

SHRI B.K. GADHVI: When a team from the Ministry of Agriculture went to assess the intensity of the famine, it fixed the ceiling keeping all these factors in mind. We cannot give anything above the ceiling limit. Even now Rajasthan has been given the facility of loans and non-plan assistance. Besides, some States have been given permission for special market borrowings.

SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN: The amount of Rs. 57 plus 21 crores has been declared valid under the Drought Relief Fund by the special team... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL VYAS: Mr. Speaker, Sir, please get this amount of Rs 78 crores sanctioned to Rajasthan at the earliest.

AN HON. MEMBER: Is there anyone else belonging to Rajasthan?

MR. SPEAKER. I am here

[English]

SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO: The strict observation of the overdraft regulation scheme is causing a lot of hardship to the States. In fact the State Governments in the recent years are taking all precautions to behave well within these regulations. The Economic Survey also pointed out that the anticipated overdraft of the States has come down more than the expectation and the answer of the Minister also proves the same. At the same time why are you imposing so many restrictions on the States? You yourself, the Government of India, are behaving contrary to the economic discipline. Because the printing presses are with you, you are printing a large number of notes, bringing into circulation them and thereby bringing inflationary pressure on the economy.

In view of this fact, will the Government reconsider and give some more leverage to the States by bringing some amendments to the ways and means procedure, increasing the seven consecutive working days to a

fortnight so that it will give some leverage to the States to take certain measures and also increase the ways and means advance position?

SHRI B K. GADHVI: The august House is aware that financial discipline is very important and States have to observe that .. *(Interruptions)*... Before the overdraft regulation was strictly enforced you know that the financial position of the States had gone a little awry and that is why we had to give loans to clear the overdraft and some strict observation has been kept. At the same time with a view to helping the States right now we have given some additional market borrowing facilities to various States — about 14 States. So far as the ways and means limit is concerned, I may say that from 1972 to 1988 revision has been made five times by the Reserve Bank of India. The latest revision was made on the 1st March 1988

Procurement of Iron Ore from Orissa by MMTC

*151. **SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI** Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the steps being taken or proposed by the Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation of India Limited (MMTC) to increase the procurement of iron ore from different Orissa mines in 1989-90;

(b) whether any special strategy has been drawn up by the MMTC in this regard and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI DINESH SINGH): (a) to (c). A Statement is given below.

STATEMENT

Keeping in view the stocks lying at MMTC's various ex-plot procurement stations in Orissa/Bihar and firm sales finalised so far for shipments from Paradip Port during

1989-90, the procurement of iron ore from different Orissa mines in 1989-90 is likely to be at the level of 1988-89. In the event of MMTC succeeding in its efforts to finalise additional sales, procurement from Orissa mines would be higher to that extent.

Meanwhile, MMTC is making efforts to sell larger tonnage to Japan, German Democratic Republic, China and to countries in Middle East.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI: I would like to know what was the procurement target of iron-ore for export through Paradeep from different Orissa mines in 1989? So far what is the achievement and what was the target?

SHRI DINESH SINGH: Sir, because of inadequate port facilities at Paradeep the movement of iron-ore is rather slow. The iron-ore that had been purchased last year has not totally moved and although we are still purchasing iron-ore this year on the same basis as last year there is still a large amount of backlog. We are trying to see how best we can move that.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI: I wanted figures as to what was the target and how much you have achieved so far regarding iron-ore procurement for export through Paradeep. I do not understand why figures are not being given.

SHRI DINESH SINGH: The exact figures are not available with me just now. I shall be glad to send them to the hon. Member.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI: Sir, I can give him some figures. I would like to know whether they had a target for 12 lakh tonnes for export through Paradeep and unless it is raised to 1.7 million tonnes it is going to have serious repercussions in the working of the mines. It would lead to closure of some mines and displacement of workers in this sensitive tribal belt area. Sir, you know on this Bihar-Orissa border there is demand for Jharkhand which is gaining ground. In

view of this whatever lacunae are there in Paradeep port should be looked into. The loopholes should be plugged. Mining operations should be enhanced; procurement should be stepped up and export also should be expedited. What is the reaction of the Government thereto?

SHRI DINESH SINGH: I fully appreciate the point that the hon. Member has made and, in fact, at the very beginning I said that it is because of the inadequate facilities at Paradeep that it is not possible to move iron-ore quickly as we would wish to do and that is why we are trying to see facilities are improved and also to find new areas where they could be exported. Since he has the figures, Sir, now I do not have to send them to him.

Export of Leather

*154 **SHRI P M SAYEED:** Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state

(a) whether the Council for Leather Exports held a function in Madras recently as a part of leather export promotion campaign;

(b) if so, the outcome thereof;

(c) the amount of foreign exchange earned per year through leather export;

(d) the names of the countries to which leather and leather goods are exported; and

(e) the potential markets which can be tapped for leather export?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI DINESH SINGH): (a) to (e). A Statement is given below.

STATEMENT

(a) The 4th India International Leather Fair was organised by the Trade Fair Authority of India in cooperation with the Council for Leather Exports in Madras from January 31 to February 4, 1989.