

LOK SABHA DEBATES

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LOK SABHA

Friday, December 11, 1987/
Agrahayana 20, 1909 (Saka)

*The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the
Clock.*

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[*English*]

Joint Ventures with Countries which Participated in November 1987 Trade Fair

*517. SHRIMATI KISHORI SINHA :
Will the MINISTER OF COMMERCE be
pleased to state :

(a) whether an international trade fair
was held in Delhi in November, 1987 ;

(b) if so, to what extent has it led to
increased export demand for Indian goods ;
and

(c) whether there were any proposals
for joint ventures with various countries
which participated in the fair ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R.
DAS MUNSI) : (a) to (c) A statement is
given below.

Statement

(a) The Seventh India International
Trade Fair was organised by Trade Fair
Authority of India during November
14—29, 1987.

(b) The India International Trade Fair
is intended to be a show-window of India's

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manufacturing and export capabilities in
different fields. It is difficult at this
juncture to quantify the full impact of the
fair in terms of increasing our exports.
However, in terms of space booked, number
of foreign and Indian companies participa-
ted, total number of business visitors and
trade delegations, the India International
Trade Fair, 1987 can be considered as
successful.

(c) Yes, Sir.

SHRIMATI KISHORI SINHA : Mr.
Speaker, Sir, arising out of the reply to
the part (c) of my question, I would like
to know which are the countries which
have offered to enter into joint ventures
and the fields for which such offers were
made ?

SHRI P.R. DAS MUNSI : Sir, usually
in International Trade Fairs hardly we
find any scope or opportunity to discuss
joint venture programmes. They are dealt
with specially by the Ministry while initiat-
ing talks on bilateral terms with countries
or through our trade delegations.

Since the hon. Member is very interes-
ted to know as to what progress has been
made in so far as the International Trade
Fair is concerned, I would like to mention
that the Seventh International Trade Fair
concluded on the 29th November USSR
have negotiated for a joint collaboration
programme for the production of polymers.

Similarly there is a proposal between a
Hungarian group with FAIDKA Food
Products of India, another between
Mahendra of India with an Italian group
for Plastic injection and lastly with Czecho-
slovakia.

In all these four sectors nothing has
been finalised, only talks are being held,

Negotiations took place. Detailed results are yet to come.

SHRIMATI KISHORI SINHA : I would like to put a supplementary : Have the Fair participants, more particularly Japan, come out with offers for transfer of technology, or have they confined themselves to the sale of technology items ?

SHRI P.R. DAS MUNSI : Again I repeat that in the Trade Fairs, such things never take place, nor do we discuss this matter there. But our talks with Japan in bilateral terms in many other fields including technology transfer are on ; and nothing has yet been finalized. At this stage, I cannot convey anything to the hon. Member.

But so far as Trade Fair is concerned, Japan had expressed its willingness to exhibit a number of things, specially in software and electronics. In this Trade Fair, they have participated with a wide range of products of their country. They also witnessed some of our pavilions. But insofar as identifying their areas to some of our units here, or identifying our areas to some of their units, nothing of this sort has happened in this Trade Fair.

SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA : I must congratulate the hon. Minister and the Government for having arranged this type of useful Trade Fairs in our country. May I know from the hon. Minister what was the total business of the current, i.e. 1987 Trade Fair, and also whether there is demand from other cities of our country like Bombay, Calcutta and Madras to have such a type of Trade Fairs in those cities. If so, what is the reaction of the Government on this issue ?

SHRI P.R. DAS MUNSI : Insofar as business is concerned, it is difficult at this stage to quantify the total quantum of business, because we have to monitor it after the Trade Fair is over. But I can inform the hon. Member that this Trade Fair is one of the very successful Trade Fairs ever held in India. While the number of business visitors in the last

Trade Fair was only 13,000, this year, paid-ticket business visitors were 21,000 and complimentary-ticket business visitors were 25,000. Quite a number of areas were covered. The theme included Plastic and Rubber. In these two fields we have discussed at length, through seminars involving a number of business delegations and trade delegations, some of them represented through Ministers, VIPs and their trade representatives.

In the engineering sector, we got coordination from CEI who signed an M.O.U. with the Trade Fair Authority of India this year.

Insofar as our holding Trade Fairs in many other parts of India is concerned, at this stage I would like to inform the hon. Member that we have already curtailed the budget of the Trade Fair Authority of India—not to participate in many Trade Fairs within the country and outside, keeping in view the drought situation in the country. But the hon. Member's suggestion will be kept in mind, as and when a suitable occasion arises. We will examine it then. Already we have taken measures, since last year at the instance of our hon. Prime Minister, to have a Trade Fair exhibition in the north-eastern India; We have been successful there. But though we desire to have some programmes in the country, we have to take some precautionary measures, keeping the drought situation in view.

Cess on Pepper and Spices

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*519. **PROF. K.V. THOMAS :**
SHRI K. MOHANDAS :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a "Spices Board Cess" of 3.5 per cent on pepper and 1.5 per cent on other spices has been introduced recently ;

(b) whether All India Spices Exporters Forum has objected to this cess ; and

(c) whether Government propose to reconsider this proposal ?