

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS (contd.)

*442. *[The questioner (Shri Bhagatiam Manhar) was absent. For answer, vide page 29 imra]*

Measures to check dumping of goods

*443. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) The details of steps Government have taken to restrict the dumping of goods especially from China, Taiwan and other countries into India during the last one year;

(b) the details of steps Government have taken to speed-up the investigation, streamline the procedures and provide quick relief to the domestic industry with regard to anti-dumping; and

(c) in what manner the consumers' interests are protected in the anti-dumping cases?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

The Government has initiated 26 Anti-Dumping cases since 1.4.2000 against different countries including China and Taiwan. Provisional duty has been recommended by the Designated Authority in 18 cases, definitive duty has been recommended in one case and 7 cases are under investigation for provisional duties.

Some of the other measures taken by the Government to combat the threat of dumping are as follows:

- (i) Import duties on a number of items have been increased in recent past including in the Budget of 2001-02,
- (ii) Safeguard action is being taken to curb any surge in imports.
- (iii) A Standing Group has been constituted for tracking, collating and analysing data on sensitive items, which are of importance to the public.

[17 April, 2001]

RAJYA SABHA

- (iv) Import of all packaged commodities will be subjected to compliance of the conditions of the Standards of Weights and Measures (Packaged Commodity) Order, 1977, as applicable to domestic producers.
- (v) Import of 131 products has been made subject to compliance of the mandatory Indian quality standards as applicable to domestic goods. For compliance of this requirement, all manufacturers/exporters of these products to India shall be required to register themselves with Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS).

The Government has taken various steps to speed up the Anti-Dumping investigation, streamline the procedures and provide quick relief to the domestic industry which inter-alia include immediate initiation of investigations on submission of fully documented petition, recommending Preliminary Findings early to provide immediate relief to the domestic industry and holding of Seminars/ Workshops/ Interactive sessions all over the country to make people aware of the Anti-Dumping rules and procedures.

Some of the measures indicated above also help in protecting the interests of the consumers.

SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Mr. Chairman, Sir, today, the entire country is confused, as far as the WTO issue is concerned. Majority of the consumers are unable to assess the impact of the Chinese goods. Due to this, the domestic industry is going to face some problems. I would like to know from the hon. Minister through you, Sir, how the Government is going to support the domestic industry and the farming community.

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN: Mr. Chairman, Sir, this question has been put several times in the August House. I will only repeat that the Government has got enough weapons in its armoury to prevent any dumping or any unfair practice by other countries, including China. But our anti-dumping duties are not country-specific. If they come, we will take preventive action. We have taken action, and we will continue to take action.

SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: I would like to know what has happened to the decision which was taken by the hon. Minister with regard to the appointment of a nodal officer to facilitate interaction between the Centre and the States on the WTO and export-related matters, in the aftermath of the removal of quantitative restrictions from April 1, 2001. Part (b) of my question is, whether the Government has asked the Tariff Commission to undertake a study on the cheap imports from China, Taiwan, Singapore, Malaysia and other countries. If 'yes', what are the results of that study? What is the action taken by the Government in that regard?

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN: Mr. Chairman, Sir, already, a nodal officer has been appointed in the Ministry of Commerce to interact with the State Governments on problems relating to WTO, especially, with regard to agriculture. He has further asked as to what will happen to the imports. Sir, a Committee has been constituted which, as I said, will operate on a war-footing. It will monitor the imports every month. Besides, it will also release every month the figures to the public, just as we release the inflation rate figure and the IIP figures, so that we could understand what the level of imports is and whether there is a surge or not. If there is a surge, we will take immediate action.

SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Sir, I want to know the status of Shri Murasoli Maran; whether he is going to quit active politics. I would also like to know whether he will continue as a Minister or he will not continue as a Minister. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI V.P. DURAISAMY: Sir, is it necessary to raise this point? (*Interruptions*)

SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Sir, I want to know his status. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI T.N. CHATURVEDI: He is very active in politics. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI SURESH KALMADI: We have read in the newspapers. (*Interruptions*) He has said...(*Interruptions*)... Sir, we want to have a clarification from him...(*Interruptions*).

[17 April, 2001]

RAJYA SABHA

SHRI MURASOLI MAR AN: Mr. Chairman, Sir, my hon. friend has raised one point, sir, in this world where politicians rarely retire, my statement would have been a surprise, but I will take VRS at an appropriate time.

SHRI CM. IBRAHIM: Sir, for the last one year, we have been discussing this subject in this House. Did the Government make any arrangements? Has the Government any knowledge from where the goods are coming? At the ports, what is the quantity of goods coming every day? China is not a member of the WTO. Why do we allow Chinese goods into India? Why should we not ban it? They have not signed the Treaty. Today, not only goods, but rice is also coming from Taiwan. If you remember, Mr. Chairman Sir, about six months back I had raised this issue. If the situation continues, there will be bloodshed in the villages. The Government should take immediate action. If, in the next season, rice is imported, all the Southern States will be finished. That is why I want to know whether any drastic step has been taken by the Government to stop it. Goods are being dumped every day in Mumbai, Mangalore, Chennai, Cochin, Kandla, in fact, everywhere. The goods are coming from Nepal by road, etc. But, there is no check on this. I want to know whether the Government will take any drastic steps to curb the large amount of imports that are coming in. You forget about the monthly assessment. You have to make an assessment on a day-to-day basis or even on a hourly-basis. So, I would like to know the measures that the Government is going to take to find out the total imports that are coming into the country every day, and the action it is going to take to save the farmers of this nation.

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN: Sir, we are also equally concerned over the problems of the farmers. First, let me reply to the question about China. If at all some anti-dumping action is taken against China, it is not because of the fact that China is not a member of the W.T.O. Whether China is a member or not, we have a special treaty with China for extending MFN treatment. So, we cannot discriminate against China. We are entitled to give this kind of treatment, because we should also look at the fact that our exports to China have

increased by 63.5%, whereas Chinese exports to India have increased by only 35.5%. The advantage is that our trade is growing ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL: Don't go by percentage, go by value. ...*(Interruptions)*...*This is misleading. ... (Interruptions)*...

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN: I will tell you. ...
(Interruptions)...

SHRI CM. IBRAHIM: What about imports of rice and paddy?

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN: I am coming to that. ... *(Interruptions)*... I am coming to that. ...*(Interruptions)*.

SHRI CM. IBRAHIM: Computer and technology is for the urban-oriented people. We, the rural people, are suffering. ... *(Interruptions)*...

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN: Are you a rural man?

SHRI CM. IBRAHIM: Yes, I am; definitely. Why not?

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN: So, Sir, we cannot ban any exports from China. It is not possible because we have got a special agreement with China with regard to extending MFN facilities. Therefore, that is not possible. The second thing that he said was about rice. Sir, during April-December, 2000, about Rs. 11.5 crores, worth of rice was imported, whereas, last year, i.e. in 1999, Rs. 24.6 crores worth of rice was imported. So, I am comparing the figures. Sir, the import of rice is canalised through the Food Corporation of India. So, it will not be possible because we are going to apply sanitary and phyto-sanitary measures. We all know—and you will agree—that 70% of our population is engaged in agricultural or agricultural-related activities. If something goes wrong in agriculture, nothing will go right in the social fabric or in the politics of the country. So, we will take suitable steps.

SHRI CM. IBRAHIM: Sir, I request that we should have a Half-an-hour Discussion on this subject. Last time, you had allowed it. I request you to kindly allow it, because it is not a very simple thing. It is not a question of one party. It is a

[17 April, 2001]

RAJYA SABHA

question of the whole country. Please allow us a Half-an-hour Discussion on this. Sir, last time also you were kind enough to allow it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You give notice.

SHRI CM. IBRAHIM: I will give notice. Thank you, Sir.

SHRI MURASOU MARAN: Sir, I want to make it very clear. The import of rice is canalised through the Food Corporation of India, which comes under the domain of the Ministry of Agriculture.

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Mr. Minister, I have seen your reply. I can understand your compulsions because of the Treaty. But my question is two-fold. Part (a) of my question is: Don't you think that your anti-dumping mechanism in the country is very, weak? You have said that a petition, with full documentation, has to be filed. Can a small entrepreneur or an industrialist far away in Bihar or Bengal or Sikkim or far away in Tamil Nadu or Kerala come all the way to Delhi to face the onslaught of Chinese goods? So, my first question is: what specific steps are you taking to simplify this whole anti-dumping mechanism? Part (b) of my question is: Are you taking suitable *suo motu* proceedings also for that purpose?

Sir, the second part of my question is, foreign goods are coming. They are lacking in standards; substandard goods are also there. I would like to know what mechanism is being thought of to make the Indian consumer courts' jurisdiction applicable to them, because a serious question is arising that the Indian consumer courts may not have jurisdiction over them, that means they will have no control over the quality of goods that are coming from China. These two questions are very important. They are troubling us. A series of cases have come that the Chinese goods are substandard. Therefore, how are you going to address these problems? These are my questions.

SHRI MURASOU MARAN: Sir, as the House may be aware, import of all packaged communities will be subjected to compliance of the conditions of the standards of weights and measures as applicable to domestic products. Then, Sir, import of 131 products has been allowed subject to compliance of the mandatory Indian

quality standards as applicable to domestic products. So, these standards are already there.

Regarding anti-dumping, I want to say that our anti-dumping mechanism is one of the best in the world. We rank number one in imposing antidumping measures. It is not to be proud of. There are only seven cases pending, that too for statutory reasons. Simply because some imports are coming, you cannot impose anti-dumping duties. There should be a casual connection. It should be dumping. They should sell below a reasonable price, a reasonable value. Then, it should affect the industry as such. Anybody can make an application or any industry can make an application. We have taken *suo motu* action in respect of dry batteries and sports goods from China. We have taken action even against America.

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: What about consumer Courts? Make the jurisdiction of the consumer courts as well applicable. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN: Yes, everything, any import, If it is an unfair practice, if it is sold below the normal price, if it causes injury, if there is a casual connection between the injury and the import, we will take action.

श्री आर.पी.गोयनका: सभापति महोदय, मैं आपके माध्यम से यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि एप्लीकेशन मिलने के बाद कितना समय लगता है? यह कहा जाता है कि 6 महीने से साल भर लग जाता है तब तक जो अप्लाई करता है उसके 12 बज जाते हैं ... (व्यवधान)...

श्री सभापति: अभी तो साढ़े ग्यारह बजे हैं। (व्यवधान)

श्री आर.पी.गोयनका: ठीक है सर। (व्यवधान)

श्री सी.एम.इब्राहीम: अभी तो साढ़े ग्यारह बजे हैं , 12 जाएंगे। (व्यवधान)

श्री राजू परमार: ऐसे चलेगा तो जरूर 12 बारह बज जाएंगे। (व्यवधान)

श्री आर.पी.गोयनका: सभापति महोदय, दूसरा सवाल मेरा यह है। मंत्री जी ने कहा कि हमने कमेटी बना दी है। सभापति महोदय, आप तो बहुत दिनों से पार्लियामेंट में हैं। मैं सुनता आ रहा हूँ कि जब सरकार को कुछ नहीं करना होता है , देरी करनी होती है

[17 April, 2001]

RAJYA SABHA

तो कमेटी बैठा देती है। ...**(व्यवधान)**... मैं कमीशन की बात तो नहीं जानता। मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि यह कमेटी आपने देरी करने के लिए बैठाई है या एक्शन लेने के लिए बैठाई है? ...**(व्यवधान)**...

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN: I know the hon. Member is an experienced industrialist. Probably, he is saying this out of his experience. But, probably, he is out of touch. He has become a serious politician.

Sir, in India, the time taken for imposing anti-dumping duties is approximately three months. In the USA, it is four to five months; in the European Union, approximately nine months; Australia, seven months; New Zealand, five to six months. Our action is very quick and immediate.

Regarding the committee, I tell you that it is a must. Every month, we are going to release the figures in collaboration with the customs Department.

SHRI SURESH KALMADI: What about Japan?

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN: Any country. If you want it, I will supply it. I do not have it at present.

SHRI SURESH KALMADI: It is one month. ... *(Interruptions)* ...

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN: I will give you all the details. If you want, I will send you all the figures.

SHRI JIBON ROY: In America, they impose the duty first. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN: It is not possible. According to law, sixty-one days should pass. You cannot. You can take *suo motu* action... *(Interruptions)* ...

SHRI JIBON ROY: It is a quasi-judicial body ... *(Interruptions)* ...

They stopped all imports from India, and they are dumping their goods in our country. ... *(Interruptions)* ...

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN: It should stand the scrutiny of the Customs Department also. If it is unlawful, if we do not follow correct investigations or if there is any flaw, they may drag us to the

WTO and the dispute settlement bodies. So, we have to be very careful.

SHRI BALBIR K. PUNJ: Sir, about the WTO, the core thing is that the local industry and the local market and the foreign industry and the foreign market should be treated at par. While implementing the WTO regulations, I do not know whether the Government has looked into how we can protect our agriculture and our industry within the WTO regulations. I draw your attention to the fact that in India, because of the Land Ceiling Act, the standard size of a farm is about 15 acres. Our farmers produce within this limit, whereas the imports from abroad are from the corporate houses. Corporate farming is not allowed in India. So, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether it is possible, under the WTO regulations, to ban the import of those agricultural products which are produced by corporate farms or which are not within the 15 acre limit.

Similarly, we have the small-scale sector. The investment limit for the small-scale sector is fixed and many items are reserved for the small-scale sector. According to my understanding, we can levy the same duty on the imported goods that are produced by industrial units abroad with the same capital investment. For that, the WTO provisions provide that we can put up our people abroad to certify that this agricultural production which has taken place is within the 15 acre limit and that it has not been produced by corporate farming, or that the industrial goods have been produced by the small-scale sector. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government has applied its mind to this question. If yes, what is its reaction?

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN: To take care of all these concerns, countervailing duties are imposed by the hon. Finance Minister. There is a list of items and there is a background of the countervailing duties imposed.

Secondly, we cannot ban some kinds of products just because we do not want their imports. For example the goods produced by the SSI. Because we have reserved certain goods for production by the small-scale sector, we cannot say that they should also reserve these

goods for production by those sectors. Just because we are giving a particular treatment to a sector, we cannot say that they should also give a similar treatment. Sir, we have got the legal opinion on it, and we found that that we cannot do it.

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN: I got representations from friends like you and we obtained legal opinion. We have found that we cannot ban these items.

श्री मोहमद आजम खान: सभापति जी, यह बिल्कुल सही है कि बाहर के सामानों से, चाइना और ताइवान के सामानों से, जितने बड़े शहर हैं — हम जिस शहर में हैं, इस वक्त दिल्ली में हैं, उसके बाजारों को भी देखा जा सकता है — पटे हुए हैं। परेशानी दरअसल यह है मान्यवर कि जब सबसे पहले अंग्रेजों ने चाय पिलानी हमें सिखाई थी तो सिर्फ चाय नहीं पिलाते थे बल्कि ठेलों पर चाय के डिब्बे भी रखे होते थे और हर चाय पीने वालों को एक पाउंड का चाय का डिब्बा साथ में ले जाने के लिए भी मिलता था। जब लोग चाय पीने के आदी हो गए तो डिब्बा रोक लिए गया। चाय मुफ्त पिलाई जाने लगी और चाय मंहगी होती गई और कितनी मंहगी है यह चाय पीने वाले जानते हैं जो सामान बाहर का हिंदुस्तान में आकर सस्ता बिक रहा है उसकी क्वालिटी अच्छी है या बुरी है, यह बहस बाद की है। लेकिन वह सामान इतनी कम कीमत का है कि खुद देशवासी थोड़े दिन बाद इसी सामान को खरीदने के लिए आपस में लड़ेंगे जो किसान का बेटा 2,000 रुपए की साइकिल नहीं खरीद सकता है वह 600 रुपए की चीन की साइकिल जरूर लेगा और देश की बनी हुई साइकिल नहीं बिकेगी और न ही बनेगी। इस समस्या का क्या समाधान है कि डेढ़ सौ रुपए का टेप रिकार्ड इस वक्त भी दिल्ली की फुटपाथ पर बिक रहा है और एक सौ रुपए का ट्रांजिस्टर जो सात बेंड का है और उसमें नेशनल और मैट्रो के दो बेंड टी.वी. के भी आते हैं? यह कहना भी सही नहीं है क्योंकि अभी चंद रोज पहले मैंने टेलीविजन पर डिसकशन सुना और सरकारी अधिकारियों ने यह कहा है कि यह अफवाह है कि चीन का बना हुआ सामान सब-स्टैंडर्ड है। हमें मुकाबला करना पड़ेगा उनसे सामान बनाने में। सरकारी तंत्र ने ऐसा कहा है टेलीविजन पर। क्या मंत्री जी यह बतलाएंगे कि जब सौ करोड़ का देश, गरीब देश, उस सामान को खरीदने के लिए मजबूर होगा क्योंकि यहां का बना हुआ सामान मंहगा होगा, उस वक्त हमारी वह सारी काटेज इंडस्ट्री, वे अच्छा काम करने वाले जब बंद हो जाएंगे उस भुखमरी से जो यहां से लेकर किसान के घर तक जाएगी तो किस तरह से इस समस्या का समाधान होगा?

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN: Mr. Chairman, Sir, we have already taken *suo motu* action on dry batteries and on sports shoes from China. I want to tell the House that Chinese batteries last for two

hours, whereas Indian batteries last for four hours. That should be taken into consideration. It may be cheaper for sometime. But the Indian consumer is also quality conscious.

Regarding Chinese cycles, we have not received any complaint from the Indian cycle industry. I want to make one point here. They are manufacturing alloy cycles also, which can be folded. In some of the European capitals, they cannot enter the downtown in a car. So, what they do is, they put the cycle in their car, in the dicky, by folding it and then park the car somewhere. They ride on the bicycle and put that bicycle in the office locker. Then, they take it out. Sir, the point is, we have to be completely competitive. But the problem is, we are not competitive. Our population is one billion. China's population is also large. Why can't we compete with China? Therefore, the ultimate answer is: we should improve competitiveness. In the meanwhile, we have taken action on dry batteries and sports shoes.

सरदार बलविन्दर सिंह भुंडर : आनरेबल चेयरमैन साहब, मैं आपके जरिए मिनिस्टर साहब से यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि जो इंडस्ट्रियल गुड्स हैं, उनके बारे में तो मिनिस्टर साहब ने अपने आसर में बोला है कि हम कंपीट करना सीखें, यह ठीक है, सही बात है और डबल ड्यूटी में वह आ गया, लेकिन देश में कनक के बहुत बड़े भंडार हैं, चावल के बहुत बड़े भंडार हैं, शूगर के बहुत बड़े भंडार हैं, वेजिटेबल्स हैं, फ्रूट्स हैं, किसी चीज़ की कमी नहीं है, बल्कि ज्यादा है, बाज़ार में पोटैटो रूल रहा है, इसके बावजूद वे क्या स्टेप्स ले रहे हैं, क्योंकि पिछले 3-4 साल से कनक भी बाहर से आ रही है, चावल भी बाहर से आ रहा है और एडिबल आयल, जो पॉम आयल है वह 55 हजार करोड़ का पिछले तीन सालों में आ गया। हिन्दुस्तान में एक तरफ तो कमी है और दूसरी तरफ किसान को रेट नहीं मिल रहा है, तो इसका क्या कारण है ? यह सब जो हो रहा है, यह डबल ड्यूटी और ओजीएल, दोनों को मिला कर हो रहा है। इसके लिए आप क्या कदम उठा रहे हैं ? आप बार-बार कहते हैं कि हम कदम उठा रहे हैं, लेकिन क्या कदम उठा रहे हैं जबकि किसानों की सब फसलों के रेट नीचे जा रहे हैं, बेरोजगारी बढ़ रही है, लोगों की क्रय शक्ति कम हो रही है, और इसके कारण आगे आने वाले समय में तबाही के चांसेज भी बढ़ रहे हैं ? इसलिए मैं मिनिस्टर साहब से कहना चाहता हूँ कि उनकी तरफ से, जो लिखा-लिखाया जवाब है वह नहीं आना चाहिए, बल्कि आप सोचिए कि देश में क्या हो रहा है और उसका आपको क्या इंतजाम करना है। आज स्माल स्केल इंडस्ट्री

खत्म हो रही है और किसानों भी खत्म हो रही है, दोनों तरफ यह हो रहा है। इसलिए देखिए कि इसमें क्या स्टेप ले रहे हैं ?

सैकंड पार्ट, मैं यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि इन्होंने जो आंसर किया है और एंटी डंपिंग ड्यूटी के लिए जो हमारे उपाय हैं, वे बहुत अच्छे हैं, लेकिन मैं कहना चाहता हूँ कि अमरीका वालों को तो यह पता है कि हमारे यहां किस चीज़ की जरूरत नहीं है और उनके यहां तो सिस्टम है कि जब वहां माल जाता है तो वे पहले ही ड्यूटी लगा देते हैं, केस बाद में झगड़ते हैं, लेकिन हमारे यहां पहले एप्लीकेशन आती है, फिर केस देखते हैं, फिर ड्यूटी लगती है और तब तक मार्केट में बहुत माल आ जाता है और देश का नुकसान हो जाता है। क्या हमने कभी इस बारे में सोचा है और जैसे वे मैथड एडॉप्ट कर रहे हैं उसी तरह से क्या हम भी बही मैथड एडॉप्ट करने को तैयार हैं ताकि देश के लोगों का हित हो सके ?

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN: Mr. Chairman, Sir, in the recent Exim Policy, we have announced special measures to protect our industry, especially, the agricultural sector. For example, we are going to adopt sanitary and phytosanitary measures. Anybody can import a vegetable product, but not disease and pest. It will undergo risk analysis, so, it will not be easy for them to import. The hon. Finance Minister is here. He may raise or lower the tariff calibration according to the demand of the day. I can assure the House—I need not explain that we have been raising the tariff barriers—that we are doing enough, just as New Zealand is doing, just as Australia is doing, just as other countries are doing. We are not going to sit quiet.

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the hon. Minister is asking this House and this country why we cannot be competitive like China, America and so on and so forth. The hon. Minister, in the first part of this Session, has laid here on the Table of this House a list showing figures in billions of dollars that the United States, the European Union, Australia, New Zealand and other countries are giving as subsidies for their agriculture and for their exports. The figures were given by the Government, by the minister himself. I would like to know from the Minister what type of subsidies and other facilities the Government is going to give to our agriculture and to our export to bring them on a level playing field

and to make them really competitive with the countries that he has mentioned.

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN: Merits and demerits of subsidy is a different matter. But level playing can be done by levelling up and levelling down. The spirit of the agreement on agriculture is to lower the subsidy of these countries so that we may compete with them. In one way, the agreement on agriculture will be a help to us, provided the developed countries lower their subsidies. So, we are fighting for that.

SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Sir, I have got the answer to one of the supplementaries I was proposing to put. One more aspect is, it is people's perception, perception at the international level, that the Government of India does not maintain an accurate data base to negotiate, in the interests of the country concerned, with the WTO. What are the measures that have been initiated by the Government of India in this regard?

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN: Whenever we go to the WTO, we consult all the stake-holders. Last time, when the WTO ministerial meetings were conducted in Seattle, we consulted all the political leaders, all the scientists, all the academics, all the stake-holders. We will do that before we start the negotiations.

Regarding agriculture, there is some kind of disinformation. Nothing is going on. Only 41 countries have given proposals. It will take two or three years.

SHRI JIBON ROY: Mr. Chairman, Sir, in the real sense, we have been cornered in world trade. Products are coming through the neighbouring countries, through Nepal, Bangladesh and other areas. Products, not of these countries, but from outside are taking these routes to India. Through China also they are coming. On the other hand, the OECD and American countries are adopting more and more restrictive trade practices in many ways. They are not allowing our products, sometimes, in the name of environment, sometimes, in the name of our using child labour, sometimes, on the ground that we are selling products at lower prices, substandard prices. America has almost stopped the import of Indian steel. But they are sending

second steel in the name of good steel. In that manner, already we are in a trade war. You are telling us that you are imposing countervailing duty. I have seen in *The Hindu*, the day-before-yesterday, a statement from the U.S. Trade Department. They have said that the customs duty you have imposed on agricultural products and the countervailing duties you are imposing are against the policy of the WTO. We want to know what agreement you have signed, in the real sense. What is coming to us? At the same time, I want the Government to declare whether they will come out with a white paper on the overall situation of trade and our position, so that we can discuss the matter in this House at length.

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN: Nothing new has happened. The GATT agreement was signed in 1947. In the Uruguay Round, the agreement was signed in 1986. After that, nothing has happened. We are following it. Regarding agriculture, we are negotiating ...(*Interruptions*).

SHRI JIBON ROY: The agricultural product price has gone down by 150 per cent in the international market. You have imposed a customs duty of only 70 per cent.

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN: That is a different matter. What I am saying is, nothing new has happened. Whatever is in the control of the Government, we will be doing.

Sir, he mentioned about smuggling. We have a porous border. Smuggling is one of the oldest crimes in the world. With Nepal, we have some problem.

SHRI JIBON ROY: It is coming according to the existing law. It is coming according to the existing international law.

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN: Sir, it is very difficult to prove that. The Customs authorities are always vigilant. Not only that, Sir. If some countries are restricting our exports, the same thing can be done by India also, whoever it is. I assure the House that we will not hesitate to do that.

*444. [*The questioner (Shri Dilip Singh Judev) was absent. For answer vide page SO infra.*]