

gard of pound sterling, yen and other currencies

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: In this particular case, what was done? Was it revalued or devalued?

SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI: Mr. Guru is a guru. There is no particular case which the hon. Member has mentioned. I am just mentioning a general principle which is being followed. This adjustment is done on a day-to-day basis according to the valuation as it exists in the international currency markets. Some times it is valued upwards. Sometimes it is valued downwards. It is not that we have floated the rupee. It is they who have floated the dollar, or other hard currencies

SHRI CHITTA BASU: May I know from the hon. Minister whether this practice does not actually lead to disguised devaluation?

MR. CHAIRMAN: This does not arise from this. I do not know whether he wants to answer it.

Now Question No 247.

*247 [The questioners (Shri Sunil Basu Ray and Shri Ramnarayan Goswami) were absent. For answer, vide col. 24 and 35 infra].

*248. [Transferred to the 30th November, 1987].

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question No. 248 is transferred. Now, Question No. 249

French support for Indian exports

*249. **SHRI MOHD. KHALEELUR RAHMAN†**

SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India is seeking French support for improved access to European

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Mohd Khaleelur Rahman.

Economic Community markets for Indian exports;

(b) whether the subject was discussed at the Indo-French Joint Committee meeting held at Paris on October 26, 1987; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The French side indicated that they have been supporting the Indian position in respect of textiles and would do their best for increased access to the EEC markets in respect of products of interest to India.

SHRI MOHD. KHALEELUR RAHMAN: There were imports from France in 1986-87 of the value of Rs 668.76 crores while exports were worth Rs 274.26 crores. What is the Government specifically doing to reduce this trade gap?

SHRI P R DAS MUNSHI: Sir, it is a fact that the imports are very high and the export effort was only to the tune of Rs. 274.26 crores in 1986-87. But I may refer to the hon. Member that we have substantially improved the position from 1985-86 where the import was Rs. 572.71 crores and the export was only of Rs. 195.19 crores. There we have improved the export position from 195 crores of rupees to 274 crores of rupees. The position is that we mostly import capital goods machineries and high-tech things from this particular country. And in exchange, the commodities that we export are very marginal and because of the EEC countries, some of the things are limited within the quota areas. The interest where India can take to push certain other commodities, we have taken up in the last meeting of the Indo-French Joint Commission which was attended by our hon Minister, Narayan Datt Tiwari, and we have further taken an initiative to see that the export effort is further increased from India by their side.

SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI

Sir, may I supplement what my colleague has said by saying that we expect a French buyers mission to visit India in December or January so that they could examine all sectors identified by the Indo-French Joint Business Council? We hope that this Buyers' Mission which will be coming from France will be able to up date the level of exports from India.

SHRI MOHD KHALLELUR RAH-

MAN: During the Commerce Minister's discussion with the French Government, was there any assurance given by France to you to secure a wider market for Indian goods in the European Economic Community?

SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI:

Yes, they gave an assurance that they will try their best to see that the European Economic Community buys more from India.

SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA:

Sir, the Minister said that exports from India consist of many traditional items and he further said that during the discussion, in the Indo-French Joint Commission, some new commodities have been identified. Will he kindly tell us which are those commodities that have been identified for export to France and EEC?

SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI: Sir, there is a long list. If the hon. Member desires, I can send it to the hon. Member instead of taking the time of the House.

AN HON. MEMBER: You give the main items.

SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI: I will just give. But, Sir, the principal interest which we highlighted during our discussions to

them is to see that our potential export can gain momentum in the following sector if the ceiling limit of of ECU, that is, the economic currency unit limit is further reduced or the duty limit is completely abolished. So, far as the ceiling limits are concerned, we have referred the matter of bovine cattle leather, we have referred the matter of leather protective gloves. So far as the duty limits are concerned, we have referred the matter of hand-made carpets of 350 knots, we have referred the matter of fruit juices like mango, lime, sapota, leechi. We have also referred unmanufactured Virginia flue-cured tobacco. We have referred all these matters. In the duty abolition structure, we have referred the matter of a number of marine products. Now these matters we have referred, but substantially no positive results.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question Hour is over

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Bank robberies in Delhi

*242. **SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY:**

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of bank robberies in Delhi during the past six months,

(b) what is the amount of money involved in these robberies; and

(c) what steps Government have taken to curb frequent bank robberies in Delhi area?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) and (b) Reserve Bank of India has reported that there has been only one incident of bank rob-