

चल रहा है, लेकिन हम दो साल के इस दौरान में स्टील इंडस्ट्री को इस संकट से उभार नहीं पाए हैं, बल्कि स्थिति और भी खराब होती जा रही है। मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ माननीय मंत्री जी से कि क्या यह पैच वर्क, जैसे 10 परसेंट सरचार्ज लगाया, उससे कुछ हजार रुपया मिल जाएगा और आगे, अगले साल में उनको कुछ बेनिफिट मिलेगा, इस साल में तो कुछ मिलने वाला नहीं है मोटे तौर पर, तो क्या इस प्रकार के छोटे-छोटे समाधान ढूँढने से आपकी इतनी बड़ी समस्या का समाधान हो सकेगा और अगर नहीं हो सकता है तो क्या आप कोई अल्टरनेटिव व्यवस्था अगले वर्ष के लिए करने के लिए प्लान बना रहे हैं? इसके बारे में आप कृपा करके जानकारी देने का कष्ट करें।

SHRI NAVEEN PATNAIK: Sir, in answer to the question of hon. Member, Shri Agarwal, I would like to mention some steps that are intended to be taken to revive the steel industry. Firstly, to boost the demand in consumption of steel, the Development Commissioner for Iron and Steel, i.e. DC (I&S), has launched a national campaign. Secondly, to reduce input costs for steel making, five per cent special import duty on several inputs, such as coking coal, non-coking coal, metallurgical coke, ferro nickel, charged nickel, nickel oxide sinters, low-silica limestones and graphite electrodes has already been waived. Thirdly, the anti-dumping duty on hot rolled coils imported from Ukraine and Russia has recently been imposed and the minimum floor of prices has been fixed on import of flat steel products. Fortunately, rationalisation of duty entitlement passbook, better known as DEPB Sates rates for steel exports has been carried out to boost exports. A Steel Exporters' Forum has been set up to help steel exporters to overcome bottlenecks in exports. Enhanced project financing to steel sector by all financial institutions and relaxation of ECB norms have been strongly recommended. The Government has set up an empowered Committee to examine and assess the specific research and development projects to improve the technology for steel making and to enhance the quality

of our Indian steel. In the Central Budget for 1999-2000, the special customs duty of five per cent has been discontinued on all the projects.

SHRI S.R. BOMMAI: Sir, I do appreciate the concern of the hon. Minister to protect the steel industry, but I would like to know what the steps are that he is taking to safeguard the interests of the consumers, particularly the small scale industries where steel is required as a raw material and for construction of buildings and houses. What steps is he taking to reduce the cost of production? Compared to other countries, the cost of production in our country is much more higher. Why can't the consumers have the benefit of getting steel at a cheaper rate?

SHRI NAVEEN PATNAIK: Sir, the question raised by the hon. Member was about the hot rolled items. In fact, even today, the prices are lower than they were in April last year. Sir, that is about the prices. Sir, the Consumer Council also meets every year. The meeting was last held in November 1998. The other thing is that our hope is, as the hon. Member mentioned, in the housing sector, in the infrastructure sector.

For thermal power plants, for oil refineries, I myself have been to the Power Minister. As the hon. Members are aware, 40 per cent of our power plants use steel. I wanted to find out whether all those power projects can have a kick-start so that our steel sector, our steel economy revives.

प्रतिपाटन-शुल्क (एंटी डम्पिंग ड्यूटी) लगाया जाना)

*162. श्री जनेश्वर मिश्र: क्या वाणिज्य मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि प्रतिपाटन-शुल्क संबंधी सक्षम प्राधिकारी ने "स्टाईटिन बुटाडीन खड़" के मामले में अमरीका, जापान, तुर्की आदि जैसे पांच देशों पर प्रतिपाटन-शुल्क लगाने की सिफारिश की थी; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो इस संबंध में सरकार द्वारा क्या कार्रवाई की गई है?

वाणिज्य मंत्री (श्री रामकृष्ण हेगड़े): (क) और (ख) जी, हां। पाटनरोधी मामलों के लिए निर्दिष्ट प्राधिकारी ने अपने प्रारम्भिक निष्कर्षों में जापान, ताइवान, तुर्की और कोरिया मूल की अथवा वहां से निर्यातित स्टेरिन बुटाडिन रबड़ (एसबीआर) पर पाटनरोधी शुल्क लगाने की सिफारिश की है। शुल्क संबंधी अधिसूचना सरकार के विचारधीन है।

श्री जनेश्वर मिश्र: सभापति महोदय, जिन दिनों मुक्त व्यापार का सिद्धांत जिस किसी सरकार की तरफ से इंस्ट्रूयूस किया गया था, खतरा और अहसास इस बात का था कि भारतीय उत्पाद पिट जायें बाजार में और खास तौर से कच्चा माल पैदा करने वाले या खेती में काम करने वाले बहुत मार खाएंगे। इस समय आप लोग सता में हैं। ये लोग भी स्वदेशी जागरण के नाम पर इस तरह का डर खुलकर देश के सामने प्रकट कर रहे थे। उसका नतीजा आज सामने भोजने को मिल रहा है।

सभापति महोदय, सरकार ने जो जवाब दिया है, इनके प्राधिकारी ने जो जांच की है, उसकी खबर अखबारों में छपी है। घरेलू बाजार में एसबीआर की कमी होती जा रही है। उसका इस्तेमाल और बाजार में उसका हिस्सा 11 सैकड़ा घटा है। ये इनके प्राधिकारी ने रिपोर्ट दी है। यह विदेशी रबड़ जो होता है, उसके मुकाबले हमारा रबड़ जो खास तौर से केरल का किसान पैदा करता है अपने खेत में, वह इस समय मार खा रहा है। पहले तो वह टायर कंपनियों और बड़ी कंपनियों के हाथ मार खाता था, अब विदेशी कंपनियों के हाथों मार खाने लगा है। मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि उन किसानों की सुरक्षा के लिए यह सरकार क्या कर रही है?

सभापति महोदय, जब यह स्थिति आई और अखबारों में छप गया तो टायर निर्माताओं ने या जो बाहर से एसबीआर आयात करते हैं, उन लोगों ने इस पर ऐतराज किया, डंपिंग विरोधी स्थिति पर और उन लोगों ने कहा कि हिंदुस्तान में जो एसबीआर तैयार होता है, एक तो उसकी नियमित आपूर्ति नहीं होती और दूसरे उसकी गुणवत्ता में कमी है। हमारे घरेलू उत्पाद की गुणवत्ता ठीक हो और उसकी नियमित आपूर्ति हो, यह आश्वासन टायर निर्माताओं को, रबड़ से जो सामान तैयार करने वाले मिल-मालिक हैं, उन्हें यह आश्वासन देने के लिए सरकार क्या कर रही है ताकि उनकी जरूरत पूरी हो सके? मैं जानता हूँ कि हिंदुस्तान के जो बड़े कल-कारखाने वाले हैं, अगर विदेशी माल बाजार में आ जाएगा तो देशी माल को वे छोड़ देंगे। तो इस परिस्थिति

से निपटने के लिए सरकार कौन-कौन से कदम उठा रही है?

सभापति महोदय, उस अधिकारी ने रिपोर्ट में यह भी लिखा है कि 11 सैकड़ा घरेलू बाजार में कमी आ गई जब कि एसबीआर की कीमत घटानी पड़ी। तो मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि कितनी कीमत घरेलू एसबीआर की घटाई गई, बाहरी एसबीआर का मुकाबला करने के लिए, यह भी सरकार बताए।

श्री राम कृष्ण हेगड़े: सभापति महोदय, माननीय सदस्य ने कहा कि स्वदेशी बड़ा सिद्धांत है और ये जो कीमत हमने फिक्स की है, वह उसके खिलाफ है। मैं उनसे विनम्रता से निवेदन करना चाहूंगा कि यह उसके खिलाफ नहीं है। यह जो एसबीआर है, यह नियमित रबड़ नहीं है। इसलिए उसका आयात करने से हमारे जो किसान हैं उनके ऊपर कोई तीव्र प्रतिक्रिया नहीं होती। यह सिंथेटिक है, टायर मैन्यूफैक्चरिंग में इसका उपयोग होता है और यही बात इसको साबित करती है कि एंटी डंपिंग आर्थरिटी ने सारी जांच खत्म करके एंटी डंपिंग लेवी करने का फैसला दिया है और यह नोटिफिकेशन अभी इश्यू नहीं हुआ है। कार्मै मिनिस्ट्री नोटिफिकेशन इश्यू नहीं करती और फाइनेंस मिनिस्ट्री से नोटिफिकेशन में यह बात है और मैं उम्मीद करता हूँ कि जल्द से जल्द फाइनेंस मिनिस्ट्री से नोटिफिकेशन इश्यू हो जाएगा।

श्री जनेश्वर मिश्र: सभापति महोदय, हमारे यहां एसबीआर फ्रांस और जर्मनी से भी मंगाया जाता है। उसको एंटी डंपिंग शुल्क में नहीं रखा गया है। मैं जानना चाहूंगा कि यह भेदभाव पूर्ण नीति क्यों है?—पहला सवाल। मंत्री जी, आज ही मैं नवभारत टाइम्स अखबार पढ़ रहा था। श्रीलंका के विदेश मंत्रालय ने और वहां के अधिकारियों ने इस बात पर ऐतराज किया है जो रबड़ और चाय के बारे में आपकी नीति है उसको लेकर के। क्योंकि पिछले दिनों जब प्रधान मंत्री गए थे तो वहां के राष्ट्रपति से मुक्त व्यापार की एक संधि की थी और यह संधि आपकी इस नीति के चलते लागू नहीं होगी। हालांकि यह विषय आपका नहीं है विदेश मंत्रालय का है लेकिन सरकार एक है और जब कभी भी कोई नीति या सिफारिश आती है और अभी आपने कहा कि वित्त मंत्री के यहां उस सिफारिश को भेजा गया है काट-छांट करने के लिए, क्या कभी विदेश मंत्रालय या समूचा केबिनेट मिल बैठकर बात करते हैं कि एक मंत्रालय का प्रभाव दूसरे मंत्रालय पर क्यों पड़ेगा?

श्री राम कृष्ण हेगड़े: श्रीलंका और भारत के बीच जो ट्रिटी हुई है उसके संबंध में अलग प्रश्न पूछेंगे तो मैं जवाब दूंगा। इससे संबंधित वह नहीं है। माननीय सदस्य ने पूछा कि एंटी डम्पिंग इयूटी लेवी कबने की सिफारिश जो की है उसके लिए मुख्य कारण क्या हैं। वह कारण यह है:

"Voluminous import of SBR at low price, market share of local producers gone down by 11 per cent, low capacity utilisation by domestic producers, had adversely affected profitability and employment thus causing material injury to local industry."

SHRI S.B. CHAVAN: Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister knowing full well the attitude adopted by all the developed countries to protect their own industry, what the thinking of the Government, as a matter of policy, is. In spite of all the fall talks that have been there so far, there is no denying the fact that even developed countries are thinking in terms of protecting their own domestic industry, whereas our attitude seems to be that whatever happens to the domestic industry is a totally irrelevant thing so long as it allows complete free trade. I would like to know from the hon. Minister, as a matter of policy, why we are having a half-hearted approach in the case of protection of the local industry. In view of the fact that similar kind of measures have been adopted by the developed countries, why is it that the Government is going piecemeal? Why is it not taking a policy decision to have anti-dumping measures adopted in the case of all such local industries where it is in their interest? Why is it not taking such kind of a policy decision, try to protect the industry and prevent the kind of unemployment which is, in fact, increasing day by day?

SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE: Sir, I am sorry to say that the hon. Member is not fully informed. It is not true that we have adopted a policy which is going to hurt our own industry. We have taken up this issue at various fora and we have lodged our protest.

I agree with the hon. Member that many developing countries are resorting to protective measures.

SHRI S.B. CHAVAN: Developed countries also.

SHRI RAMA KRISHNA HEGDE: Did I say developing countries?

SHRI S.B. CHAVAN: You said 'developing countries'.

SHRI RAMA KRISHNA HEGDE: I am sorry. Many developed countries are resorting to protective measures, which is against the basic principle WTO. On one or two occasions, I have openly said as to what is the meaning of free trade. Free trade does not mean that free trade only among developed countries.

They proclaim that there must be free trade, but the measures they have taken, in the European Union, America and other developed countries is nothing but protectionism; and we have lodged protests against anti-dumping disputes settlement body. Sir, it is not true that we had not taken any action; that is why I am sorry to say that the hon. Member is not well informed. During the last one year, we had taken a final decision, imposing anti-dumping duty in as many as 15 out of 30 cases; and 4 cases, preliminary decision has been taken; 7 other cases are under investigation. It takes some time because there is a law and we have to decide carefully so that whatever decision we take is not reversed. I agree entirely with the hon. Member that the new tendency of the developed countries must be opposed. We are taking all possible measures, to oppose this protectionism. As the hon. Steel Minister, a little while ago, was saying unless and until, there is a level playing field, it is not possible to have free trade in this country.

SHRI S.B. CHAVAN: He has not replied to my question. My question is this. Why don't you, as a matter of policy, take a decision that you are going to impose these anti-dumping measures

instead of delaying the matters and giving advantage to all those who dump these goods. Take the case of sugar.

SHRI RAMA KRISHNA HEGDE: Sir, I started my reply by saying that that is our policy.

SHRI S.B. CHAVAN: That is your policy, but it is taking such a long time for example, in the case of sugar. (interruptions) knowing fully well... (interruptions).

MR. CHAIRMAN: He is quite capable of putting questions. He does not need your help.

SHRI S.B. CHAVAN: Knowing fully well that in the case of sugar, all the developed countries and even the developing countries like Pakistan have been subsidising to a considerable extent, still we are not prepared to impose the anti-dumping duty. Why is it so? (interruptions).

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Minister, do you want to say something?

SHRI RAMA KRISHNA HEGDE: He put a question. He is not satisfied with the answer I gave. I will further add. (interruptions)

SHRI JIBON ROY: The Anti-dumping machinery is ruined. Please explain that.

SRI RAMKRISHNA HEDGE: Anti-dumping duty is not a non-tariff measure. The hon. Member should know that. And it is levied after due investigation. Suppose, steel is being dumped in our country; we have to send our officers for investigation to the country from where it has been imported. It takes some time. Earlier, in America, the time by which this was decided, was four months. In some cases we had decided it within five months. But normally it takes six to seven months' time and sometimes even one year. We have to complete all the procedures. Without that, our decision is likely to be reversed.

SHRI ASHOK MITRA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I think Shri S.B. Chavan was slightly unfair because the policy which

the present Government is pursuing is really a continuum of the policy that has been there since 1991.

SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE: I agree.

SHRI ASHOK MITRA: This is equally true with regard to the commerce policy. But there are certain realities of life which none of us can really walk away from, that is that there is a creeping global economic depression. The demand is shrinking in country after country. Despite all the tall talks about free trade which are being showered on the developing countries, the developed countries are ratting—if I can use this very parliamentary expression—from free market philosophy. We know that this unseemly quarrel that is going on between Europe and North America over the pricing of Panama is going to spread. They will try to penetrate into our market with all kinds of transparent and non-transparent devices such as anti-dumping. So we have to protect ourselves. It is in this connection that I would suggest to the hon. Minister of Commerce to take a somewhat through look at the present structure of the Competent Authority on anti-dumping duty. Some of us had an occasion to go into the machinery that is at work at present. We have a feeling that it works in an extremely lugubrious manner. It has a very small staff which perhaps can handle three or four applications in the course of a year. But I quite envisage a situation that in one or two years there will be fifty or sixty applications flooding this particular authority. I don't think that the authority as at present is constituted, can cope with the situation. I would like to inquire of the hon. Minister whether he would take certain measures on an emergency basis so that we have a modern anti-dumping machinery and equipment.

SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE: Sir, if the hon. Member gives credit of the present policy on anti-dumping duty to the previous Government, I would also like to give the credit of the inefficient

and inadequate organisation, i.e. anti-dumping authority to the same Government. But during the last three or four months we have strengthened this organisation. I am thankful to the hon. Member who heads the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Commerce which has made very significant suggestions and recommendations. I would like to tell the House that we are going to accept and implement most of the recommendations of that Committee which include strengthening the staff and the organisation not only in the Commerce Ministry in Delhi but also in the WTO in Geneva. I would like to assure the hon. Members that we will leave no stone unturned to see to it that the anti-dumping duty which is imposed by the developed countries is stopped.

SHRI JAYANT KUMAR MALHOUTRA: Sir, despite what the hon. Minister has said,— this Government has been there for the past 12 months—now to look back at what happened prior to that, I think, is not relevant. My questions,...

SHRI T.N. CHATURVEDI: A good advice.

SHRI JAYANT KUMAR MALHOUTRA: Thank you. Sir, my question is whether the Government has a serious anti-dumping mechanism in place, comparable to the ones which exist in the developed countries. The experience of most industries has been very poor, and I can say it with some authority on this subject. We have been pressing for an improvement in the anti-dumping mechanism that exists here, but nothing of significance has taken place. I think this should be done on a war-footing. Anti-dumping measures had been taken against 20 or 30 items, but this is not very significant in a country where massive dumping is taking place, because everyone in the world knows that the anti-dumping authority is so weak that they can get away with anything with impunity in this country. Therefore, I want an assurance that this mechanism would be

corrected on a war-footing; and, secondly, whatever corrections are made are actually given publicity so that the disillusioned people, who have stopped coming before this authority, start coming and place their problems before it.

SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE: Sir, I am sorry, the hon. Member perhaps has not listened carefully to my reply to the hon. Member, Shri Mitra. The mechanism has been strengthened, and I repeat that we have re-organised the anti-dumping authority. During the last one year, we had decided 15 cases; In another four cases, preliminary investigations were held, and the decision also has been given. This shows how speedily the new set-up is disposing of the anti-dumping cases. Now, it is true that America had decided the cases in four months, but not in all the cases; this was so in only one or two cases. Twelve months is the period that has been given. Without that, we cannot lawfully impose the anti-dumping duty. And if there are complicated cases, we have to send our officers to countries which dump their materials in our country so that it is proved that dumping had caused material damage to the local industry.

RE. WELCOME TO PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION FROM HUNGARY

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, I have an announcement to make.

We have with us, seated in the Special Box, Members of a Parliamentary Delegation from Hungary, currently on a visit to our country, under the distinguished leadership of His Excellency, Dr. Janos Ader, Speaker of the National Assembly of the Republic of Hungary.

On behalf of the Members of the House and on my own behalf, I take pleasure in extending a hearty welcome to the Leader and other Members of the Delegation and wish our distinguished guests an enjoyable and fruitful stay in our country. We hope that during their stay here, they would be able to see and

learn more about our Parliamentary system, our country and our people, and their visit to this country will further strengthen the friendly bonds that exist between India and Hungary. Through them we convey our greetings and best wishes to the Parliament and the friendly people of Hungary.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS —contd.

Q. No. 162—contd.

DR. L.M. SINGHVI: Mr. Chairman, Sir, while the measures taken by the Government recently have been in marked contrast to the neglect shown in the past, I am afraid, neither the industry in this country nor the people who specialise this subject are satisfied with the measures taken. I would like to know whether there is an adequate machinery for intelligent anticipation of dumping activities. If there is a swift preventive action, and if we streamline the machinery in such a way that it strikes a certain kind of fear in the hearts of those who are engaged in the dumping activity and who are making India a happy hunting ground for dumping of all kinds of goods across-the-board, dumping can be avoided to a great extent.

SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE: I am afraid in this particular matter we cannot take any preventive action, because action arises only after an act of dumping takes place. The hon. Member is very well-known in the UK, apart from being the illustrious High Commissioner of India, and he is quite aware that there are procedures which have to be followed. If there was a question of taking preventive action, we would certainly take. We have streamlined the present organisation. We have legal experts, we have commercial experts, we have other experts who will help this organisation. Therefore, we have not failed in taking action in regard to anti-dumping measures.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question No. 163.

Plantation labour in tea gardens of Assam

*163. SHRI DRUPAD BORGHAIN: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total number of plantation labour in tea gardens of Assam;

(b) how many private companies own the tea gardens in Assam;

(c) what profits have been shown by these companies in last three years; and

(d) what amount from this profit have they utilised for investment in Assam?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) 6,89,848.

(b) 332.

(c) and (d) The information is not readily available.

SHRI DRUPAD BORGHAIN: Sir, my first supplementary is this. We understand from the hon. Minister's reply that there are about seven lakh workers there. If we take their families also into account, it is a population of about thirty lakhs that is involved in this industry. The conditions of workers are deplorable. They don't get food salaries. An adult worker gets only Rs.29/- per day. They don't have good living accommodation. They don't have medical facilities. They don't have cultural and educational facilities. So, my humble question to the hon. Minister is whether the Government is aware of the deplorable condition of the workers and, if it is, is it trying to ameliorate their conditions, is it trying to change those conditions and see to it that these tea-garden companies do something in this regard?

डॉ सत्यनारायण जटिया: माननीय सभापतिजी, आसाम में बागान श्रमिकों को शासित करने वाला मुख्य अधिनियम बागान श्रम अधिनियम 1951 है जो जम्मू-काश्मीर को छोड़कर पूरे भारत में लागू है। बागान श्रम अधिनियम का क्रियान्वयन राज्य सरकार करती है। इस विधान में आवश्यक संशोधन केन्द्रीय सरकार करती