

SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA: What is that proposal?

SHRI M. O. H. FAROOK: They want to have a tourist village as per their choice. That is all.

SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAVRAO JADHAV: I am very happy with the hon. Minister's reply that in Goa, something is going on with Japanese collaboration.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You put your question.

SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAVRAO JADHAV: The Minister has also stated in his reply that the team has visited Maharashtra and other parts of the country. The entire coastal link between Bombay and Goa is full of beautiful spots and the Maharashtra Tourist Development Corporation is trying its level best to set up new tourist centres on that coast. May I know, apart from the Japanese coordination with the Government of India and India Tourism Development Corporation, what type of hotels they have set up in Goa? Recently, I visited Goa and I found the hotels of Taj group and Agra group. What is ITDC doing? A number of tourists from all over the world visit Goa because the weather of Goa...

MR. CHAIRMAN: He has understood the question.

SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAVRAO JADHAV: What is ITDC doing?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Is your question about whether ITDC is doing something in Goa?

SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAVRAO JADHAV: I would like to know whether the ITDC is going to set up new hotels to promote tourism.

SHRI M. O. H. FAROOK: At present, we are not going to set up any ITDC hotels in Goa. Already there are five-star hotels in Goa and three-star hotels which are privately run. Also, there are two-star hotels and one-star

hotels in Goa. So, we do not feel that there is any necessity for ITDC hotels.

SHRI M. A. BABY: While appreciating the steps taken by the Government to promote tourism especially in the background of precarious balance of payments position, I am afraid, the steps taken by the Government are not keeping the larger interests of the country in mind. I read that the more sensitive parts of Andaman & Nicobar, which was a sensitive area from the defence point of view until now, have been opened up with foreign collaboration for attracting tourists. I want to know whether the ramifications of such a step from the defence angle were considered before taking such a decision. Also, has the Ministry consulted the Defence Ministry regarding the ramifications of opening up these places for tourists? About liberalisation, one can understand with restraint. But this is very important.

SHRI M. O. H. FAROOK: This is something which is connected with Andamans and other places. But I would like to tell the honourable Member, when we take a decision about some tourism promotion scheme, consultations with the other Ministries are held and only after getting their clearance, we are able to do that.

Impact of abolition of posts and Austerity measures in Government departments

*82. **SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA:**†

MISS SAROJ KHAPAHDE:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the amount of money expected to be saved as a result of abolition of 1000 posts and reduction of travel cost by 20 per cent as announced by Prime Minister in the last week of December, 1991;

†The question was asked on the floor of the House by Shri Shiv Pratap Mishra.

(b) whether Government have formulated any scheme to utilise the services of officers rendered surplus as a result thereof; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SHANTARAM POTDUKHE): (a)

The estimated savings as a result of decision to abolish about 450 posts in the Department of Industrial Development, Directorate General of Technical Development and Development Commissioner of Cement Industry is expected of the order of Rs. 1.60 crores per annum. It is estimated that a reduction of 20 per cent in the Travelling Allowance budget would yield a saving of about Rs. 25.00 crores per annum.

(b) Central Civil Services (Redeployment of Surplus Staff) Rules, 1990 lay down detailed guidelines for redeployment of surplus personnel.

(c) Salient features are given in the enclosed Statement. (See below). The guidelines provide for redeployment of surplus staff against the available vacancies. Till such time the surplus employees are absorbed elsewhere they are paid full pay and allowances by the concerned Ministry/Department's Office.

Statement

The salient features of Central Civil Services (Redeployment of Surplus Staff) Rules, 1990.

(a) The Rules apply to staff rendered surplus along with their posts from the Ministries/Departments/Offices of the Government of India as a result of administrative reforms, studies of work measurements undertaken by the Staff Inspection Unit of the Ministry of Finance or any other body set up by the Central Government or abolition or winding up of any organisation by the Central Government in whole or in part.

(b) The facility of redeployment under the Rule is available to Central Govern-

ment servants who are permanent or quasipermanent or if temporary, have rendered not less than 5 years regular continuous service.

(c) The Rules do not apply to employees appointed on adhoc/casual/work charged/contract basis.

(d) Temporary employees who have not completed 5 years continuous service are required to be retrenched. However, for those who have completed atleast 3 years service, facility of redeployment in the same organisation or elsewhere against future vacancies is extended.

(e) The staff declared surplus are transferred to a Surplus Staff Establishment created in the concerned Ministry/Department and until their redeployment elsewhere, they are paid full pay and allowances.

(f) Surplus employees are redeployed against available vacancies in other offices taking into account their qualifications, experience, scale of pay and preference for place of posting to the extent possible. Redeployment is effected by the Central Surplus Staff Cell in the Department of Personnel & Training. Details of the staff rendered surplus are required to be reported to the Cell for the purpose of making nominations for redeployment. Details of vacancies in Groups 'A', 'B' & 'C' to be filled by direct recruitment are also reported to the Cell by each Ministry/Department's Office. In fact before filling up any such vacancies by direct recruitment, offices are required to obtain 'no objection certificate' from the Cell and this enables the Cell to obtain the details of available vacancies for the purpose of redeployment of surplus staff.

(g) The redeployment of Group 'D' staff is made by a Special Cell in the Office of Director General for Employment & Training, Ministry of Labour. Redeployment against Group A and B posts is made in consultation with the UPSC, wherever necessary.

(h) Prior to 1989, a surplus employee was to be retrenched unless he was redeployed within six months. This

time limit has now been withdrawn. The surplus employee will now remain in the Surplus Staff Cell indefinitely till such time as he is suitably redeployed.

(i) A surplus employee on his redeployment in a new post in a new organisation cannot claim any seniority in the grade on the basis of his service in a different post in his previous office. Full weightage of his past service will, however, be given for the purpose of fixation of pay, annual increment, leave and retirement benefits.

SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA: While I congratulate the honourable Prime Minister for effecting such measures towards the country's internal economy, may I know from the honourable Finance Minister what steps are being stipulated to touch the other Government organisations which have outlived their utility and are now redundant now an unnecessary strain on the public exchequer? I want a categorical commitment from the Finance Minister that the Prime Minister's directive for a 20 per cent reduction would not affect the poor staff at the lower levels in the name of public interest and I would also like to know what the target date is by when the Government proposes to achieve the object.

SHRI SHANTARAM POTDUKHE: An exercise by the Cabinet Secretary is going on for reduction of higher-level posts. An exercise by the Finance Ministry is also going on to see where the posts can be reduced.

SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA: Sir, as water seeks its own level, senior Government officials also manipulate their own place even after years of retirement through pressure and influence. There are reports that a number of retired senior officials have managed for themselves khushi positions with lucrative emoluments and perks as consultants, advisers and chairmen though their contribution to the organisations is negligible. But they block the prospects of genuine aspirants. In the Ministry of Railways alone more than 200 retired senior officials are working, as, for example, in RITES, the Railway Finance

Corporation...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Don't make a speech. You have only to put a question.

SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA: .. and other undertakings. Other Ministries are also not lagging behind. I want to know whether the honourable Finance Minister, who deserves our commendation for his endeavours to re-establish our detailed economy, is aware of this and what measures are being contemplated to avoid this situation.

SHRI SHANTARAM POTDUKHE: Government is not having any information regarding retired personnel...

SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA: He should get the information and lay it on the Table of the House.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH): The primary consideration in filling various posts is public interest. If in public interest it is necessary to select a particular person even when he happens to be a retired person, I don't think there should be a bar to it. But I do take the point that at a time when our Government is trying to restructure the administrative services, there should be no scope for favouritism. The Prime Minister has given clear directions to that effect.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes, Miss Khaparde.

MISS SAROJ KHARPADE: Sir, before I put my specific supplementary to the honourable Minister, I would like to know whether the Committee headed by the Cabinet Secretary has already examined the scope for further pruning of the Central Government's expenditure and, if so, what the recommendations are and whether the Government proposes to accept and implement all those recommendations.

Sir, my supplementary is in three parts:

(a) Sir, what are the names of offices and organizations in which over 1,000 posts have been abolished and what are

the names of the offices and organizations of the Central Government which are likely to be affected by the abolition of these posts in the near future?

(b) I would like to know the exact number of posts of Joint Secretary and above which have been abolished or are proposed to be abolished in the near future in the Central Government; and

(c) I would also like to know whether the Government has finalised the details of the "Golden Handshake Scheme" for the Central Government employees also who opt for voluntary retirement and, if so, what the details thereof are.

SHRI SHANTARAM POTDUKHE: Sir, the honourable Member has asked about pruning... (Interruptions)... and about abolition of the posts of Joint Secretary and above. As I said, that exercise is still going on.

MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: You have said nothing in your reply. You have given only the salient features of the rules and regulations of the Service... (Interruptions).⁶ You have not given anything in your reply. That is the whole problem... (Interruptions)...

SHRI SHANTARAM POTDUKHE: Sir, as the Prime Minister has told in the National Development Council meeting, the exercise has been started by the Cabinet Secretariat and in the Department of Industrial Development... (Interruptions)... some posts have been identified... (Interruptions)...

MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Sir I would like to request through you the Minister to answer my specific question. Sir, I have been asking certain questions for the last so many days and, today, my question has been admitted in the Question List. My request is that the Cabinet Minister should answer my question. That will be more appropriate... (Interruptions)... Let the Cabinet Minister reply to my question... (Interruptions)... It is a very sensitive issue... (Interruptions) It is a sensitive question.

SHRI SHANTARAM POTDUKHE: Sir, she has asked about the names of the Departments... (Interruptions)... That is what she has asked. One is the Department of Industrial Development. Then, there is the Directorate-General of Technical Development and the third is the Cement Control Office. These are the Offices which have been identified... (Interruptions)...

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Sir, she may not be satisfied with the reply, but she cannot say that only the Cabinet Minister should reply... (Interruptions)...

SHRI SHANTARAM POTDUKHE: Then, Sir, she has asked about the "Golden Handshake Scheme". Sir, it is the concern of the Department of Personnel and not the concern of the Ministry of Finance... (Interruptions)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes, Mr. Dipen Ghosh.

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: Sir, after the Budget has been placed by the Finance Minister on the 29th February, this reply... (Interruptions)...

MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Sir, I have put my supplementary and it has not been answered.

MR. CHAIRMAN: No. You are entitled to one supplementary and it has been answered... (Interruptions)...

कुमारी सरोज खापर्डे : सर, मेरे क्वेश्चन का जवाब अभी तक टीक से नहीं आया ।

श्री सभापति : जो जवाब देना था, डे दिया उन्होंने... (ब्यवधान)

MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: He has not replied to my question... (Interruptions)...

SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAVRAO JADHAV: The question should be replied properly, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Dipen Ghosh.

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: Sir, as in the Budget the Finance Minister reply hides

more than it reveals. I want to draw your kind attention to two particular points. One, to reply against part (a) where has given a calculation: Saving to the tune of Rs. 1.6 crores per annum on account of abolition of 450 posts in three departments. Then, again, to reply to part (c), it is said: The people already rendered surplus out of abolition of these posts would be retained till such time as the surplus employees are absorbed by the concerned Ministry...

MR. CHAIRMAN: That is there. Put your question.

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: There are two aspects. One is that the saving is of the Government as a whole, not of a particular department. And naturally these people who will be rendered surplus will be retained in the same department till they are absorbed in another department. And obviously...

MR. CHAIRMAN: What is your question?

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: And even if they are absorbed, they will be paid the salaries.

MR. CHAIRMAN: That he has written.

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: To what extent? Obviously in the saving to the tune of Rs. 1.6 crores on account of abolition of posts there is a little jugglery of figures. That is one aspect.

MR. CHAIRMAN: They must have calculated and reproduced that.

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: Second aspect, Sir, is that the Government in the meantime, apart from these three departments, has been taking measures to abolish posts by ten per cent in all the departments and also the existing vacancies, and thereby the possibility of absorbing the surplus employees is being negated. So in this background, Sir, my supplementary is whether the Government has been considering the reduction or abolition of posts by ten per cent in all the departments and abolishing the existing vacancies in the Central Gov-

ernment departments, and if so, how and where these so called surplus employees would be absorbed and thereby saving money to the public exchequer. This is part (a) of my supplementary.

Part two of my supplementary...

AN HON. MEMBER: Part 2(a)
...(Interruptions)...

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: To the extent of posts, both permanent and temporary, being abolished in the Government offices, it shrinks the possibility of appointing Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes employees to the extent of constitutional provisions given, and therefore my second part of the supplementary is...

MR. CHAIRMAN: How many parts?
(Interruptions) Let us be reasonable.

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: The measure of abolition of posts to save money of the public exchequer would harm the prospects of employees of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes as provided in the Constitution.

Part (c) of my supplementary question...

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, no. You cannot. (Interruptions) How much time you have taken.

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: It would affect the employment potential of the Government.

AN HON. MEMBER: Sir, he is confusing the Minister.

SHRI SHANTARAM POTDUKHE: Sir, the Government is not... (Interruptions). The employment is still there and we are going departmentwise. There are certain departments, like the Home Ministry, where we have not done so.

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: Everywhere you are giving orders to reduce by 10 per cent, to abolish all the existing vacancies. Why don't you absorb these people?

MR. CHAIRMAN: You hear him.

SHRI SHANTARAM POTDUKHE: It is not correct, Sir, that they are not being absorbed. They are being absorb-

ed. Even the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes ...

MR. CHAIRMAN: You are taking special care of them?

SHRI SHANTARAM POTDUKHE: Yes, Sir.

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: How? Where?

SHRI SHANTARAM POTDUKHE: And, Sir, it is not the policy of the Government to stop employment.

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: Sir, my question is not being replied. Part (a) of my supplementary...

SHRI SHANTARAM POTDUKHE: You asked about the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes. It is not the policy of the Government not to employ them. It is the policy of the Government to employ them.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri A. G. Kulkarni.

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: Sir, I seek your protection. I know the subject better than the Minister of State. Mr. Chidambaram is here. He was the Minister of Personnel and Public Grievances. He knows every rule. Dr. Manmohan Singh also knows because he was in the Government service for a longer period of time.

SHRI P. UPENDRA: Why can't they take Mr. Dipen Ghosh on loan, Sir?

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: Sir, my question is very specific. You have understood my question. Let him reply to my supplementary specifically.

SHRI VIREN J. SHAH: You have Mr. Dipen Ghosh as Parliamentary Adviser to the Government on how to answer questions.

AN HON. MEMBER: You can take the help of Mr. Dipen Ghosh.

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: They are taking the help of Mr. Viren Shah in making the Budget.
(Interruptions)

SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Government have ordered a review of the administrative requirements of people in various Departments of the Government. This we owe to our people because it is no use piling up Government expenditure if it is not functionally justified. But there is no fixed percentage that we have in mind. In certain Departments, the functional necessity may require increased employment and in those Departments, therefore, there will be a greater scope for employment. But in certain Departments, there is a shrinkage of work. And to keep people employed there simply because these people have to be employed—I understand the human problem—I don't think is the way to find jobs; digging holes and filling them up is no way of solving the employment problem.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: Recruitment at present is taking place only to Police and no other Department.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: Sir, the Government need not be on the defensive while justifying the cut in the expenditure of the Government of India. Sir, I want to know from the hon. Finance Minister whether it is a fact that at present as per the Economic Survey of 1992, the expenditure of the Government is Rs. 1,38,320 crores which is about 245 times since we attained independence. Is it the way of running a Government, spending on the employment without earning any money? On the position of employment, I want to know whether it is also a fact that it has risen from 93 lakhs to about 187 lakhs—that is double the expenditure—while the Government's income has only risen by 4.7 times. I take strong objection to this.

Sir, the Government, through the Prime Minister, has expressed that the Government will ruthlessly cut the expenditure. The announcement of the Prime Minister was that additional telephones will be cut. (Interruptions) I want to know whether it is a fact that the telephones of the officers and the political workers which are on Govern-

ment account have been cut. So, on these three counts, what is the present position of the Government?

SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH: Sir, we are making every effort to cut wasteful expenditure; whether it relates to travel, whether it relates to telephones or other activities, whichever activities are not justified by functional necessities, our Government is determined to reduce that expenditure. I would like to say that we will do so in a manner which does not cause needless human suffering. As my colleague, the hon. Minister of State pointed out, if some people are found to be surplus, we are not throwing them on to the market; we will keep them and will redeploy them. There is no retrenchment being undertaken.

मौलाना अबुबुल्ला खान आजमी : मैं आपके जरिये मंत्री महोदय से यह जानना चाहूंगा कि वह महकमा कौन-सा है जिसमें सबसे ज्यादा औहदे खत्म किये गये हैं और वह महकमा कौन-सा है जिसमें सबसे कम औहदे खत्म किये गये हैं और वह महकमा कौन-सा है जिसमें कोई भी औहदा खत्म नहीं किया गया है और अगर ऐसा है तो उसकी तफसील क्या है ?

[मौलाना अबुदुल्ला खान اعظمی:]

मैंने आपके जरिये मंत्री महोदय से यह जानना चाहूंगा कि वह महकमा कौन-सा है जिसमें सबसे ज्यादा औहदे खत्म किये गये हैं और वह महकमा कौन-सा है जिसमें सबसे कम औहदे खत्म किये गये हैं और वह महकमा कौन-सा है जिसमें कोई भी औहदा खत्म नहीं किया गया है और अगर ऐसा है तो उसकी तफसील क्या है ?

मौलाना अबुबुल्ला खान आजमी : मैंने तो बहुत कम सवाल किया है। मैं दुबारा दोहरा देता हूँ। मगर मुझे अफसोस है कि अगर यह जवान भी इस हाउस में नहीं सज्जी जाएगी तो

[Transliteration in Arabic Script.]

बाखिर कौन-सी जवान लाई जाय ? मेरा सवाल यह है कि... (व्यवधान)

[मौलाना अबुदुल्ला खान اعظمی:]

मैंने तो बहुत कम सवाल किया है - मैंने दुबारा दोहरा देता हूँ - मगर मुझे अफसोस है कि अगर ये जवान भी इस हाउस में नहीं सज्जी जाएगी तो अखिर कौन-सी जवान लाई जायेंगे - मेरा सवाल यह है कि... (मداخلत) ...

श्री सभापति : आपका सवाल हो गया है और वह समय में भी आ गया है; किरफायतसारी वक्त की भी होनी चाहिए।

श्री शंकर दयाल सिंह : आने तो उर्दू में शेर बनाया था—सर, फिरांगी की तमन्ना अब हमारे मन में है, इसलिए आप उर्दू में बोलिये :

श्री मोहम्मद अफजल उर्फ मीम अफजल : अगर उर्दू में जवाब दें तो अच्छी बात होगी।

[श्री मीम अफजल عرف م افضل:]

उर्दू में जवाब दें तो अच्छी बात होगी।

SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH: This is a continuous process and we have just started it. We have not reached any definite position. As and when this work is completed, we will be very happy to place all the information on the Table of the House.

मौलाना अबुबुल्ला खान आजमी : मेरा सवाल यह है... (व्यवधान)।

[मौलाना अबुदुल्ला खान اعظمی:]

मेरा सवाल यह है... (मداخلत) ...

श्री सभापति : आपका सवाल हो गया है, अब आप बैठ जाइये।

मौलाना अबुलखान खान अब्राहीम : मेरे सवाल का जवाब नहीं हुआ है।

: مولانا عبيد الله خان اعظمی :

سہمے سوال کا جواب نہیں ہوا ہے۔

श्री सुरेद्रजीत सिंह आहलुवालिया :
मंत्री महोदय ने अपने जवाब में यह बताया है कि ट्रेवलिंग एलाउन्स कम करने से करीब 25 करोड़ रुपए की बचत होगी। मैं मंत्री महोदय से सिर्फ इतना जानना चाहूंगा कि ट्रेवलिंग एलाउन्स आपने कम किया, लेकिन और भी बहुत सारे तौर-तरीके हो सकते हैं, इसलिए क्या आप सदन को यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि विभिन्न मंत्रालयों ने एम्बैसडर कम्पनी को जो नई गाड़ियां खरीदने के लिए आर्डर दिये हुए थे, ट्रेवलिंग एलाउन्स तो आप जखर कम कर रहे हैं, लेकिन इन गाड़ियों के लिए जो आपने नये एडवान्स दिये हुए हैं, क्या आप उन आर्डर्स को कैंसिल कर रहे हैं? आपने हजारों कारें खरीदने के आर्डर दिये हुए हैं, क्या आप उनको कैंसिल कर रहे हैं? मेरे सवाल का दूसरा भाग यह है कि जो मंत्री स्पेशल प्लेन से अभी भी चल रहे हैं उन पर क्या आपने कोई रोक लगाई है? कर्मशियल फ्लाइट में मंत्री लोग क्यों नहीं जाते हैं और ट्रेवल नहीं करते, यह बताने की कृपा करें।

SHRI SHANTARAM POTDUKHE:
Hon. Member has asked whether Government has stopped purchasing new cars. We have issued instructions that no new cars should be purchased. These instructions have already been issued. So, there is no question of purchasing new cars.

As regards travelling by planes, Home Ministry has issued instructions that the Ministers should not travel by first class.

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: Though they are travelling by special aircraft.

† [] Transliteration in Arabic Script.

SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH: I think there cannot be any fixed rule for this purpose. If a Minister of the Union has a duty to perform and if the performance of that duty requires using any particular mode of transport, I think he is within his right to use that mode.

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: If they travel by economy class, will they reach late?

श्री जगदीश प्रसाद माथुर : सभापति महोदय, मंत्री जी ने जो बतलाया इस बारे में मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि पिछले दिनों, जब से ये इंस्ट्रक्शंस जारी हुए हैं, विदेश जाने का कितने मंत्रियों का दौरा कैंसिल किया गया है? साथ ही मैं यह भी जानना चाहता हूँ कि कितने ऐसे सेक्रेटरीज हैं जिनका विदेशों का दौरा कैंसिल हुआ है? ... (व्यवधान)
कितने मंत्रियों और कितने सेक्रेटरीज का विदेश दौरा कैंसिल किया गया है या किसी का भी विदेश का दौरा कैंसिल नहीं किया गया है?

SHRI SHANTARAM POTDUKHE:
Sir, travel by Ministers abroad is the concern of the Home Ministry. (Interruption)

श्री जगदीश प्रसाद माथुर : कितनों का कैंसिल किया गया है, यह बताएं।

SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH: Sir, the assumption behind the hon. Member's question is that Ministers travel abroad when it is not necessary. I do not think so. That inference is not justified. All travel of Ministers abroad is approved by the Prime Minister's office. The Prime Minister looks into all these cases with the care that they deserve. (Interruptions).

SHRI JAGDISH PRASAD MATHUR:
Mr. Chairman, Sir, can I take it that no foreign travel is cancelled.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question No. 83. (Interruptions).

यह इससे संबंधित नहीं है, इससे कनेक्टड नहीं है।

श्री जगदीश प्रसाद माथुर : इसका मतलब यह है कि कोई दौरा कैंसिल नहीं किया गया। मंत्री लोग उतने ही

चल रहे हैं, सेक्रेटरीज़ उतने ही चल रहे हैं जितने पहले चलते थे, इसका मतलब क्या हुआ ?

Does it mean that all the proposals made by Ministers and Secretaries, in regard to foreign travel, are accepted by the Prime Minister? Is that so? (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question No. 83.

SHRI ASHIS SEN: Mr. Chairman, Sir, with your permission, may I ask a question?

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have called Question No. 83.

India's share in the global tea trade

*83. SHRI P. UPENDRA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India's share in the global tea trade has dropped drastically from 28 per cent in 1981-82 to about 18 per cent at present; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons for this decline and what steps Government are taking to promote export of tea?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHED): (a) and (b) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

Exports of tea from India during the period 1981-82 to 1990-91 is as given below:—

Year	Export	
	Qty. in million Kgs. Value in Rs. Crores	
1981-82	224.20	406.83
1982-83	194.09	369.45
1983-84	202.31	557.55
1984-85	217.40	771.38
1985-86	214.23	647.98
1986-87	196.23	579.48
1987-88	201.83	627.76
1988-89	204.81	641.87
1989-90	211.76	911.38
1990-91	199.16	1070.15

While the quantity of exports has remained more or less stagnant, India's share in the global tea exports has declined from about 28 per cent in 1981 to about 18 per cent in 1991. The main reasons for this decline have been the increasing domestic demand as well as the severe competition from other countries like Sri Lanka, Kenya, Indonesia and China.

The Government have taken a number of steps to increase domestic tea production with a view to increasing availability for exports. These include bringing new areas under tea plantation, increasing the pace of replantation, use of improved cultural practices, etc.

For promotion of exports of Indian tea, the Assam and Darjeeling Tea Logo Campaigns have been launched in UK and a Brand Promotion Scheme has been in operation. Apart from this, various incentives like full excise duty rebate on loose tea exports, duty drawback on packaging materials facility of exim scrip, etc. have been extended.

SHRI P. UPENDRA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am very happy that the hon. Minister has admitted the fact that Indian tea exports are declining. Indian tea has always been the hot favourite all over the world. But India is now gradually losing ground in regard to this trade. While countries like China, Sri Lanka, Kenya, Indonesia and Bangladesh are forging ahead to grab newer tea markets, we are losing ground. One reason appears to be that our tea exports, so far, have been unidirectional. I understand, about 135 million kg. out of a total of 200 million kg. of tea exported, have been going only to the erstwhile Soviet Union. When in December last, the Soviet Union stopped buying tea in the Indian auctions, we got a knock.

There is also the restrictive export policy because we have to keep in mind the interests of the domestic consumers also as tea is the common man's beverage. Today, the domestic consumption is growing at the rate of 4 per cent as against 2.58 per cent increase in production. Is