

these matters, are given due importance, due recognition and due status, according to the importance of each item, and a special note has been made of this.

MR. CHAIRMAN. Last question. Mr. Nanda.

SHRI NARASINGHA PRASAD NANDA: Sir, the integrated textile policy was never placed before Parliament by the previous Government, and now the hon. Minister says that the exercise is going on for an integrated textile policy and it will be coming up for discussion on the floor of the House. In view of this categorical assurance of the Minister, I would like to ask when this integrated textile policy is likely to be placed for discussion before the House.

Secondly, I would like to know whether the integrated textile policy will give due emphasis to the handloom and powerloom sectors keeping in view the constraints under which particularly the handloom sector is functioning. More than one lakh weavers in my State are without yarn and they have to face all kinds of difficulties. Similar difficulties were also pointed out by Mr. Pandey in Eastern U.P. Will all these things be taken into consideration while preparing the integrated textile policy keeping in view the artificial distinction that is being maintained between cotton and artificial yarn in the Cotton Textile Order and will you bring about the necessary changes in the Cotton Textile Control Order?

SHRI KHURSHED ALAM KHAN: I would like to mention that it will be finalised very soon.

SHRI NARASINGHA PRASAD NANDA: What is very soon?

SHRI ARVIND GANESH KULKARNI: By then the weavers will die.

SHRI KHURSHED ALAM KHAN: Sir, it will not be possible for me

to indicate a specific date. But I can give an assurance that the minimum time will be taken to finalise this policy.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Minister, the minimum time may be according to the Greek Kalends. We want to know how many months or years it will take according to our own calendar.

SHRI ARVIND GANESH KULKARNI: Would you elucidate what you want to say by 'very soon'.

SHRI KHURSHED ALAM KHAN: As I said, the least time will be taken for finalising it. It will not be possible for me to give a specific date. But I assure you that we are very keen to finalise this policy.

SHRI NAGESHWAR PRASAD SHAHI: We don't want any date. We want the time in months, say four months, six months or eight months.

SHRI KHURSHED ALAM KHAN: We don't need such a long time and all the points which Mr. Nanda mentioned will be part of the policy.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I think we can trust you to expedite it.

SHRI KHURSHED ALAM KHAN: Yes, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Then we will leave it till the policy is finalised. Next question.

Indian's Foreign Trade

*303. SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the foreign trade during the period April—September, 1980 has been a surplus or deficit and the quantum thereof;

(b) whether the exports have shown a rise or fall as compared to the corresponding period of 1978 and

1979 in terms of major components in which substantial change has taken place;

(c) whether the change recorded is in terms of quantity per unit value and the details thereof;

(d) whether any regional shift, both for sources of import or for export markets of major components, has been noticed; and

(e) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KHURSHED ALAM KHAN):

(a) Official data regarding India's foreign trade for the first half of the current financial year are not available due to non-receipt of returns from certain Custom Houses. According to the latest provisional figures available for the first quarter of 1980-81, the deficit in India's foreign trade during April-June 1980 amounted to Rs. 1240.61 crores.

(b) to (e) Commodity-wise/source-wise details of official export/import statistics for the current financial year are not available. Total exports during April to June 1980 are estimated to have recorded an increase of 7 per cent and 34 per cent over the corresponding period in 1979 and 1978 respectively.

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN: Mr. Chairman, it is hardly an adequate answer. At least, the break-up and the details should have been available about the first quarter of 1980-81 even if the figures for the first six months are not available. If complete figures are available for the first quarter of 1980-81, then all the details asked for in parts (b), (c), (d) and (e) of the question should be capable of being answered.

MR. CHAIRMAN: He is in possession. He is going to answer you in reply to supplementaries.

SHRI KHURSHED ALAM KHAN: For (d) and (e) also, I have read out the answer. Now, he has to put the question. That will be answered.

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN: May I put the supplementary, Sir? Perhaps, that might help the Minister.

MR. CHAIRMAN: He thinks the answer is complete. You put your supplementary.

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN: The answer is not complete. But surely he is not in a position now to complete it. That I can see.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You extract it out of him by putting a supplementary.

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN: I would be grateful, Sir, if you instruct him to place on the Table more details later, at least for the first quarter of 1980-81. Sir, my supplementary is this. Sir, I had asked about the regional shift, that is to say, I am very conscious of the fact that our trade with our immediate neighbours in South Asia has not been showing the necessary degree of increase. And this was exactly the point of my question whether there is any deliberate effort on the part of the Government to give a regional orientation to our exports to our immediate neighbours. And naturally it will also mean a regional shift in our pattern of imports in favour of our immediate neighbours. I would like to know whether, in formulating its policy for this year, of which the hon. Minister spoke yesterday, of reducing the import gap and so on and so forth there is any deliberate effort on the part of the Government to give attention to trade with our immediate neighbours. That is my first supplementary.

SHRI KHURSHED ALAM KHAN: Yes, Sir. There is definite effort on the part of the Government to expand and increase the trade with our immediate neighbours and African countries and South America...

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN: I said the immediate neighbours.

SHRI KHURSHED ALAM KHAN:
I said about the immediate neighbours. That means the West Asian countries, the South-East Asian countries.

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN:
By immediate neighbours, I mean the countries in South Asia, Pakistan, Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and the Maldives because these are the countries which can proceed to economic integration.

SHRI KHURSHED ALAM KHAN:
Sir, I mentioned that there is a definite attempt to increase the trade with our immediate neighbours, that is, South-East Asia, Sri Lanka and West Asian countries. But naturally there is difficulty about the increase of trade between India and Iran and India and Iraq for the time being. Rest of our neighbouring countries...

SHRI HAREKRUSHNA MALLICK:
He was talking about Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal and Bhutan. That is the problem, and not Iran and Iraq.

SHRI KHURSHED ALAM KHAN:
Don't they come under neighbouring countries when I said South-East Asia?

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN:
South Asia is different from South-East Asia.

SHRI KHURSHED ALAM KHAN:
Yes, we are trying, and we are arranging a sort of meeting of all the Commercial Attaches of these countries, and having conferences with them with the idea of increasing the trade.

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN:
When?

SHRI KHURSHED ALAM KHAN:
The process is there.

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN:
My second supplementary is this, Sir. I presume that the result of foreign trade during the current year will

show a definite change of trend as far as the South Asian countries are concerned. Sir, my second supplementary arises out of part (c) of the question. There is a feeling in the country that the per unit realisation of our major items of export has been falling. Now that is the trend over a number of years. There might be increase in our export trade in terms of value. Actually, our receipt in terms of per unit of the commodity that we are exporting is not rising in the same proportion as the per unit cost of the item that we are importing. Now, keeping this in view, I would like to know whether the hon. Minister or the Government have finalised any specific schemes to monitor this particular trend and to correct it, at least, in so far as the major commodities of India's exports are concerned, and whether, in this connection, he has any scheme of either eliminating or re-inforcing the export subsidy schemes.

SHRI KHURSHED ALAM KHAN:
Sir, in the first instance, I would like to say that, there has been an increase in the unit value in respect of various items during this year. For instance, in the case of coffee it is 3.4 per cent, tea 13.3 per cent, tobacco 6.7 per cent.

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN: Mr. Chairman, Sir. I am sorry, it is not a question of the absolute increase in unit realisation. I am talking in terms of the relative increase per unit of the major commodities exported as compared to the relative rise in the cost of major items imported.

SHRI KHURSHED ALAM KHAN:
This I was giving you, the relative unit value which has been increasing as far as our exports are concerned.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Sir, the hon. Minister has not understood the question.

DR. BHAI MAHAVIR: Is there any unfavourable change in the terms of trade?

SHRI KHURSHED ALAM KHAN:
No.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Sir, the hon. Minister has really not understood. He is going completely off the point.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Just a minute. Please sit down. The hon. Member who has asked the question is there to explain. Mr. Shahabuddin, will you please ask the question in a very crisp form without your comments?

SHRI KHURSHED ALAM KHAN: Any particular commodity you have to specify. We will...

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN: I will say all the major commodities, individually each of which constitutes 1 per cent of our trade, either import or export, they should be compared unit-wise.

SHRI KHURSHED ALAM KHAN: Sir, for this we need notice.

MR. CHAIRMAN: That is all right.

SHRI GHOUSE MOHIUDDIN SHEIKH: Sir, I want to have a specific answer from the hon. Minister of Commerce. Is there any increase in the quantity of mica that has been exported as compared to the previous year? Here the quantity produced is less whereas the export is more. And most of the mica that has been produced is being smuggled into Nepal and Bangladesh. That is why I want a specific answer from the Minister whether the quantity of mica that has been exported has enhanced in comparison to the previous years, about two-three years back?

SHRI KHURSHED ALAM KHAN: The export of unmanufactured mica in 1976 was 12,709, and in 1977 it was 15,002 and in 1979 it was 14,668.

MR. CHAIRMAN: What is the unit? Is it tonnes or rupees or what?

SHRI KHURSHED ALAM KHAN: Sir, it is in terms of tonnes, quantity in tonnes.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thousands or what?

SHRI KHURSHED ALAM KHAN: Yes, thousands.

SHRI GHOUSE MOHIUDDIN SHEIKH: The hon. Minister has said something to the effect that the mica that is exported is not manufactured or processed. I want to know whether the export quantity of mica, which has actually been exported—he might be getting the crude mica—, whether in the export quantity of mica there is any increase because, as I have said that most of the mica has been smuggled into the Himalayan countries, i.e., Nepal and Bangladesh.

MR. CHAIRMAN: He has answered that.

श्री जे० के० जैन : मैं मंत्री महोदय से जानना चाहूंगा कि जैसा उन्होंने बताया कि अप्रैल से जून तक हमारी जो एक्सपोर्ट अर्निंग है वह बढ़ी है लेकिन जिस प्रपोज़न में वह बढ़नी चाहिए थी वह नहीं बढ़ी क्योंकि बहुत से कंसर्न जो वहां से फिनिश गुड्स एक्सपोर्ट करते थे उन्होंने यहां से रा-मैटीरियल ले जाकर बाहर अपनी इंडस्ट्रीज बना ली हैं और वहां से अपना माल एक्सपोर्ट कर रहे हैं। तो ऐसी आइटम्स जो यहां से एक्सपोर्ट हो रही थीं उनके लिए अन्य देशों में क्यों ऐसे लाइसेंस देने के समझौते किये गये जिससे हमारी एक्सपोर्ट की अर्निंग जो थी वह कम हुई? खासतौर से मारिशस के अन्दर एक फर्म जिसका नाम एक्सपोर्टेज इंडिया है, वह फर्म एक्सपोर्ट करती है। उसने रा-मैटीरियल ले जाकर अपने यहां फर्म खोल ली और अब दूसरे देशों को, अमेरिका वगैरह को एक्सपोर्ट कर रही है। मैं जानना चाहता हूं कि क्या यह एक कारण नहीं है एक्सपोर्ट की जो हमारी फिगर है उसके कम होने का? क्या मंत्री महोदय ऐसी कंसर्न

को परमिशन देंगे जो हमारे यहां से फिनिश गुड्स डायरेक्ट एक्सपोर्ट करें ?

SHRI KHURSHED ALAM KHAN: Sir, actually, this is not the only difficulty in exports. There have been other problems also. We had a bad season and drought conditions in the country; we had a bad economy during the last year and less production in the industrial field and also there was shortage in the supply of power. These were the reasons which resulted in lesser exports.

श्री सभापति : जैन साहब ने एक रीजन और बताया है कि यहां जो फिनिश गुड्स बनते थे वे फिनिश गुड्स बनाकर एक्सपोर्ट करने के बजाय रा-मैटिरियल एक्सपोर्ट कर रहे हैं। इस पर क्या आप गौर करेंगे ?

SHRI KHURSHED ALAM KHAN: We have no information about it, but certainly we will look into it and place the matter before the House.

MR. CHAIRMAN: He has named one company.

SHRI J. K. JAIN: Exporto's India of Mauritius.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You give more particulars to the Minister.

SHRI KHURSHED ALAM KHAN: Yes, Sir, he can give me more particulars and we will have it looked into.

SHRI KRISHNA CHANDRA PANT: Yesterday the Commerce Minister told us that this year we are likely to have an adverse trade balance to the extent of Rs. 4,000 crores and that is in spite of an increase in export earnings, and he said that the main reason for this was the rise in price of oil. Sir, as against an expected import bill of Rs. 1800 crores which has been provided for in the Budget for oil imports, he gave a figure of Rs. 2500 crores having been spent in the first six months. What is the projection

for the rest of the year? Will we end up with Rs. 2500 crores, which means 75 per cent of our export earnings? Is it a fact? And if it is so, does the Government propose to take up with the oil exporting countries the question of double pricing? Otherwise, this kind of burden would obviously be very difficult to bear. If not, what other strategy does the Government have in this regard?

SHRI KHURSHED ALAM KHAN: Sir, we estimate that the requirement for the import of oil for the total year will be about Rs. 5,000 crores and this was discussed in detail even yesterday while answering the Calling Attention.

SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE: Sir, it seems, the Minister has not been tutored properly. Is it not a fact that the steep fall in exports is on account of Janata rule during the last 2½ years?

SHRI KHURSHED ALAM KHAN: That is your admission.

SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE: Everytime, for every failure, of this Government, you have been telling that Janata Government was responsible. Why not escape by answering like that?

MR. CHAIRMAN: I think, the suggestion will be gratefully accepted. We pass on to the next question now.

Export of Handloom Textiles

***304. SHRI U. R. KRISHNAN:** Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that export of handloom textiles has declined during 1979-80;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) what steps Government have taken or propose to take to augment the export of handloom textiles?