की खपत इंग्लैंड और दूसरे मुल्कों में कम हो रही है। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि सरकार कौन से कदम उठाने जा रही है जिससे हमारी चाय की खपत सीलोन या दूसरे मुल्कों की चाय के कम्पीटीशन में बढ़ सके ?

श्री विनेश सिंह : यह कहना कि हिन्दु-स्तान की चाय की खपत नहीं हो रही है, यह सच नहीं है। हम बहुत बड़ी तादाद में इंग्लैंड में यहाँ की चाय बेचते हैं...

श्री शिव चन्द्र झा : बलका का प्रचार आपके प्रचार से ज्यादा है, वह आपके चाय के मुकाबले में ज्यादा बेच रहे हैं।

श्री विनेश सिंह : खाली प्रचार ज्यादा करने से ज्यादा चाय नहीं बिकती है। हमारा और सीलोन का मिल कर भी प्रचार होता है—यह कोई बजह नहीं है कि हमारी चाय कम बिक रही है। कुछ दिक्कतें हैं, उन को हम देख रहे हैं। हमारी जो बढ़िया क्वालिटी की चाय है वह सब से ज्यादा बिकती है, उसके बाद मीडियम क्वालिटी की बिकती है। कुछ साधारण चाय है जो कम्पीटीशन में कम बिकती है, उसकी खपत को बढ़ाने के लिये हम सोच रहे हैं।

Shri Shradhakar Supakar: May I know if the Tea Export Promotion Council recommended the abolition of export duties altogether and may I know the price of Indian tea after the inclusion of export duty compare with the price of Ceylon tea including their export duty?

Shri Dinesh Singh: The price is comparable and, as you may have seen from the budget proposals this year, we have further reduced the export duty.

Mr. Kothari was agitated about drawback. May I say that the drawback is not allowed to exporters.

Shri S. S. Kothari: Why not?

Mr. Speaker: You are not allowed to put another question.

Shri Hem Barua: In view of the fact that our export of tea has registered a deplorable decline of late, may I know whether our Government have succeeded in putting their fingers on the weak spots and found out why tea export has declined and also whether the British proposal to get into the ECM would in any way adversely affect our tea exports?

Shri Dinesh Singh: It will be one of our major endeavours to see that tea exports are not adversely affected by Britain's entry into the ECM. So far as the prospects of improving exports are concerned, we are holding seminar in Calcutta next week, Monday and Tuesday, and I shall also be going over there and we will have an opportunity of discussing this matter.

Mr. Hem Barua: What is he going to do in the seminar?

Mr. Speaker: He will have discussions.

Shri M. Sudarsanam: Is the Government aware that the rupee agreement countries, namely, East European countries, are importing Indian tea and re-exporting it to West European countries that is, sterling area, to the detriment of the foreign exchange position of India?

Shri Dinesh Singh: We have not received any complaints to that effect.

Production of Machine Tools by HMT

*396. Shri M. R. Krishna: Will the Minister of Industrial Development