

आग लगी हुई है वह बूझें क्योंकि कोल इंडिया और ठेकेदारों ने मिल कर के उसके नाम पर करोड़ों रुपया कमाया है। सरकार अगर एक बात का जवाब दे दे कि कोल इंडिया खुद काम न कर के ठेकेदारों से क्यों काम कराता है और इसका जवाब दे दे कि तीन सालों में कितना पैसा आपने ठेकेदारों को दिया है, यह बताइये। (व्यवधान)

SHRI SUKOMAL SEN: He has not said whether the Government is... (Interruptions)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Minister has given the reply. I don't think you can extract more out of him. I think there is nothing more to extract on this question. (Interruptions)... So, I will pass on to the next question, Question No. 262, Shri Parmeshwar Kumar Agarwalla.

Agricultural export strategy

@*262. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an agricultural export strategy is under Government's consideration;

(b) if so, by when it is likely to be finalised and announced; and

(c) what are the items likely to be included in the strategy

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

@Previously Starred Question 162, transferred from 5.3.1993.

Statement

Agricultural Export Strategy

India has a natural comparative advantage in agricultural exports because of our lower import needs of inputs, our reasonable labour costs, and our diverse agro-climatic conditions. Government has, therefore, decided to accord high priority to agricultural exports and has already chalked out a strategy in this connection. While maximising foreign exchange earnings from the agricultural sector, as well as maximising returns to farmers, the strategy would be to do so in a manner that it does not compromise our food security.

A special thrust is being given to exports of horticultural produce and processed foods. Towards this end, substantial allocations have already been made in the VIII Plan.

With the exchange rate adjustments, the introduction of a unified exchange rate, the lowering of customs duties, the easier availability of a credit for exports on softer terms, and changes and simplifications in the EXIM Policy and Procedures, there is an environment in the country today which is highly conducive for exports. Within this environment, the specific programmes undertaken or proposed to be undertaken for the agricultural sector are expected to substantially steps up agricultural exports within the VIII Plan period.

SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, in the changing scenario of the world the area of importance has shifted from the military power to economical power. In this background, the export strategy of the country becomes extremely important. The first part of my question was, "whether it is a fact that an agricultural export strategy is under Government's consideration". He replied,

yes. The second part of my question was, "if so, by when it is likely to be finalised and announced." There is no reply to this question. Part (c) of my question was: What are the items likely to be included in the strategy? There is no reply on this point also.

I would like to draw the attention of the House to a statement made by the Union Commerce Minister, Mr. Pranab Mukherjee, which appeared in *The Statesman* on Friday the 5th March and I quote:

"India had comparative advantage in 16 areas in the agriculture sector. However consolidation of exports would much depend on factors like credit availability, technical inputs, marketing, entrepreneurship, transport network, and uninterrupted supply of power. He said, 10 billion jobs per year could be generated by developing food processing sector."

Now, therefore, it is a fact that the agricultural sector has a great potential both for export and for providing employment. In this background, my first supplementary is whether the Government has made any in-depth study of the items of agricultural products which can be exported to other countries and the infrastructure required for such exports. What has the Government done so far in this regard?

SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED:

Sir, soon after our Government came to power we took stock of the then existing position and we also formulated our strategy as to how to boost the exports. Thirty-four special focus areas were identified. Different committees were appointed and then after due deliberations after a lot of deliberations our targets were fixed. In the overall export strategy, agricultural commodities also have their place. Now for the information of the hon. Member, out of the target fixed for agricultural commodities,

last year, exports were to the tune of Rs. 4,377 crores, i.e. during 1991-92. This year we are expecting an achievement of Rs. 6,000 crores. Different items under the agricultural commodities are also there. I think tobacco is there: spices, sesame, niger seeds, HPS groundnuts, oil seeds, shellac, sugar, cashew and a number of marine products are also there.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Second supplementary... (*Interruptions*)...

SHRI VIREN J. SHAH: Sir, I think he asked what the infrastructural arrangements being made this year are. He has not answered... (*Interruptions*)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Actually that is legitimately the second supplementary... (*Interruptions*)...

SHRI VIREN J. SHAH: He asked what the infrastructural arrangements being made to accelerate exports are and he quoted the Commerce Minister. So what specific action is being taken in that area for the next 12 months? The Minister has not replied... (*Interruptions*)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Will you ask the second supplementary. I think the Minister will give the answer at that time.

SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Sir, my last question has not yet been replied.

MR. CHAIRMAN: When you jumble so many questions into one, this is what normally happens. Will you ask the second supplementary.

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: Sir, you must take care that questions are not hijacked by another Member. That much protection you must give... (*Interruptions*)...

SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: As per the reports that appeared in the newspapers,

India is the third largest producer of fruits after Brazil and the USA and the second largest producer of vegetables after China. The other day when we were discussing the Presidential Address, even the Prime Minister mentioned about agricultural exports. I do not think with this lopsided reply and strategy we can save the country from foreign exchange crunch in the near future. Unless infrastructural facilities are developed which are there all round the world and even in small countries, whatever export strategy that you make on paper will not serve any purpose. Therefore, my second supplementary is: what is the Government doing in regard to export of vegetables, fruits and other items which are perishable? What infrastructural development has taken place or is taking place in this regard?

**THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE
(SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE):**

The hon. Member is correct. People want to take full advantage by export of agricultural products. We have to provide necessary inputs to farmers and infrastructural facilities are to be improved. So far as our export basket is concerned, the hon. member is fully aware that a large number of agricultural products contribute substantially to the existing export basket. But we want to go beyond that and we have identified four areas where support is necessary; one is, technical input; another is credit input and third is managerial input, fourth is entrepreneurial input. Here the Government organisations are trying to build up certain focus areas and even we are contemplating on providing some kind of facility to agricultural producer and exporter—of course, the final decision has not yet been taken—on the same lines as is being extended to industrial exporters so far as export-orientated units are concerned. Regarding infrastructural inputs Government is contemplating on working out a Centrally-sponsored

scheme where States would be provided with some support to create the necessary infrastructure, physical infrastructure like roads, electricity, development of a particular area, etc. So, this is one such area and, as the hon. Member has very correctly pointed out, a substantial part of our production could not be utilised because we could not improve the shelf-life of the products from the products from the producing point to the nearest marketing point and there comes the question of providing technical inputs so that the shelf-life of the products could be increased. And this type of arrangements are being worked out with the various organisations and when the detailed schemes are worked out I will come and share them with the Members of the House.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Sir, the Minister is an old hand at the game and, I am sure, he must be aware of the fact that there have been efforts in the past in one particular direction—I am sorry he has not mentioned it—and that is, when we think of agricultural exports, we generally think of food-grains, we think of processed foods, we think of fruits and vegetables, but to my mind, a very important export earner could be cut-flower and we have in our country various areas which could specialise in this. What I would like to know from the Minister, therefore, Sir, is: Is there any scheme which they are contemplating where they will develop export-oriented gardens and give all the facilities to flower-growers so that this could become a major export earner in view of the markets in the Middle-East, in Western Europe and in other parts of the world?

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Sir potentiality is there and I agree with the hon. Member that we are not only to give facilities to the farmers—it is the first objective—but the second objective would be to also

build infrastructure such as transportation from the production point to the consuming point. And this is one area which is thrust upon....

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Have you identified this as a growth point?

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: This is one of the thrust areas. That is why I say this.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I think, Meghalaya and Sikkim orchards would be a great source.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Sir, I only hope that the House will lend its support to overcome the problem from the environmental side.

SHRI E. BALANANDAN: Sir, the statement of the Minister says like this: "India has a naturally comparative advantage in agricultural exports because of our lower import needs of inputs, our reasonable labour costs and our diverse agro-climatic conditions." That means, Sir, we are having a comparative advantage in the matter. Therefore, any strategy which we have to implement should keep up this advantage which we are having so that we can have better exports. In the statement which he has given, many things are stated. In para 3 of the statement, it is stated that the introduction of unified export rate, etc. is going to give us further advantage. I must submit, through you, Sir, in view of the new policy which is going to be implemented, the cost of the agricultural inputs are going to go sky-high. Today, we are giving electricity for agriculture more or less free of costs. The policy which is now being pursued by the Government says, "no subsidy by way of electricity". As a result, one unit of electricity will cost at least Rs. 3 or Rs. 2.50. And the Government has also stopped the

subsidy for agriculture. Also because of this kind of introduction of a unified exchange rate, the import rate of the petroleum products is going to go high and, therefore, the internal production cost of fertiliser is also going to increase.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please ask a question now.

SHRI E. BALANANDAN: Therefore, Sir, if at all imports are to be developed, the comparative advantage which we are having now has to be kept up. The new policy which is going to be implemented by the Government goes against it. Therefore, may I put a question to the Minister: Will the Government see to it that the present advantage, whatever there is for increasing the production of agricultural goods at a lower cost, will be kept up or is the globalisation prescription which has been given by the World Bank going to be implemented to the disadvantage of the nation?

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Sir, there is no question of not providing adequate support to the agriculturists. But, so far as the cost is concerned, cost cannot remain static. In every part of the world it is increasing. So, surely we are not going to export by incurring losses and whatever would be the cost, we shall have to get it from them. But here I would like to share one thing with the honourable Member—I do not know what would be in the future—and that is that if the subsidies of the highly industrialised countries like the EC countries and the US are reduced, Indian goods, particularly the agricultural products, would be more competitive because our subsidies in agriculture are much less compared to the subsidies which are provided by the other countries. And, in respect of the cost of inputs, Sir, after all, somebody has to bear the cost. After all, who will bear

the cost? If the cost of generation of electricity increases, somebody has to bear the cost and it has to be borne by somebody. This is a general issue and we cannot just discuss global economic policies within the purview of one question here.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes, Mr. J. P. Mathur.

SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SABHAJIRAO SHINDE: Sir, the next question is in my name and it is also related to agricultural products. I think it can also be taken up along with this... (Interruptions)... and I may be permitted to put a question... (Interruptions)...

SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: How can it be done?

श्री जगदीश प्रताप सायुध : श्रीमन् जो सूची बताई है उसमें मछली का भी नाम है... (व्यवधान)... क्या आज तक जितना हमारा मत्स्य उत्पादन है, मछली उत्पादन, वह सारा विदेश में कन्जूम होता है? यदि नहीं होता है तो उस के बढ़ावे के लिए क्या कर रहे हैं? विशेषतः अंडमान के आस-पास जितना समुद्र है वहां पर मछली की बहुत उपज है, हमारे ट्रालरजें न आते हुए विदेशियों के ट्रालरजें, इण्डोनेशिया वगैरह के आ कर मछली ले जाते हैं, डिस्टिन्क्शन, तो क्या सरकार ने मछली के उत्पादन के लिए खासतौर से जो अण्डमान का एरिया है, जहां पर विदेशी आकर ट्रालरजें ले जाते हैं, कोई व्यवस्था की है और कितना बढ़ाना चाहते हैं?

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Sir, it is a good suggestion and I think it is a suggestion for action and we will take appropriate action. (Interruptions)... Mathurji, I gave the answer and you did not listen to me. I said that this is a good suggestion for action... (Interruptions)... I said that this is a good suggestion for action. But only one point I would like to emphasise. With regard to agricultural products,

particularly foodstuffs, we must be extremely careful in respect of quality and international standards. Sometimes it so happens that our products may be good quality-wise, but packaging is so bad that the goods are not marketable. That is why certain concessions have been given in the Budget so that we can keep an eye on this aspect and improve our packaging and, at the same time, keep the standards to international levels so far as food products and agricultural products are concerned.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes, Mr. Shanti Tyagi.

श्री शांति त्यागी : सभापति जी, मेरा प्रश्न बहुत मीठा है, स्वीट है। मंत्री जी के उत्तर में कहा गया है कि हार्टीकल्चर पैदावार से निर्यात पर सरकार विशेष ध्यान देगी। मैं जाननीय मंत्री जी से जानना चाहता हूँ कि आम, वही जो हम खाते हैं, आम के आम, गुठलियों के दाम, और मीठा है, आम अर्थात् मैंगोज की मांग किस-किस देशों में अधिक है और कौन-कौन सी वैरायटीज की है? और आम का निर्यात बढ़ाने के लिए सरकार ने उत्पादकों को क्या रियायतें दी हैं? मीठा प्रश्न है।

श्री कमालुद्दीन अहमद : आपको मीठे प्रश्न का मीठा जवाब मिलेगा। यह सही है कि आम की एक्सपोर्ट होती है और खास तौर से एक पार्टीकुलर वैरायटी को जो महाराष्ट्र में पैदा होती है अलफांसो उसी की एक्सपोर्ट अब तक होती रही है। अब कोशिश यह हो रही है कि और भी बहुत सी वैरायटीज के एक्सपोर्ट का इंतजाम किया जाए और उसके लिए सुविधाएं उपलब्ध की जाएं इसमें सबसे बड़ी प्रोब्लम उसकी सेल्फ लाइफ की है उसकी पैकेजिंग की थी। उसमें भी बड़ी हद तक कुछ इम्प्रूवमेंट हुआ है। आम का भी और आम के साथ-साथ अंगूर का भी अब एक्सपोर्ट हो रहा है और इस निर्णय में हम पूरी-पूरी कोशिश कर रहे हैं।... (व्यवधान)...

श्री शांति त्यागी : सभापति जी, चीसा दसहरी का नाम नहीं लिया उत्तर प्रदेश के?

श्री कमालुद्दीन अहमद : मैंने अल्फांसो के साथ कहा और दूसरे ग्राम। उसमें बहुत-सी बैरायटीज होंगी दसहरी भी होगा, लंगड़ा भी होगा, चौसा भी होगा, रतौल भी होगा। सारी बैरायटीज होंगी।

श्री मोहम्मद खलीलुर रहमान (ग्रांध प्रदेश) : हैदराबाद का बेनिशान।

श्री कमालुद्दीन अहमद : हैदराबाद का बेनिशान भी होगा, हिमायत भी होगा, रसाल भी होगा—सारे होंगे।

MR. CHAIRMAN: I think, we can now move on to the next Question Question No. 263.

Financial assistance for pre-loom and post-loom processing facilities

*263. SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH:†
SHRI SATYA PRAKASH
MALAVIYA:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central Government is providing any financial assistance to State Handloom and Power Loom Development Corporations and its Co-operative societies for setting up pre-loom, and post-loom processing facilities;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what criteria is being followed for extending such assistance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

†The Question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Digvijay Singh.

Statement

Financial Assistance for pre-loom and post-loom processing facilities

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Government of India has been extending financial assistance to the State Level Corporation or Apex Cooperatives or other such bodies supported by State Governments on 100 per cent loan basis. The schemes are approved on submission of detailed project report indicating, inter alia, the need for the Process/Dye House and value addition that will be generated by improving the processing/dyeing facilities. The project has to be implemented by State Level Corporations or Apex Cooperatives or other such bodies supported by State Governments. However, this scheme has been transferred to State Sector from the year 1993-94.

श्री दिग्विजय सिंह : सभापति जी, पहले की तरह इस बार भी सरकार ने सवाल का जवाब सही तरीके से नहीं दिया है। मेरा बड़ा स्पेसिफिक सवाल था कि पावरलूम और हैंडलूम को आप पैसा कहां से और किस तान देते हैं ? आपने जवाब दिया है, सारे स्टेट लेबल कापेरेशंस के बारे में। मुझे इस दिव्य ज्ञान की जरूरत नहीं थी। मैं तो यह चाहता था कि, जिस सवाल का जवाब मैंने आपसे पूछा है उसी का जवाब आप देने लेकिन बजाय स्पेसिफिक सवाल का स्पेसिफिक जवाब देने के आपने उसको जनरलाइज कर दिया और पूरा सवाल उसमें छिपा दिया।

सभापति महोदय, मैं आपके माध्यम से मंत्री महोदय से जो सवाल कर रहा हूँ, यह बड़ा ग्रहण सवाल है। यह उन लोगों का मसला है जोकि इस देश में सूखमरी की कगार पर खड़े हैं और ये वे लोग हैं जिन्होंने अकलियतों में जंगे आजादी की लड़ाई में सबसे ग्रहण भूमिका निभाई थी। महोदय, आज उनकी स्थिति इस हाल में पहुंच गई है कि कम-से-कम पूर्वी उत्तर प्रदेश और बिहार में तो मैं जानता हूँ कि ये लोग करीब-करीब सूखमरी की कगार पर खड़े हैं वहां रोज प्रदर्शन, रोज धरना और