

England and the Commonwealth countries. He led several parliamentary delegations to the Commonwealth Parliamentary Conferences and Commonwealth Speakers' Conferences.

As a mark of high esteem in which he was held, he was elected at the Jamaica meeting of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association as its Chairman. He also presided for a number of years over the Annual Conferences of Presiding Officers of Legislative bodies in India where he played a very crucial role in evolving uniform practices and procedures for the Legislatures all over India and building up healthy parliamentary democracy in the country.

On this occasion, I would recall the glowing tributes paid to Dada Sahib Mavalankar by Prime Minister Nehru. Unveiling the portrait of Shri Mavalankar in the Central Hall of Parliament on 7th September, 1956, Panditji had said:-

"Some people are born to some particular high office; some grow into it and some are being pushed into it. About Dada Sahib Mavalankar it might well be said that he was born into the Speakership of the Lok Sabha. He fitted in it like a glove and he maintained throughout these several years the high dignity and wisdom, not only in his decisions, but in his general demeanour."

For long periods to come Dada Sahib Mavalankar's name would be associated with the Lok Sabha and Parliament for the stamp and impress of his personality and for the great contribution that he made in upholding the dignity of the House and zealously guarding the rights of its members.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Sir, in the House we have persons like Prof. Ranga, a veteran Constituent Assembly member. It would have been in the fitness of things if some members were allowed to associate themselves with the tributes that you have given to Mr. Mavalankar. This is the best place where we can do on the occasion of the Birth Centenary of Shri G.V. Mavalankar.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: We are going to have a symposium. At that time members are going to speak.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRIMATI SHEILA DIKSHIT): Sir, you have spoken on behalf of everybody.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: We are going to open an exhibition today and tomorrow we will be having a function in the Central Hall.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Revised Export Target During Current Year

*204. SHRI SRIKANTA DATTA NARASIMHARAJA WADIYAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

- (a) the overall export target set for the financial year 1988-89;
- (b) the achievement made so far;
- (c) whether Government have a proposal to revise the target of exports;
- (d) if so, the new target fixed; and
- (e) the steps taken to boost export in all sectors in order to achieve higher target?

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

STATEMENT

The overall export target for the financial year 1988-89 has been fixed at Rs. 18795 crores.

According to the provisional trade statistics available from DGCI&S, Calcutta, India's

exports during April-September, 1988 amounted to Rs. 8986.92 crores as compared to Rs. 7411.26 crores during April-September, 1987, thereby registering a growth of 21.3 per cent.

There is no proposal to revise the export target for the year 1988-89. However, it will be the Ministry's endeavour to increase exports as much as possible.

Initiatives have been taken in our Policy to promote exports. These are designed to generate surpluses for exports, to induce the production of goods contemporary in technology and competitive in prices. Other decisions have been taken to increase the competitiveness of our exports. Procedures have been simplified in order to facilitate the export effort.

SHRI SRIKANTA DATTA NARASIMHARAJA WADIYAR: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, let me congratulate the Minister and the Government on their achievement of an overall growth of 21.3 per cent in exports for the period April-September, 1988 as compared with the same period last year.

I would like to know from the hon. Minister what are the initiatives that have been taken to promote exports and how they are designed to generate surpluses for exports. Could the Minister explain what are the other decisions, as stated in the statement laid on the table of the House, taken to increase competitiveness of our exports by simplification of procedures?

Further, I would like to know what is the overall growth rate of exports expected by these measures. What steps are being taken to improve the exports of iron-ore and manganese which have declined and what steps are being taken to identify areas where exports have, in general, declined?

SHRI P.R. DAS MUNSI: Sir, I am thankful to the hon. Member for his appreciation of the growth of 21 per cent of our export, the figure we received till 30th September.

Now the question is that in regard to promotion of exports, there are a number of

measures which we have taken apart from simplifying certain procedures of our existing policy. We did take initiative to liberalise certain norms in the EPZ units where this year we are expecting the growth of more than 40 per cent and also in the 100 per cent export-oriented units. Apart from this, we are having a close monitoring of all the subjects and commodities in the Ministry regularly.

Also in regard to specific matters, the hon. Member has stated, as to whether we expect the growth at the same level or what is the actual expectation of the growth rate of the export this year. As the target was fixed, the export growth would be 19.6 per cent in comparison to last year. If we reach the actual target, certainly it will be our endeavour to see that we cross the target. Uptill now, in comparison to last year's performance, our target has crossed a little higher. And that's why the growth came to 21.3 per cent.

In regard to specific matter concerning iron-ore and manganese, it is a fact that in the whole world now there is a decline so far as iron-ore export is concerned because different methods are now being applied in the steel production especially in Japan and Korea which are the main buyers and also due to constant competition from Australia and Brazil. Even then, we have undertaken several trips to Romania, Korea and Japan at the ministerial level to persuade the steel plants and to negotiate with the Government at the Government level as to whether we can improve the offtake of the iron-ore furthermore. We do hope that in Korea and also in Japan, we will get a positive response.

SHRI SRIKANTA DATTA NARASIMHARAJA WADIYAR: My second supplementary to the hon. Minister is whether there is a proposal to make it mandatory for various foreign collaborators who have set up joint ventures as partners with India to export a part of their product, however small, back to their own countries or to countries where these collaborators have effective marketing arrangements. If not, will the Government consider doing so?

What action has been taken especially in improving the exports to USA as it happens to be our largest partner having over 2,219 collaborations in this country?

SHRI P.R. DAS MUNSI: In so far as the collaborators are concerned, especially in the joint venture projects, there are certain areas where the buy-back arrangements were earlier fixed. There, export is not a problem. But there are certain areas where certain local and domestic constraints come and we may not find an easy access. But certainly we are taking steps to further promote these areas.

In regard to the mandatory matters, there is no mandatory arrangement excepting on the import of those raw materials which are supposed to be exported.

In so far as United States is concerned, I can only inform the hon. Member happily that our trade prospect in the United States is very good.

We are expecting that in comparison to the last year, this year also our exports for the United States will be higher than in the last year.

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN: Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I regret that I am not in a position to felicitate the hon. Minister. I think that the rate of growth cited by him conceals more than it reveals. The figure is given in terms of rupees. Now we know that during the last year, the exchange value of rupee, in relation to all the major trading currencies in the world, has been falling.

So, instead of taking steps to strengthen the rupee, the Minister wants to take credit for and incorporate that fallen value of the rupee in working out the rate of increase. I would, therefore, like to know this Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, from the Minister: at least in respect of four major currencies of our trading partners or let us say five, i.e. Dollar, Rouble, Pound, Sterling, German Marks and Japanese Yen, will he let us know the actual rate of increase of our Dollar, Rouble, Sterling, Mark and Yen exports?

SHRI P.R. DAS MUNSI: Sir, I would like to inform the Hon. Member and he will appreciate it also that since the inception of our trade policy the export target is always fixed in terms of rupee in our country and not in terms of foreign currency. We have to defend the targets in terms of the currency in which we fix them, i.e. rupee.

Secondly, in the international basket, among many other hard currencies, the rupee is primarily linked with the dollar the rate of growth of the export up till now in terms of rupee is 21.3 per cent and in terms of dollar it is 11.9 per cent. With regard to other currencies I have not got the conversion figures at the moment. Since for the export calculation rupee is mostly linked with the dollar, I have given you the growth rate in terms of the dollar and, i.e. 11.9 per cent.

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN: That means the total export?

SHRI P.R. DAS MUNSI: According to the export figures available to us, from April up to September, the growth rate in terms of dollar is 11.9 per cent and it is 21.3 per cent in terms of rupee.

SHRIMATI BASAVARAJESWARI: Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I heard the statement given by the Hon. Minister regarding decline in export of Steel and Manganese. He has also stated the reasons for it. I would like to bring to the notice of the Government that the mine owners who produce steel and manganese are put to a lot of hardships because the MMTC is not in a position to take the entire produce due to the reasons stated by the Hon. Minister. So, will the Minister negotiate with some other countries apart from Japan and Korea so that the entire production of the mine owners will be taken by the MMTC? Ours being the best ore, I hope the Hon. Minister will certainly look into the matter and try to see that the mine owners are not put into inconvenience.

SHRI P.R. DAS MUNSI: I quite appreciate the concern of the Hon. Member. I have personally taken up this matter. I had

been to Romania and I discussed about this at the ministerial level. Though we have good trade relations with them, they have certain problems in their own economy. They are also considering certain points.

So far as the Iron ore is concerned, there are various grades of Iron ore. The poorer grade is facing a lot of difficulty because there is no buyer for it. I have also discussed this matter with the Chairman, PASCO and the Government of Korea at length. We have also discussed this matter with the Japan at the Government level and we are hopeful that things will improve.

DR. DATTA SAMANT: Sir, the Hon. Minister was just now complimented by the Hon. Member for increasing the export. But as per my knowledge and as per the statement of the Government, the imports have gone up this year, and, therefore, the trade gap has increased. This year the Government has allowed so many industrialists and multi-national companies to import in order to fulfil the export assurance. More than hundred such big bosses are there who have not fulfilled this assurance in spite of their importing. So, my categorical question is whether it is true that the imports are more than the exports and, therefore, the trade gap has increased. I would also like to know who are these big bosses and multi-national companies who have not fulfilled the liabilities of the export in spite of their importing from other countries? Can you give the names of these companies?

SHRI P.R. DAS MUNSI: First of all, I would like to inform the hon. Member that it is a fact that in regard to a comparative study of the import and export figures upto 30th September, the trade gap is a little higher than the last year. It is also a fact that in certain areas, imports have gone up. But here are reasons. Apart from the overall impact of last year's drought on the economy, the hon. member will appreciate that we have to bring in certain amount of edible oil which has been accounted for in this year's account, we have to bring in certain amount of high raw materials and we have to bring in foodgrains. These added to the cost of import. But this was unavoidable.

However, I would like to inform the hon. member that a new committee of the inter-ministerial group has been set up to watch every week, the import aspect and to control it to the extent possible. Government is taking all possible steps not to encourage any imports which are not required at the moment.

In so far as the big industries and others are concerned, it is true that unless the industry gets capital goods which are required to build the infrastructure for engineering and other exports, it cannot compete in the international market because of the changes in technologies. Here, our policy is certainly very open since the beginning and we encourage such kind of imports which lead to export earnings and import substitution in the long run.

But in so far as the hon. member's specific reference to big houses and others who are importing and whose export performance is not satisfactory is concerned, we have taken up this matter on a few occasions in the past and we are very closely watching their performance.

DR. DATTA SAMANT: What are their names? There are more than one hundred!

SHRI P.R. DAS MUNSI: I cannot mention any specific names. May be there are one hundred or may be there are less than one hundred. We are very actively watching as to how far they are improving their export turnover and we are constantly pursuing them to find new markets. Hopefully, we feel that their performance report will be better than the last year.

Amendment of Acts to improve the position of Hindu Women

*205. SHRI BRAJAMOHAN MOHANTY: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to amend the Hindu Law including Hindu Succession Act, Hindu Adoption Act and Hindu Marriage Act to further improve the position of Hindu women;