

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

*101. [The questioner (Shri Kuldip Nayyar) was absent. For answer, vide page 32 infra.]

निर्यात में कमी

*102. श्री राघवजी: क्या वाणिज्य और उद्योग मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) गत तीन वर्षों के दौरान भारत से किन-किन वस्तुओं के निर्यात में गिरावट आई है;

(ख) इस गिरावट के क्या कारण हैं; और

(ग) निर्यात बढ़ाने के लिये सरकार द्वारा कौन-कौन से कदम उठाये गये हैं तथा कौन-कौन से कदम उठाये जाना प्रस्तावित है?

वाणिज्य और उद्योग मंत्री (श्री उमर अब्दुल्ला): (क) से (ग) एक विवरण-पत्र सभा पटल पर रख दिया गया है।

विवरण

(क) और (ख) वाणिज्यिक आसूचना तथा सांख्यिकी महानिदेशालय से प्राप्त आंकड़ों के अनुसार, 1997-98 की तुलना में 1998-99 के दौरान नकारात्मक निर्यात वृद्धि को दर्ज करने वाले प्रमुख वस्तु समूह ये हैं — बागान, कृषि तथा सम्बद्ध उत्पाद, समुद्री उत्पाद, अयस्क और खनिज, चमड़ा तथा उसकी विनिर्मितियां, रसायन तथा सम्बद्ध उत्पाद, इंजीनियरी वस्तुएं, परियोजना वस्तुएं, वस्त्र, अपशिष्ट तथा पेट्रोलियम उत्पादों सहित कपास तथा 1996-97 की तुलना में 1997-98 में ये हैं — कृषि तथा सम्बद्ध उत्पाद, अयस्क तथा खनिज, इंजीनियरी वस्तुएं, कालीन, अपशिष्ट और पेट्रोलियम उत्पादों सहित कपास।

निर्यातों में कम वृद्धि दर अंशतः अंतर्राष्ट्रीय कारकों जैसे विश्व बाजार में मन्दी, दक्षिण-पूर्व एशियाई देशों तथा रूस तथा कुछेक लातीन अमरीकी देशों में संकट के कारण थी। कुछेक कारक जैसे अवस्थापना संबंधी कठिनाईयां तथा अन्य बाधाएं जैसे निर्यात योग्य वस्तुएं कम होना तथा कम इकाई मूल्य प्राप्ति अन्य कारण थे।

(ग) निर्यात वृद्धि को और बढ़ाने के लिए अनेक उपाय किए गए हैं जिनमें ये शामिल हैं — विकेन्द्रीकरण के माध्यम से कारोबार लागत में कमी, क्रियाविधियों का सरलीकरण तथा एकजम नीति में वर्णित विभिन्न अन्य उपाय। निर्यातों का संवर्धन करने के लिए द्विपक्षीय पहल, श्रष्ट क्षेत्रों तथा केन्द्रक (फोकस) क्षेत्रों के माध्यम से भी उपाय किए गए हैं।

Decline in Export

†*102. SHRI RAGHAVJI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) what are the items, the export of which from India has declined during the last three years;

(b) what are the reasons for such decline; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to promote the export alongwith the steps proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) As per the data received from the Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics, the principal commodity groups registering negative export growth rate during 1998-99 over 1997-98 are Plantations, Agri & allied products, Marine products, Ores & Minerals, Leather & Manufactures, Chemicals & allied products, Engineering goods, Project goods Textiles, Raw cotton including waste and Petroleum products and 1997-98 over 1996-97 are Agri & allied products, Ores & Minerals, Engineering goods, Carpets, Raw cotton including waste and Petroleum products.

Low growth rate in exports has been partly due to international factors such as recession in the world market, South-East Asian crisis as well as crisis in Russia and some of the Latin American countries. Some factors such as constraints of infrastructure and other impediments like narrow basket of exportable goods, and low unit value realisation were the other reasons.

(c) A number of steps have been taken to further enhance the export growth which include reduction in transaction cost through decentralisation, simplification of procedures and various other measures as enumerated in the Exim Policy. Steps have also been taken to promote exports through bilateral initiatives, identification of thrust sectors and focus regions.

श्री राघवजी: महोदय, जो विवरण सभा पटल पर रखा गया है उसमें जानकारी मुझे अधूरी प्रतीत होती है क्योंकि मैंने तीन वर्षों में किन-किन वस्तुओं में कितनी-कितनी गिरावट आई है, यह प्रश्न किया था। लेकिन सामान्य तौर पर वस्तुओं के नाम गिना दिए हैं। अगर यह पता चलता कि कितनी-कितनी गिरावट आई है, कितना-कितना निर्यात हुआ तो अच्छा होता। फिर भी मैं, जो विवरण पटल पर रखा गया है उसके संबंध में यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि जो कदम इसमें 'य' में दर्शाया गया है कि सरकार उठाने जा रही है निर्यात बढ़ाने के लिए, तो उन कदमों का क्या असर हुआ है और अभी इन पिछले 2-3 महीनों में उन कदमों से कहाँ-कहाँ, किन-किन क्षेत्रों में लाभ हुआ है?

SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH: Sir, the hon. Member has asked as to what the items of export were. The answer has given the necessary items that he asked for. He has not asked for the actual figures of the items that the question pertains to. If he wants these figures, I will have the figures made available to him. Then, what the hon. Member has also asked in his supplementary is the steps that we have taken to give a boost to exports and to counter the adverse global conditions that have led to a decline in our exports. Sir, amongst some of these that we have taken through our Exim Policy, and some of the other steps that we took in 1998-99, specifically, with a view to improve our exports, one of the first ones was that we neutralised the special customs duty as a rebate to exporters; and this improved the DEPB rates. Similarly, bank guarantees were waived for established exporters. This gave them an advantage of almost two to three percent on their margins. And, as a special measure to deal with the South-East Asian financial crisis, for a short-term, the interest rates were reduced by two percent, from 11% to 9%, and this was valid until the 31st of March, 1999.

All these steps, together with our Exim Policy, have led to a remarkable turn-around in exports. The hon. Member will have noticed from the answer that this year, once again, we are looking at a double-digit growth, and I am extremely pleased to announce that from a month-by-month comparison from October last year to October this year, we have seen a growth of 22% in our exports, which, I believe, is sure sign that the steps that we have taken to improve exports have begun to show results.

श्री राघवजी: सभापति जी, माननीय मंत्री जी ने मेरे प्रश्न के भाग 'क' के उत्तर में दर्शाया है कि बागान, कृषि संबंधी और समुद्र उत्पादित वस्तुओं के निर्यात में गिरावट हुई है और उस के लिए आर्थिक मंदी के कारण दर्शाए गए हैं। महोदय, मैं नहीं समझता कि वह कारण इन वस्तुओं को प्रभावित कर सकते हैं, जैसे-बागान उत्पादित, कृषि उत्पादित और समुद्र उत्पादित वस्तुओं का विश्व मंदी से संबंध नहीं है। विशेषकर उन परिस्थितियों में जबकि हमारे देश में गेहूँ, चावल जैसे कृषि उत्पाद पिछले वर्षों में बड़ी मात्रा में उत्पादित हुए हैं। उन का इतना उत्पादन हुआ है कि रखने के लिए स्थान नहीं है। इसलिए हम उन्हें कंपीटिटिव रेट पर निर्यात भी कर सकते हैं। उसी प्रकार का मामला बागान उत्पाद का भी है। तो ऐसी वस्तुओं के निर्यात में कमी क्यों आई है? दूसरी बात मंत्री जी ने विश्व-व्यापी मंदी के कारण बताए हैं, लेकिन हमारा आयात बढ़ रहा है। इसलिए मैं मंत्री महोदय से जानना चाहता हूँ कि निर्यात को बढ़ाकर, आयात को कम कर के ट्रेड बैलेंस को भारत के पक्ष में करने के लिए सरकार क्या प्रयास करने जा रही है?

SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH: Sir, with regard to exports, it is true that in the last few years, we have seen a boost in our production of agricultural products, but we must also realise that we are only now beginning to see a surplus, particularly, with regard to agricultural and similar related commodities. We can export only if we have enough surplus. We cannot export if we are not able to first meet our domestic requirements. As and when the Government feels that we have enough for domestic consumption to allow for exports - Sir, we have done it in the case of onions recently - on a case-to-case basis, we will be allowing exports of these commodities.

SHRI JIBON ROY: Sir, the recent U.N. Report on Trade and Commerce has sent shock waves among the developing nations, including India. The report says that all hopes of the Uruguay round of discussions have been belied. The report further says that during the last six- seven years, the trade of the developing countries has gone down, and they are getting less price for the goods produced in the manufacturing sector, whereas, the price which is being got by the developed countries is quite higher, and their trade has gone up. So far as India is concerned, though the volume of its trade has increased, the price has gone down. So, it has also happened in the case of India. The report further says that now, under compulsion, the developing countries are switching over to export of agricultural commodities, from manufactured goods. It has been mentioned in the report that the prices of manufactured goods, including coffee, have gone down. As a result, the economy is going to be shattered. I

therefore, demand from the Government a White Paper on the total consequences of globalisation and the Exim Policy we have adopted from 1990. I want to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government will publish a White Paper on it, and initiate a discussion on this subject in this House.

SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH: Sir, there is, really no question. This is a suggestion from the hon. Member, we will consider his suggestion.

MR. CHAIRMAN: That is all right.

SHRI JIBON ROY: Sir there is a negative growth in exports.

MR. CHAIRMAN: That is all right. Shri Sanjay Nirupam.

श्री संजय निरुपम: माननीय सभापति जी, मैं माननीय मंत्री जी का ध्यान प्याज के निर्यात के संदर्भ में आकर्षित करना चाहता हूँ। महोदय, महाराष्ट्र हिंदुस्तान का बहुत बड़ा प्याज उत्पादक प्रांत है और आप सभी जानते हैं कि पिछले साल प्याज की किल्लत पूरे देश में हुई थी। प्याज का भाव बहुत बढ़ गया था और जिस वजह से दो-तीन राज्य सरकारों को सत्ता से हाथ धोना पड़ा। उस समय प्याज का भाव बढ़ रहा था और उधर उस का एक्सपोर्ट भी जारी था। उन दिनों देश में प्याज 20, 25 और 40 रुपये के भाव से मिल रहा था, साथ ही 15-20 दिनों तक प्याज का एक्सपोर्ट भी चल रहा था। फायनली सरकार का ध्यान आकर्षित किया गया तो प्याज का एक्सपोर्ट रोक दिया गया, उस पर बैन लगाया गया और ठीक एक वर्ष बाद आज ताजा स्थिति यह है कि देश में प्याज की किल्लत खत्म हो गयी है। महोदय, इस वर्ष महाराष्ट्र में प्याज का ओवर-प्रोडक्शन हुआ है, इसके बावजूद एक्सपोर्ट पर बैन लगा हुआ है जिस कारण नासिक के कास्टिकरों को 35 पैसे प्रति किलो के भाव से प्याज बेचना पड़ रहा है। उसके बाद प्रधान मंत्री जी के पास एक डेलीगेशन गया और उनसे लोगों ने अनुरोध किया। उसके बाद क्या निर्णय हुआ, मुझे नहीं मालूम। मैं मंत्री महोदय से यही जानना चाहता हूँ कि अभी ताजा स्थिति क्या है? प्याज के एक्सपोर्ट पर जो बैन था, वहा हटा लिया गया है या नहीं? दूसरी बात, मैं यह जानना चाहूंगा कि एक्सपोर्ट पर बैन लगाने और बैन हटाने में आखिर इतनी देर क्यों होती है? आखिर व्यवस्था क्या है, मशीनरी क्या है? तत्काल ध्यान क्यों नहीं दिया जाता कि ओवर - प्रोडक्शन हो चुका है, जल्दी एक्सपोर्ट से बैन हटाया जाए और एक्सपोर्ट करने की इजाजत हमें दी जाए?

SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH: Sir, regarding the export of onions, we have now, on the basis of a good crop and good production of onions we have had, allowed export of one lakh tonnes of onions in this year. If we find that we are still in a position to export the surplus, we will allow further export so that domestic producers can benefit from it.

With regard to stopping and starting of exports, Sir, I think, the hon. Member will have to realise that exports and export commitments, in some way can be likened to a train. When you press the brakes, the train does not stop immediately; it moves forward and then stops. with regard to stopping the exports also, Sir, there are certain commitments which may or may not be in the pipeline which needs to be first dealt with and then further exports are reduced. Similarly, with regard to allowing the exports, we review the situation constantly. As soon as we realise that we are in a comfortable position of exporting a commodity which will not affect the domestic price, we go ahead as we have done in the case of onions.

SHRI SATISHCHANDRA SITARAM PRADHAN: Sir, (*Interruptions*)...*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Only Mr. Ramachandran Pillai to speak. (*Interruptions*) Nothing will go on record. (*Interruptions*) Nothing will go on record. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI S. RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI: There is a drastic fall in exports with regard to marine products during the last three years. It is learnt that the U.S. and the European Union are imposing non-tariff measures. In some cases, even the Disputes Settlement Institution of the WTO passed orders in our favour, but the U.S. has not implemented those. Is it a fact that such non-tariff measures such as unnecessary quality control measures taken by these countries, are causing a decline in our export items?

SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH: It is true that some years ago, there was a move to stop import of our marine products because of health reasons. There was a scare in Europe and the US that our products were unsafe. We made a case to these countries. We allowed them to have a look at our production facilities. We made alterations, we changed and we encouraged our producers to adopt more hygienic ways and means of processing marine products. As a result of which, now, the European and American markets which were closed to us have again been reopened and we are finding that the market has again developed for our marine exports in Europe and the U.S.

* Not Recorded

WELCOME TO VICE-PRESIDENT OF URUGUAY

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, I have an announcement to make. We have with us, seated in the special box, His excellency Dr. Hugo Fernandez Faingold, Vice-President of Uruguay and accompanying delegates, currently on a visit to our country as our honoured guests.

On behalf of the members of the House and on my own behalf, I take pleasure in extending a hearty welcome to His Excellency Dr. Hugo Fernandez Faingold, and accompanying delegates and wish them an enjoyable and fruitful stay in our country. The visit of His Excellency the Vice-President of Uruguay to our country will further strengthen the friendly bonds that exist between India and Uruguay. Through him, we convey our greetings and best wishes to the President, the Parliament and the friendly people of Uruguay.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS—Contd.

Question No. 102—Contd.

SHRI VEDPRAKASH P. GOYAL: Sir, the answer shows that a negative growth in exports is largely due to conditions in Russia and the Latin American countries as if all our exports are in relation to controlled economies. I would like to know whether this situation is changing. Secondly, along with that, most of the items are showing a negative growth rate. I would like to know the items, except software, which are showing a positive growth rate. I would also like to know what the other value-added items of export are.

SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH: Sir, it is true that our exports have declined over the last couple of years. I would say that our growth rate has rather slackened because of the global economic scenario. It is not just limited to Russia, the CIS countries or South America. It is equally linked with the South-East Asian financial crisis. We have found now with the anticipated turnaround in the South-East Asian economy that our exports to some countries are growing; take for example, Indonesia. This year, 1999-2000, our exports are growing by a mammoth 112 per cent. Out exports to South Korea are growing by

almost 80 per cent. So, I would like to believe that the global financial crisis that has caused such a problem for Indian exports has reduced to an extent. In the meantime, of course, it is our constant endeavour to explore new markets and also to develop new markets for our products, be it Africa or be it Europe or be it America. This is a constant on-going process and the results are there before us to see. Regarding negative growth, Sir, I can assure the hon. Member that except for very few areas where we are having some problems, by and large most of the areas are, excluding software, are beginning to show a positive export growth rate this year.

*103. *[The questioner (Shri Barjinder Singh Hamdard and Shri Kapil Sibal) were absent for answer vide page 33 infra].*

Schemes for Welfare of Primitive Tribes

*104. SHRI BHAGABAN MAJHI: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government have sponsored some schemes for the uplift and welfare of primitive tribes;
- (b) if so, the States where various primitive tribes are living;
- (c) the schemes sponsored by Government for the welfare of these tribes;
- (d) whether any such scheme has been sponsored by the Central Government for the welfare of Bonda tribes who are living in Malkangiri and Jeypore hills in Orissa; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof alongwith the steps taken for the uplift of these tribes during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JUAL ORAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A Statement is laid on the table of House. (see below)

(c) Besides various Central and Centrally sponsored schemes for the development of Scheduled Tribes which are also available to Primitive Tribal Groups, a specific Central Sector scheme for the Development of Primitive Tribal Groups has been launched from the year 1998-99.