

MESSAGE FROM THE LOK SABHA**The Dock Workers (Regulation of Employment) Amendment Bill, 1980.**

SECRETARY-GENERAL, Sir, I have to report to the House the following message received from the Lok Sabha signed by the Secretary of the Lok Sabha:

"In accordance with the provisions of Rule 96 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, I am directed to enclose herewith the Dock Workers (Regulation of Employment) Amendment Bill, 1980, as passed by Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 11th August, 1980."

Sir, I lay the Bill on the Table.

3.00 P.M.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

Acceptance by Government of the major recommendations contained in the Tandon Committee report on marketing of tea.

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): Sir, a Committee of Experts on the Marketing of Tea was appointed by the Government in February, 1978 under the Chairmanship of Shri P. L. Tandon (popularly known as the 'Tandon Committee') to examine the present arrangements for marketing of tea in India and abroad and to recommend what would be the best arrangement for marketing of tea with a view to ensure fair unit value realization in the domestic market as well as the highest possible returns in the export market, to suggest arrangements which would eliminate the chances of collusive sales in the domestic market as also under-invoicing of exports, to consider whether the present system of tea auctions in India is advantageous to the producer and fair to the consumer, to suggest whether the system of auctions at London should be continued, to consider whether any special arrangements

should be made for marketing of tea by small producers and to recommend measures to accelerate exports of tea in the value added forms and other allied matters relating to marketing of tea in India and abroad. The Tandon Committee examined various aspects of tea in India and abroad. The Tandon terms of reference and made a total of 43 recommendations in its Report submitted in November, 1978. Unfortunately, the earlier Governments could not take a final view on these recommendations.

The Report of the Tandon Committee has now been duly considered by the Government and as many as 36 of the 43 recommendations have been accepted. It has not been possible to accept 3 recommendations of the Committee, 3 recommendations have been accepted partially and consultations with other agencies of the Government have been taken up in regard to the remaining recommendation.

I would now briefly refer to some of the important recommendations of the Tandon Committee which have been accepted.

We have accepted the recommendation to effectively monitor ex-garden and direct sales of tea to ensure that ex-garden prices are as far as possible comparable to the prices realised in auctions, after allowing for the differences in costs. Depending on the experience of such monitoring by the Tea Board, the question whether the present system of ex-garden and direct sales should be allowed to continue would be decided.

Similarly, the Committee has suggested that while the present system of C&F sales may be allowed to continue, a system of quarterly review should be instituted through the Tea Board, Reserve Bank and the Customs to ensure that C&F sales were generally in line with the prevailing prices obtained at auctions. We have decided to accept this recommendation also.

The Committee has further recommended that the Tea Board should be

more actively associated with the conduct of auctions in India to ensure that these auctions fulfil a role to the advantage and satisfaction of all concerned—Industry, Trade, Government and the Consumer. This is a useful recommendation and it is proposed to constitute a Committee composed of representatives of producers, the tea trade, exporters and auctioneers with Tea Board at the pivot to oversee the conduct of these auctions. This Committee would also examine and take a view on the proposal for mini-auctions.

It has also been decided to accept the Committee's recommendation to continue the existing practice of consignment sales of tea for the London auction, in view of its utility as a price beacon for the international market.

The Committee applied itself to the problems of small growers in particular and has recommended that in order to protect their interests, more cooperative factories should be opened and that special responsibility may be placed on the public sector companies in this regard. It also recommended special studies of the problems of small growers by the Tea Board and the Tea Industry along with representatives of small growers. We have accepted all the recommendations of the Committee in regard to the problems of small growers which should help to alleviate their situation.

I would also like to mention briefly the recommendations not accepted by the Government. The Committee has recommended a phased approach in regard to value-added exports of tea. As producers of high quality tea, it is necessary for us to take the leadership and initiative in entering into the field of exports of high value items and we intend to continue our present policy in support of exports of tea in value added form. The Committee's recommendation against retroactive application of duty seems to be somewhat misplaced. Export duty is similar to import duty imposed by importing countries and both are applicable as on the date of export or import and do not take into account factors like

date of contract or actual purchase, etc. The Committee's recommendation regarding a study of the concept of buffer stock of tea, nationally and internationally, has not been accepted by us as the concept of bufferstock at the international level has already been studied by UNCTAD and there is no immediate need for a domestic stock of tea.

I trust that the acceptance by Government of the major recommendations of the Tandon Committee Report should enable the Tea Industry to impart a greater dynamism to the production and marketing efforts which are urgently needed to meet our fast growing domestic demand and to retain our position as the world's leading exporter of tea and realise the highest possible returns for our teas in the export markets.

Copies of the Report of the Committee on Tea Marketing published by the Tea Board have been placed in the Parliament Library for reference by the Honourable Members.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Motion for election... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM (Tamil Nadu): Sir, there should be an opportunity to discuss the statement.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Not today.

SHRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM Anytime.

श्री शिव चन्द्र झा (बिहार) : क्लेरिफिकेशन के लिए आपको नोटिस दिया हुआ है, उपसभापति महोदय ।

श्री उपसभापति : इसमें क्लेरिफिकेशन क्या होना है ?

श्री शिव चन्द्र झा : होता है, उपसभापति महोदय ।

श्री उपसभापति : बहुत स्पष्ट और लम्बा बयान हो गया ।

श्री शिव चन्द्र झा : पहले आप सुन लें ।

[श्री विव चन्द्र झा]

उपसभापति जी, मंत्री महोदय ने टी की मार्केटिंग, इन्साइड द कंट्री और बाहर बताया है। जो रिक्मण्डेशंस टंडन कमेटी की हैं, कुछ रिक्मण्डेशंस मानी हैं कुछ नहीं मानी हैं, यह भी उन्होंने बताया है। लेकिन एक बात की सफाई नहीं हुई है कि टी की मार्केटिंग हिन्दुस्तान के बाहर क्यों कम हो गई है? श्रीलंका आगे आ गया है, दूसरे मुल्क आगे चले जा रहे हैं इस मामले में। ग्रन्थ बातों के अलावा मुख्य बात यह है कि खास कर जब से ब्रिटेन कामन मार्केट में चला गया, तो जो प्रिफरेंशियल ट्रीटमेंट पहले मिलता था वह प्रिफरेंशियल ट्रीटमेंट बन्द हो गया है, ब्रिटेन में भारत का टी एक्सपोर्ट कम हो गया है और वह सुविधा कम हो गई, इसके मुतालिक टंडन कमेटी ने अपनी रिपोर्ट में कुछ कहा है या नहीं?

दूसरी बात, स्माल ग्रोअर्स के बारे में तो उन्होंने बताया है लेकिन क्या टंडन कमेटी ने यह भी बताया कि बड़े टी ग्रोअर्स और प्लान्टेशन ओनर्स का राष्ट्रीयकरण हो?

मैं इन दो बातों की सफाई चाहता हूँ।

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Sir, the presumption of the hon. Member is not correct. We are having a leading position in tea exports. In one particular year our exports did not reach the target, but it is because of certain other reasons. It was because of certain domestic factors. For instance, one of the items was export duty. In regard to nationalisation, Sir, the Tandon Committee has not made recommendations because basically—and the hon. Member is aware that it was instituted during their time—they were not to look into the question of nationalisation but to suggest various aspects of promoting exports.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA (West Bengal): But you can look into it now.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: That is a different issue. I am just now mentioning about the recommendations of the Tandon Committee. They have

made certain recommendations about better marketability so that through that process small growers get their due share and make themselves economically viable. All such recommendations of the Committee have been accepted.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Foreign tea, to begin with, should be nationalised.

RE MOTIONS FOR ELECTION TO THE CARDAMOM BOARD AND RUBBER BOARD.

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): Sir, in regard to the Motion I would like to tell you and the House that we are not going to move the Motion for election. We can do it in the next session and that is why I am not moving this Motion.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Is it for both the Motions?

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Yes, Sir. Both for the Rubber Board and the Cardamom Board.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA (West Bengal): Sir, before we take up other business....

STATUTORY RESOLUTION

Draft Ministers' (Allowances, Medical treatment and other Privileges Amendment Rules, 1980.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): Sir, I beg to move the following Resolution:—

"This House approves the draft Ministers' (Allowances, Medical Treatment and other Privileges) Amendment Rules, 1980 framed under sub-section (1) of section 11 of the Salaries and Allowances of Ministers Act, 1952 (58 of 1952) and laid on the Table of the Rajya Sabha on 19-6-1980."

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA (West Bengal): Tell us something about it.

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA: Sir, this is a very simple and formal Reso-