

The House reassembled after lunch at five minutes past two of the clock. Mr. Deputy Chairman in the Chair.

**DISCUSSION ON THE WORKING
OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE —
Contd.**

श्री उपसभापति : मैं माननीय सदस्यों को सूचित कर दूँ कि इस पर बहस ६ बजे तक चलेगी। उस के पश्चात् मंत्री महोदय उत्तर देंगे।

Now, Shri Dhabe.

SHRI S. W. DHABE: Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, I was referring to the question of payment of gratuity and provident fund. As far as my information goes, the previous employers have not paid dues of their employees to the extent of Rs. 16 crores in various textile mills. Not only that, Sir. Some of them even misappropriated the contributions to the ESI scheme which they recovered from their employees.

Sir, I find in the Report at page 165 that a provision has been made for the appointment of one Commissioner of Payments and six Assistant Commissioners of Payments for purposes of disbursing the amounts payable to the owners of 103 nationalised mills. And, Sir, a provision of Rs. 43 crores has been made for disbursement to the erstwhile owners of nationalised mills. I, therefore, suggest to the hon. Minister that when they have made a provision of Rs. 43 crores, they should see to it that the arrears are first deducted and then the payments are made to the owners otherwise the workers will not get their dues.

Sir, I was earlier referring to the Industrial (Development and Regulation) Act, 1951. Under section 18A of the Act, it has been provided that

sick mills will be taken over for five years and the period may be spread over to ten years. Then the mill goes back to the employer who has mismanaged the mill. After the mill is well managed either by the Government or their agent, the previous employer gets it. This is the premium he gets for his mismanagement under section 18A of the Act. Therefore, Sir, I suggest two amendment to the Act. One is section 18A of the Act, and then the Schedule of the Act. Sir, I would like to mention one fact about the Litho Works in Nagpur. When the industry was to be taken over, it was found out that the Schedule to the Industrial (Development and Regulation) Act does not include that industry. Therefore, it was felt that it was necessary to add to the Schedule all the industries and amend section 18A of the Act so that the more undertakings could be nationalised. Sir, I must thank the hon. Minister for the efforts he has made. I had been to him on a number of deputations in connection with the Western India Textile Mills of Bombay. It restarted. But there also the question came up. The State Government wanted that it should be nationalised. If this principle is to be accepted, it must be made clear that public investment should not be used for furthering the interests of the management. I, therefore, suggest to the hon. Minister that section 18A of the Industrial (Development and Regulation) Act be amended and a provision for nationalisation either by the State Government or the Centre be made therein so that it will not be necessary for us to come here from time to time with a Bill for each and every industry to be nationalised. I also suggest a change in the title. Instead of Industrial (Development and Regulation) Act, it should be titled as Industrial (Development, Regulation & Nationalisation) Act so that for all purposes we can utilise that machinery.

Sir, in the Finance Minister's Speech, I must say with dismay that a

provision has been made under which the sick units will be amalgamated with the healthy units. Sir, the cure is worse than the disease. Sir, it has been pointed out that here is no provisions for the workers to be absorbed when a sick mill is taken over by a good mill. Sir, this is very wrong in principle because under the provisions of nationalisation, it has been assured that when an industry is nationalised, the interests of the workers will be protected. Sir, running of an industry does not mean merely production. There is the very basic and important question of employment. A large number of employees, both skilled and unskilled will be working there, and they should be assured of their jobs. If the industries are taken over the employment potential should not be affected. I, therefore, suggest to the Minister to revise this policy, and see that the nationalisation policy of taking over of the mills is continued. In this connection, Sir, I have to make one more suggestion. It was stated by the hon. Minister here that a large number of mills are facing closure in Gujarat and Maharashtra. In Gujarat 11 mills have been closed

down. The mills facing closure are not textile mills only. A large number of jute and other mills are also facing closure in Bengal and other places. I would suggest that there should be a cell in the Ministry of Commerce which would go into the causes of such closures and try to prevent the closure of industries as far as possible. If the causes can be found, it may be possible to prevent such closures. We know that the Western India Textile Mill was closed for a number of months and the workers of that mill were without employment. Not only that, the industry also suffered. So, let there be a cell, which can prevent the closure of industries as far as possible, or, at least, advise the Government from time to time, as to what the state of affairs of a particular industry, which is likely to face closure, is. I think the prevention of closures is essential for continuous production as

also for providing continuous employment to workers.

Sir, one more thing that I would like to say in connection with the Report of this Ministry, is that I find a number of corporations referred to in this Report. The Government is committed to reduce expenditure. I find that many of these corporations are doing the same job or there is multiplication of the same job. To illustrate my point, I give the example of the Cotton Corporation of India. What is the job that this Corporation is doing? Research and other things are being done by the Indian Cotton Development Council. Then, there is the State Trading Corporation, which deals in the export of goods from India. The Cotton Corporation of India is also expected to deal with the exports. I suggest that corporations, like the Cotton Corporation of India, should be abolished, and the number of other corporations should be limited. An identical job must be handled by only one corporation. There is no need to multiply corporations from industry to industry. To give an example, exports need not be handled by each industry. All this can be handled by a single unified agency so that expenditure on multiple corporations is reduced.

Then, Sir, I would like to say a few things about controlled cloth. There is a scheme in existence whereby the mills have to produce a certain amount of controlled cloth. It was really meant to provide cheap cloth for use by poor people. There is some degree of compulsion for the production of this cloth and the percentage of production of the controlled cloth is given in the Report. I do not want to go into all the details. But it has been stated in the Report and elsewhere too that the compulsory production of controlled cloth is causing losses and there is not sufficient market for it. In this connection a number of concessions have been given on 11-1-1977, which are enumerated at page 128 of the Report, with a view

[Shri S. W. Dhabe]

to making this scheme successful. Our mills are producing a vast range of cloth for export and other purposes, like teryleae and many other things. I do not know why they cannot produce controlled cloth of a quality which may be usefu. to our poor people in rural areas or which can be popularised! among them, whose purchasing power is very poor. I would suggest to the Ministry that special efforts should be made to ensure that controlled cloth is popularised. I suggest that there should be a shop at each textile mill where the controlled cloth, which is produced by the mill, is sold. A steady market for controlled cloth must be assured. Controlled cloth should be of a good quality, at least a durable quality, which can be used by the common man. Sir, today the need f<»r the adequate supply of cloth at reasonable prices is very great because many people go without clothes because their purchasing power is very poor. Therefore, production of sheap cloth is essential for our society and it must receive the due attention of the Ministry.

Then, Sir, I want to refer to the question of cotton powerlooms and handlooms. In my area in Nagpur, there are a large number of weavers, in fact a whole Koshti community, is weaving cloth on handlooms. There are also powerlooms at Male-gaon and at other places. In this connection, I would suggest that technical service centres, which are proposed—some of them were opened—are very essential. More technical centres should also be opened to provide service to these powerloom and also to handloom workers.

In this connection, if we see the figures as given in the statement, we find that a large number of workers are employed in 2.11 lakhs of powerlooms which are working on cotton. About one million persons are pro. vided direct employment by these cotton powerlooms and an equal number in the ancillary activities. Thus, about' two million workers are engaged in the cotton powerlooms. Then we

find about 3.5 million workers engaged in the handloom industry. The main difficulty which is faced by this industry is the non-availability of yarn at the appropriate time. Secondly, they also face the difficulty with regard to marketing. Therefore, it is necessary that corporations are established—a network of the—so that yarn can be made available to them at proper time and also marketing facilities are available, because this is one industry which is a sort of cottage industry—I am speaking of handloom industry—providing employment to a large number of people. Therefore, even if the Government has to make an investment or suffer some loss, I think it is worthwhile because this industry provides employment to a very large number of persons.

My last point is, in all industries we find that the working classes and the management are running at parallel lines. The management is only concerned with commercial policy. It also takes some interest in the welfare of the workers, either under obligation or under the law. The real enterprise still remains in the hands of private persons. Even in the public corporations,, the persons who are in the management have no interest in taking the co-operation of the workers to make the industry successful. Therefore, Sir, workers' participation which is one of the very important aspects of a good management with a view to getting more production, should be insisted upon and workers' participation, at least in the nationalised sectors, like National Textile Corporation, should be brought about. Workers' participation should not only be brought about for production purposes, but also at the level of policymaking and in economic matters. In the whole report I find that this principle of workers' participation has not been stressed upon. I suggest that this cardinal principle of workers' participation in administration should be adopted.

With these words, I thank you very much.

श्री भानुप्रताप सिंह (उत्तर प्रदेश) : उपसभापति महोदय, नागरिक आपूर्ति, वाणिज्य तथा सहकारिता मंत्रालयों के कार्यकलापों पर चर्चा में भाग लेते हुए . . .

वाणिज्य तथा नागरिक आपूर्ति और सहकारिता मंत्री (श्री मोहन धारिया) : चर्चा केवल वाणिज्य मंत्रालय के बारे में है।

श्री भानुप्रताप सिंह : आलराइट, मैं अपने आप को केवल वाणिज्य तक ही सीमित रखूंगा। मैं तो यह समझता था कि सभी विभागों पर चर्चा है। मैं सिर्फ उस हद तक जरूर कुछ बातें कहूंगा जिनका वाणिज्य से भी संबंध है। वास्तव में उत्पादन मूल्य और वाणिज्य का ऐसा संबंध है कि वाणिज्य की कोई भी नीति यदि वह उत्पादन की नीति और मूल्यों की नीति से सम्बन्धित नहीं है तो वाणिज्य की नीति भी सफल नहीं हो सकती। श्रीमन्, मंहगाई की बहुत चर्चा है और ठीक बात यह है कि मंहगाई बढ़ गई है। उस से हम सब एक प्रकार से परेशान हैं। लेकिन मुझे यह कहने पर मजबूर होना पड़ता है कि मंहगाई का जो दृष्टिकोण समाचार पत्रों या सरकार के समक्ष रखा जाता है वह एक तरफा होता है। ज्यादातर शहरी उपभोक्ताओं की बातें ही ज्यादा सामने आती हैं। मैं आज ग्रामीणों के दृष्टिकोण से इस मंहगाई के विषय को सदन के समक्ष रखना चाहता हूँ। सब से ज्यादा चर्चा दालों की कीमतों बढ़ने की, तेलों की कीमतें बढ़ने की और सब्जियों के कीमतों के बढ़ने की है। श्रीमन्, मेरे पास उद्योग मंत्रालय द्वारा प्रकाशित थोक मूल्यों के सूचकांकों की फेहरिस्त मौजूद है। वह 9 जुलाई को समाप्त होने वाले सप्ताह

की है। सब से पहले मैं दालों, तेलों और सब्जियों के जो सेन्टर हैं उन को पढ़ूंगा। सब्जियों के बारे में मुझे यह कहना है कि इन मूल्यों को इतना ऊँचा माना गया है कि इनका निर्यात सरकारी आदेश से बंद कर दिया गया है। तेलों का सूचकांक 70-71 में 100 मानकर इस सप्ताह में 197.8 रहा, आइल सीड्स, तिलहन का 203 और सब्जियों का 193.2 यह 9 जुलाई को समाप्त होने वाले सप्ताह का औसत है। श्रीमन्, मैं अब उन कीमतों के सूचकांकों को पढ़ूंगा जो मेरा अनुमान है कि किसानों को अढ़ा करनी पड़ती है। मिट्टी के तेल का सूचकांक 229, डीजल आइल जिससे उन की सिचाई का काम चलता है 213.9 लुब्रीकेटिंग आइल जो उन के पम्प और ट्रैक्टर में लगता है 314.2, नाइट्रोजेनस फर्टिलाइजर्स, नत्रजन्य उर्वरक 182.9, कीटनाशक दवाएं 232.7, इंटें, जो देहात में बिकती हैं 303.4, लोहे की छड़ें 208.1, बर्तन 202.0, पाईप जिनसे ट्यूबवेल बनते हैं 233.2, ट्रैक्टर 202.3, फावड़े 216.9, ट्रैलर 206.6, फ्यूल जो इंजक्शन पम्प में लगता है 230.6, श्रीमन्, यह 12 वस्तुएं हैं, वैसे तो बहुत बड़ी लिस्ट है लेकिन मैंने उन 12 वस्तुओं के दाम पढ़कर सुनाये हैं जिनका हर एक का सूचकांक दाल, तिलहन और सब्जियों से ऊँचा है। मगर उनके बारे में न तो समाचार पत्रों में कोई समाचार आता है न सरकार को ही कोई विशेष चिन्ता दिखाई देती है। श्रीमन्, मैं निवेदन करना चाहता हूँ मंत्री जी से, सरकार से कि जितनी चिन्ता दिखलाई जाती है शहरों में रहने वालों की चीजों के सस्ते करने की, उससे ज्यादा चिन्ता दिखाई जानी चाहिए गांव में रहने वालों के लिये जो उन चीजों का इस्तेमाल करते हैं। क्योंकि यह बात निर्विवाद है कि गांव में रहने वालों की आमदनी शहर में रहने वालों की आमदनी

Working

Commerce

[श्री मोहन धारिया]

का एक चौथाई होती है। अगर शहर वाले इस आमदनी के होते हुए भी उनकी कीमत नहीं अदा कर सकते हैं तो आप कैसे आशा करते हैं कि उन बड़ी हुई कीमतों को गांव वाले अदा कर पायेंगे। आपने क्यों इधर ध्यान नहीं दिया है कि इन कीमतों को कम कराया जाय। श्रीमन्, मैं इसी संबंध में यह भी जानना चाहता हूँ कि महंगाई का क्या मापदण्ड है? किस स्तर के ऊपर यह कहा जायगा कि चीज महंगी हो गयी। यह बात जरूर कही जाती है कि विक्रेताओं को पकड़ो, भीसा का इस्तेमाल करो, कड़े से कड़े कदम उठाओ, मगर मैं नहीं जानता कि क्या कोई वैज्ञानिक ढंग निकाला गया है? क्या कोई एक स्तर है। उस स्तर तक पहुंचने के बाद ही जैसा कि मैंने कहा, चीजें महंगी मानी जायेंगी। या कुछ शहर के संगठित लोग अखबारों में या दूसरे प्रकार से जब शोर मचाने लगे या प्रदर्शन करने लगे तो क्या वही संकेत होगा कि अब महंगाई बढ़ गई है। मैं आज जानना चाहता हूँ कि इन तेलों के बारे में भी कहा जाता है कि कुछ कीमत बढ़ गई है, परन्तु जैसा कि मैंने पढ़ कर बतलाया कि यह कीमतें भी उन कीमतों के मुकाबले कम हैं जो आज गांव वालों को अदा करनी पड़ती हैं। श्रीमन् यद्यपि हुकुमत जनता पार्टी की है और मैं भी उस का अंग हूँ और मंत्री जो भी उस के अंग हैं लेकिन फिर भी मैं इस मैनिफेस्टो से एक लाइन पढ़ना चाहता हूँ। कीमतों के बारे में कहा गया था :

"The farmer must get remunerative prices based on a principle of parity that balances the price at which he sells, his produce and the price he pays for the goods he buys."

मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या यह सरकार इस अपने कहे हुए वायदे को पूरा करने की दिशा में कुछ करने वाली है या नहीं? श्रीमन्,

मैं यह भी कहना चाहता हूँ कि कीमतें बहुत ऊंची हो गई हैं, यह ठीक है, लेकिन जैसा कि मैंने प्रारम्भ में कहा कि हमारे उत्पादन और व्यापार में समन्वय होना चाहिए। एक इंडीग्रेटेड पालिसी होनी चाहिए। क्या यह बात सच नहीं है कि आज से 16, 18 महीने पहले मूंगफली का तेल गुजरात में 300 रुपये क्विंटल बिक रहा था और किसानों की मूंगफली 80, 90 और 100 रुपये क्विंटल बिक रही थी। उस समय क्यों नहीं ध्यान आया। यह एक तरफा बात है कि जब उपभोक्ताओं को कष्ट होने लगा तो एक दम विदेशों से भी चीजें मंगवाई जायेंगी और तरह-तरह के प्रतिबंध लगा दिए जाएंगे, लेकिन जब किसान पिटता है, उस की हैसियत बर्बाद होती है, चाहे वह मूंगफली की बात हो या रुई की या जूट की तो अब तक की सरकार ने तो कम से कम कुछ नहीं किया है, मैं आशा करता हूँ कि वर्तमान सरकार जरूर इस का ध्यान रखेगी।

श्रीमन्, मैं व्यापार के विषय में भी कुछ कहना चाहता हूँ। पहले कृषि उपज के निर्यात की क्या संभावनायें हैं उस की ओर मैं ध्यान दिलाना चाहता हूँ। अमरीका सबसे बड़ा औद्योगिक देश है और सब से धनी देश है। लेकिन मैं यह आंकड़े प्रस्तुत करना चाहता हूँ कि अमरीका जैसा बड़ा देश जो कि उद्योग में सब से आगे है, अगर उस ने अपनी कृषि का विकास न किया होता और उस ने कृषि के निर्यात का विकास न किया होता तो आज अमरीका भी दिवालिया हो गया होता। श्रीमन्, उन के ट्रेड का जो पैटर्न है कृषि से भिन्न वस्तुओं के आयात और निर्यात पर अमरीका में पिछले वर्ष 9 बुलियन डालर का डेफिसिट था लेकिन यह 9 बुलियन डालर का डेफिसिट उस समय मिट गया जब उन के खेतों में पैदा होने वाली चीजों का निर्यात हुआ और वह निर्यात का जो सरप्लस था वह 11.8 बुलियन डालर

Working

Commerce

हो गया और इस प्रकार से अमरीका का ट्रेड जो है वह 2.8 बिलियन डालर सरप्लस हो गया। मैं यह नहीं कहता कि भारत अमरीका की नकल कर सकता है, लेकिन मैं केवल दो बातों को बतला देना चाहता हूँ। बड़े औद्योगिक देश बिना अपनी कृषि को विकसित किए हुए सरप्लस नहीं हो पाते और दूसरे यह कि बिना कृषि को बढ़ाए अपना देश भी कभी संपन्न नहीं हो सकता। हमें बड़े पैमाने पर कृषि उपज के निर्यात करने की योजना बनानी चाहिए और उस पर मैं अभी थोड़ी देर में विस्तार से कहूंगा कि किस प्रकार से यह हो सकता है। इस समय मैं एक दूसरा उदाहरण भी देना चाहता हूँ। नीदरलैंड एक छोटा सा देश है। शायद हरियाणा राज्य के बराबर भी नहीं होगा, लेकिन उस ने कृषि वस्तुओं का जो निर्यात किया वह 8.6 बिलियन डालर का था। उस ने जो आयात किया कृषि वस्तुओं का वह 5.6 बिलियन डालर का था यानी उसको भी कृषि के निर्यात, कृषि की उपज के व्यापार में सरप्लस 3 बिलियन डालर का रहा जो कि लगभग 26 या 27 सौ करोड़ रुपए के बराबर होता है और जो अपने देश के कुल निर्यात के मूल्य के आधे से ज्यादा है। श्रीमन् इन संभावनाओं के बाद यह प्रश्न उठता है कि अपने देश में तो खाने की कमी है, सब चीजों की कमी है फिर निर्यात की बात हम क्यों करते हैं। श्रीमन् मैं इस संबंध में कहना चाहता हूँ कि यह खाने की कमी तब तक रहेगी जब तक कि हमारी नीति यह होगी कि हम केवल देशवासियों का पेट भरने की मात्रा तक ही पैदा करते हैं। किसी के घर में अगर बारात आ जाती है पांच, छः सौ आदमियों की तो जितने लोग भोजन करना चाहते हैं जिन की उम्र बढ़ी जाती है उस से वह कुछ थोड़ा पकाता है। आप कभी भी इस देश में ऐसा उत्पादन नहीं कर सकते हैं कि केवल 62 करोड़ लोगों के लिए ही बहुर्याप्त हो, न कम हो और

न ज्यादा हो। ऐसा करना संभव नहीं है और अगर ऐसा करने की आप कोशिश करेंगे तो जिन वर्षों में मौसम प्रतिकूल होगा उन में कमी पड़ेगी और देश में अकाल पड़ेगा और लोग भूखों मरेंगे। इसलिए हम को ऐसा प्रयत्न हमेशा के लिए छोड़ देना चाहिए। भारत एक कृषि प्रधान देश है। इस में संभावनाएँ बहुत अधिक हैं और हम एक कृषक के नाते केवल हवाई बातें नहीं करते। मैं एक कृषक के नाते दावे के साथ कह सकता हूँ कि अगर इस देश में कृषि को विकसित किया जाए तो संसार में सब से अधिक कृषि वस्तुओं का निर्यात करने वाला देश यह बन सकता है। लेकिन यह तब तक नहीं होगा जब तक इस प्रकार की बातें रहेगी कि मूल्य जरा से बढ़े कि आप ने उन का निर्यात बंद कर दिया। क्योंकि थोड़े से लोगों को तकलीफ होती है, आप ने उन थोड़े से लोगों की तकलीफ की तरफ तो बहुत ध्यान दिया मगर उन ज्यादा लोगों की तरफ जिन्होंने उन वस्तुओं को पैदा किया था उन पर इस का क्या प्रभाव पड़ने वाला है इस ओर आप ने कोई ध्यान नहीं दिया। मैं यह भी नहीं कहता कि इतना निर्यात होता रहे कि यहां के लोगों को खाने को न मिले। निर्यात के लिए कितने नियोजित ढंग से लोग चलते हैं उस का भी मैं एक उदाहरण आप की अनुमति से देना चाहता हूँ। मैं थोड़ा सा पढ़ना चाहता हूँ और बताना चाहता हूँ कि किस प्रकार से लोग प्रयत्न करते हैं दूसरे देशों में और अपने देश की वस्तुओं को बेचने के लिए लोग कितने सतर्क रहते हैं। श्रीमन्, यह एक पत्रिका है 'फारेन एग्रीकल्चर', इस में एक लेख छपा है : US food sales team hopes to tap rich Mideast markets एक ही पैराग्राफ पढ़ूंगा, मैं ज्यादा समय नहीं लूंगा।

"The first US food sales team to attempt to cash in on Saudi Arabia's economic boom departed Feb-

[श्री मोहन धारिया]

ruary 16 to spend three weeks introducing new American processed foods to potential buyers in the prosperous Mideast. The team, which includes two Government officials and five leading food industry representatives, will also visit Kuwait and Bahrain".

श्रीमन्, अमरीका और मिडवैस्ट की दूरी मालूम है इस सदन को और भारत की और मिडवैस्ट की दूरी भी मालूम है। हमारी तरफ से क्या प्रयास हुए और किन चीजों को वह बेचना चाहते हैं वह भी सुन लें canned fruits, vegetables, juices, fruit-based products, frozen poultry, eggs.

क्या भारत इन चीजों को पैदा नहीं कर सकता? क्या हम यह प्रयत्न नहीं कर सकते कि ये चीजें बिकें मिड-ईस्ट में? लेकिन मेरी जानकारी में ऐसी कोई योजना नहीं, न कोई प्रयास है।

मैं इसी सम्बन्ध में कुछ और निवेदन करना चाहता हूँ। हमारे देश से प्रयत्न होता है शक्कर का निर्यात करने के लिए। शक्कर के मूल्य सारे संसार में चावल की तुलना में सस्ते हैं। किसी भी राजधानी का मूल्य मेरे पास है। देखा जाए तो चावल महंगा है, शक्कर सस्ता है। हम नुकसान उठाकर भी अपना शक्कर बेचते हैं जब कि संसार में जितने देश हैं उनमें प्रति व्यक्ति शक्कर और गुड़ मिलाकर जो मात्रा उपलब्ध है भारतवासियों को वह सबसे कम है। ऐसी दशा होते हुए भी हम कोशिश करते हैं कि हम शक्कर बेचें, नुकसान उठाकर बेचें। लेकिन वासमती चावल का निर्यात रोक दिया गया। मुझे बड़ी खुशी है कि मंत्री जी कहते हैं कि नहीं रोका गया है। यदि ऐसा है तो बड़ी अच्छी बात है। मैं कहना चाहता हूँ कि और चावलों का भी निर्यात हो सकता है क्योंकि दुनिया में चावल शक्कर से महंगा है। उसकी डिमांड उसकी मांग ज्यादा स्टेबल है और जितना कुछ शक्कर

का उत्पादन इस देश में है उतना हम केवल चावल का बढ़ा सकते हैं बशर्ते कि निर्यात का जो मूल्य है उसमें से खर्चा निकाल करके सरकार अपना मुनाफा न ले और किसानों को वह मिल जाए। यही हालत प्याज की है। मुझे देखकर आश्चर्य हुआ कि प्याज भी दुनिया के बाजार में शक्कर से महंगा बिकता है। अब क्या कारण हैं कि हम आलू और प्याज भी निर्यात नहीं कर सकते हैं? ठीक है, यहां खाने वालों की तकलीफ है, लेकिन उसका भी उपाय हो सकता है। मैं एक योजना रखना चाहता हूँ मंत्री जी के विचारार्थ कि आप इस देश में जितने क्षेत्रफल पर खेती होती है उसका केवल आधा प्रतिशत उपज को निर्यात के लिए रिजर्व रखें। पहले से कोई बात मालूम नहीं होगी तो पैदावार नहीं हो सकती। इस समय आलू और प्याज के निर्यात पर रोक लगी हुई है, किसान क्या समझ कर बोयें? कोई आश्वासन नहीं है तो वह पैदावार नहीं बढ़ेगी। इसलिए मैं कहता हूँ कि इस बात को देखते हुए कि यहां के उप-भोक्ताओं को कोई नुकसान न हो साढ़े 99 परसेंट जमीन की पैदावार को देश के लिए रखें। निर्यात करने के लिए एक अलग से योजना बनाई जाए और वह एस० टी० सी० नहीं कर सकता क्योंकि खाद्य वस्तुओं का निर्यात एक स्पेशलाइज्ड चीज है उसका ज्ञान अलग है, वह मामूली ढंग से नहीं हो सकता। अब प्रश्न उठता है कि यह आधा परसेंट कौन सी जगह है। तो मैं यह मानता हूँ कि जो सबसे दरिद्र वर्ग है किसान का, छोटे किसान का, उनके ही लिए यह कार्य सुरक्षित कर दिया जाये। सबसे बड़ी आवश्यकता छोटे किसानों की आमदनी बढ़ाने की है और मैं नहीं जानता हूँ कि फल, सब्जी और पोल्ट्री, इनका विकास करने के अतिरिक्त हम उनकी कैसे आमदनी बढ़ा सकते हैं, उनका जीवन स्तर कैसे उठा सकते हैं, यह सोचना है।

लेकिन यह कभी सम्भव नहीं होगा जब तक कि इस बात की जानकारी न हो कि जब तक किसान और भूमिहीन व्यक्ति आधा दर्जन अंडे भी बेचता है तो उसे ले जाकर किसी विनय केन्द्र पर जाकर अपना मूल्य चुकता कर लेगा। आज उत्पादन कोई समस्या नहीं है, इस देश में, लेकिन उसका वितरण, उसका अच्छे मूल्यों पर बिकना सबसे बड़ी समस्या है और इन छोटे किसानों के लिए अगर आप यह देश व्यापी योजना नहीं चलाना चाहते हैं तो मैं यह सुझाव दूंगा कि आप दिल्ली के इर्द-गिर्द एक पाइलेट प्रोजेक्ट चलाइये और उसके प्रारम्भ से उत्पादन से लेकर उसको इकट्ठा करने और विदेशों को भेजने का सारा काम समन्वित ढंग से दिल्ली के इर्द-गिर्द हो। कम से कम पहला प्रोजेक्ट आप यहां चलाइये ताकि उसकी अच्छी निगरानी हो सके और उसको सफल बनाया जा सके।

श्रीमन्, मैं यही कह रहा था कि कृषि उपज के निर्यात की सीमा आप भले ही निश्चित कर दें, लेकिन आपको इसका प्रारम्भ कर देना चाहिये। इसके तीन लाभ होंगे। एक बात तो मैं यह कहना चाहता हूं कि यदि आपका उद्देश्य केवल सेल्फ एफिसिएन्सी है तो वह उद्देश्य तब तक पूरा नहीं हो सकता जब तक कि निर्यात करने के लिए योजना नहीं बनाई जाती है। यह हो सकता है कि जिस वर्ष अच्छी उपज हो उस वर्ष आप निर्यात कर लें। लेकिन जिस वर्ष मौसम खराब रहेगा उस वर्ष आपके लिए कठिनाइयां पैदा हो सकती हैं। इसलिए आज आवश्यकता इस बात की है कि कृषि उपज की वस्तुओं का निर्यात करना चाहिये और विदेशी मुद्रा कमाने के लिए जो योजना मैंने बताई है उस पर कार्यवाही की जानी चाहिये। मेरा अपना

अनुमान है और यह अनुमान एक कृषक की हैसियत से है, एक राजनीतिज्ञ की हैसियत से नहीं है कि अगर आधा परसेंट भूमि में भी अच्छे ढंग से एक्सपोर्टेसिव फार्मिंग होगा और चीजें पैदा करके उनका निर्यात किया जाएगा तो कुल मूल्य 6 हजार करोड़ रुपया होगा जो कि भारत के सारे निर्यात के माल से ज्यादा है। किसी को इसमें सन्देह नहीं होना चाहिये और मैं यह दावा नहीं करता कि आप एक साल में सारे कदम उठा सकते हैं। इसमें बहुत सोचने की आवश्यकता है। लेकिन सम्भावना और संदेह के सम्बन्ध में भी मैं बता सकता हूं कि आधा परसेंट भूमि का मतलब 75 लाख हेक्टेयर भूमि से होता है। अगर 8 हजार रुपए प्रति हेक्टेयर भूमि पर उपज के लिए खर्च किए जायें तो यह लगभग 60 करोड़ रुपए हो जाते हैं। मैं एक साधारण सी बात कहना चाहता हूं कि आप आलू को ही ले लीजिये। एक एकड़ में बहुत आसानी से सौ क्वींटल आलू पैदा हो सकते हैं। अगर हम 1२० किलो के हिसाब से इसको निर्यात करें तो ये लगभग 10 हजार रुपए हो जाते हैं। यह मूल्य भी मैं बहुत ज्यादा बता रहा हूं। इसलिए मैं कहना चाहता हूं कि एग्रीकल्चर का जो पोटेंशियल है उसकी तरफ ज्यादा ध्यान देने की जरूरत है।

अन्त में मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से यह निवेदन करना चाहता हूं कि उनके पास केवल वाणिज्य मंत्रालय ही नहीं है, बल्कि दूसरे दो विभाग भी हैं। इन विभागों की हैसियत से जब वे सोचें तो उन लोगों के बारे में भी सोचें जो इस देश में 80 फीसदी से भी ज्यादा हैं। मेरे कहने का मतलब कृषकों से है। अगर आप कड़े से कड़े कदम अभी उठाना चाहते हैं तो उनको उठाइये, लेकिन कड़े कदम उठाने के बावजूद आपकी सरकार इन चीजों को सस्ते मूल्य पर देने में क्यों विफल हो रही

[श्री मोहन धारिया]

है ? ये जो 12 चीजें मैंने बताई हैं, ये एसेंसियल कमाडिटीज नहीं हैं। मैं यह निवेदन करना चाहता हूँ कि जो एसेंसियल कमाडिटीज हैं उनके इनपुट्स की तरफ भी ध्यान देने की

They are more essential
then the essential commodities.

अगर आप कृषकों को नाइट्रोजन फर्टिलाइजर, ट्रैक्टर और तेल आदि सस्ता नहीं देंगे तो चाहे आप मीसा का प्रयोग कीजिये या लोगों को चौराहों पर गोली मार दीजिए, चीजों की महंगाई में कमी होने वाली नहीं। मैं समझता हूँ कि जब तक किसानों की ओर ध्यान नहीं दिया जाएगा तब तक महंगाई कम नहीं हो सकती है। इस महंगाई की जिम्मेदारी किस पर है ? मैं समझता हूँ कि इसकी जिम्मेदारी सरकार की उन नीतियों पर है जिनके अधीन इनपुट्स पर भारी टैक्स लगा हुआ है। आमेन्, दुनिया के बहुत से देशों में और खास करके हमारे पड़ोसी देशों में एग्रिकल्चर इनपुट्स के लिए सबसीडी दी जाती है, लेकिन हमारी हुकूमत ने यह फैसला रिया है कि सबसीडी देना तो दूर उसने उन्ह पर भारी टैक्स लगा रखे हैं। इन परिस्थितियों को देखते हुये जैसा मैंने जनता पार्टी के मैनीफेस्टो का उदाहरण देते हुये कहा कि किसानों को उचित मूल्य मिलना चाहिये और उनके साथ इंसाफ किया जाना चाहिये। मैं यही चाहूंगा कि ऐसी नीति बनाई जानी चाहिये जिसके अन्तर्गत हमारे देश के 80 फीसदी लोगों का भला हो सके और जिन लोगों ने जनता पार्टी को सत्ता में पहुंचाया है उनका हित हो सके।

श्री प्रकाश महरोत्रा (उत्तर प्रदेश) : माननीय उपसभापति महोदय, पहले तो मैं माननीय मंत्री जी को बधाई देना चाहता हूँ। वह पहले मंत्री है, जिन्होंने देश की जनता की रोज की आवश्यकताओं को ध्यान में रखते हुए एक ऐसी नीति की घोषणा की है, जिससे

यद्यपि करोड़ों रुपये की मुद्रा, जो हम उपार्जित करते थे, वह बहुत कम होगी, लेकिन जन-साधारण को इससे बहुत आराम हुआ। मेरा अभिप्राय उस घोषणा से है, जिसके द्वारा हाल ही में मंत्री महोदय ने आवश्यक वस्तुओं को बाहर भेजने पर रोक लगाई है। इस विषय में मैं मंत्री महोदय से कुछ निवेदन करना चाहता हूँ।

हमारे उत्तर प्रदेश में आलू की उपज बहुत होती है। इसी तरह माननीय मंत्री जी के प्रदेश में प्याज बहुत होता है। अक्सर ऐसा हो जाता है कि फसल बहुत ज्यादा हो जाती है और इसके स्टोरेज की समस्या हो जाती है। माल सड़ने लगता है और किसानों को उचित दाम नहीं मिलता है। ऐसी अवस्था आने पर मैं निवेदन करूंगा कि एक फिक्सड क्वॉटिटी उस वक्त विदेश भेजने की अनुमति अगर दी जाये तो किसानों को ज्यादा सहूलियत होगी।

मान्यवर, इसेंसियल कमाडिटीज संबंधी दूसरी चीज है, फूड कार्पोरेशन, जिसके विषय में मैं कुछ कहना चाहूंगा।

मेरे विचार से, फूड कार्पोरेशन का रोल एक एफेक्टिव होल-सेलर का रोल होना चाहिए। लेकिन हमारे यहां का जो फूड कार्पोरेशन है, उसका काम केवल स्टोरेज और ट्रांसपोर्टेशन का ही है। किसी भी पब्लिक डिस्ट्रीब्यूशन सिस्टम में विश्वास पैदा करने के लिये यह नितान्त आवश्यक है कि उसके द्वारा जो चीज दी जाये, वह अच्छी चीज हो और उसका मूल्य भी उचित हो। हमारे फूड कार्पोरेशन की नीति क्या है ? उसकी नीति यह है कि पहले जो डेटिरियोरेटेड गल्ला है, उसको निकालो, उसके बाद अच्छा गल्ला निकालो। मैं यह नहीं कहता हूँ कि डेटिरियोरेटेड गल्ला उसको नहीं बेचना चाहिए। उसको भी बेचा जाना चाहिए और अच्छे गल्ले को बेचना चाहिए। लेकिन, इस सिलसिले में डिफरेंसियल प्राइस जो हैं वह रखे जाने चाहिए।

मान्यवर, इस नीति से हमारे पब्लिक डिस्ट्रीब्यूशन सिस्टम की जो क्रेडिटैबिलिटी है, वह समाप्त हो जाती है। वरना होता यह है कि जब शार्टेंज रहती है, तब लोग पब्लिक डिस्ट्रीब्यूशन सिस्टम द्वारा गल्ला खरीदते हैं और जब सरपल होता है, तब वहां से गल्ला नहीं खरीदते हैं।

दूसरी चीज यह है कि एक विबंटल गेहूँ पर 25.45 रुपये की सब्सिडी आप देते हैं, जब कि प्रायवेट होल-सेलर जो है, उनका खर्चा इससे आधा आता है। तो, मेरा निवेदन यह है कि आप इस पर विशेष ध्यान दे कि जो खर्चा है स्टोरेज और ट्रांसपोर्टेशन का, वह खर्चा कम होना चाहिए।

तीसरी बात यह है कि देहात के किसान प्रायवेट होल-सेलर्स को अपना गल्ला बेचने में ज्यादा इंटरस्टेड रहते हैं, बनिस्पत फूड कारपोरेशन के। इसका कारण क्या है? इसका कारण यह है कि उसको प्रायवेट होल-सेलर से एडवांस मिल जाता है, अपनी क्रास जो वह बेचता है, उसके अगेंस्ट उसको कैश पेमेन्ट मिल जाता है। जब कि हमारा फूड कारपोरेशन जो है, वह किसान को चेक से पेमेन्ट करता है। मेरे विचार से अगर आपको फूड कारपोरेशन को एफिक्टिव इन्स्ट्रुमेंट आफ पब्लिक सर्विस बनाना है, तो उसके लिये आपको उनकी क्रास के अगेंस्ट एडवान्स देना चाहिए और उनको कैश पेमेन्ट देना चाहिए। इसके लिये आपको उसके मूल बाँचे में परिवर्तन करना पड़ेगा।

चौथा, एक आइटम है शूगर का। मान्यवर, 4 लाख टन के एक्सपोर्ट का कमिटमेंट आपका इस वर्ष है, उसको पूरा करने के बाद भी आपके पास 15 लाख टन का स्टॉक रहने वाला है। अगले प्रोडक्शन का एस्टीमेट है करीब 52 लाख टन। जो हमारा इंटर्नल कंजप्शन है वह करीब साढ़े सैंतीस लाख टन का है। इंटरनेशनल मार्केट में शूगर के प्राइसिज इतने गिर गए हैं कि बहुत ज्यादा एक्सपोर्ट की सम्भावना नहीं है।

ऐसी स्थिति में हमारे पास काफी शूगर रहेंगी कंट्रोल की नीति यह होती है कि जब शार्टेंज रहती है तब कंज्यूमर को संरक्षण देने के लिए कंट्रोल लगाया जाता है लेकिन आज जब सरपल है तो पता नहीं क्यों आप कंट्रोल लगा कर साढ़े चार रुपये किलो का शूगर लोगों को खिला रहे हैं जबकि डिक्ट्रोल करके ढाई रुपये किलो शूगर आसानी से मिल सकती है। आपका जो प्रेम इस वक्त मिल वालों से है, हालांकि चुनाव कब के खतम हो चुके हैं, यह मेरी समझ में नहीं आ रहा है।

एक माननीय सदस्य : चुनाव तो फिर आने वाले हैं।

डा० रामकृपाल सिंह (बिहार) : तो माननीय सदस्य का इतना पुराना प्रेम है...

श्री काली मुखर्जी (पश्चिमी बंगाल) : भाई दोनों मिल कर के करो।

श्री प्रकाश महरोत्रा : दूसरी बात माननीय मंत्री जी ने घोषणा की कि हम काफी मात्रा में एडिबल आयल इम्पोर्ट कर रहे हैं। यह भी धमकी दी कि मीसा का प्रयोग करेंगे। लेकिन इसके बावजूद भी चंद महीनों में एडिबल आयल के दाम जो कि सात रुपये किलो थे से बढ़ कर 14 रुपये किलो हो गए। मान्यवर, जनता तो यह कहती है कि सत्युग के कृष्ण थे, बूज में माखन चुराते थे लेकिन आज के जो मोहन हैं उन्होंने तो पूरे देश का तेल छिपा कर रख लिया है। मान्यवर, इस संबंध में आपको कोई लॉग रेंज पालिसी निर्धारित करनी पड़ेगी। क्योंकि चार-पांच साल तक आपको तेल विदेशों से मंगाना पड़ेगा और इसके लिए आपको मलेशिया, फिलिपाईन, सुडान, इन सब से एग्जीमिट करना पड़ेगा। इसके साथ ही साथ सोप इंडस्ट्रिज जो हैं उसमें एनमल टैलो का प्रयोग जो है उसको भी एनकरेज करना पड़ेगा। जो नान-असेशियल आयल हैं जैसे महुआ, साल,

[श्री प्रकाश महरोला]

काटन सीड आयाल, इन का प्रोडक्शन बढ़ाने पर भी आपको जोर देना पड़ेगा। मान्यवर, इस देश की सबसे बड़ी इंडस्ट्री जो है, वह है टैक्सटाइल देश का जो इंडस्ट्रियल आऊट-पुट है उसका लगभग 20 प्रतिशत टैक्सटाइल इंडस्ट्री अकाउंट फार करता है। आप जैसे जानते हैं पिछले कुछ वर्षों से यह इंडस्ट्री काफी कठिन परिस्थिति से गुजर रही है। कानपुर में कई टैक्सटाइल मिलें बंद हो गई हैं जिससे वहां पर काफी अनइम्प्लायमेंट और लेबर अनरैस्ट है। कपड़े की उपलब्ध 15.2 मीटर से घट कर 12.3 मीटर पर कैपिटल हो गई है। सिकसय फाइव ईयर प्लान में हमारा लक्ष्य जो है वह प्रति व्यक्ति 20 मीटर है। एक तरफ तो हमारा लक्ष्य है कि ज्यादा उत्पादन करें और ज्यादा कपड़ा दें, दूसरी तरफ स्थिति यह है कि टैक्सटाइल की हालत खराब है। टैक्सटाइल लेबर में अनरैस्ट होता चला जा रहा है। यह एक राष्ट्रीय समस्या बन गई है जिस पर बहुत गम्भीरता और ठंडे दिमाग से विचार करके ठोस कदम उठाने चाहिए। सबसे बड़ी समस्या आज हमारी टैक्सटाइल इंडस्ट्री की है और वह है रा-मैटिरियल की। यद्यपि इस देश का काफी हिस्सा काटन कल्टीवेशन के अन्दर है लेकिन हमारी एवरेज ईलंड जो है वह दुनिया में लोएस्ट है। तो सबसे पहले हमें प्रयास करना चाहिए कि हम कुछ अच्छी वरायटी निकालें जिससे हमारी ईलंड जो है वह बढ़े। इसके बावजूद भी मान्यवर कपास की शॉर्टेज रहने वाली है। उसके लिए सरकार की जो यह नीति है कि काटन कारपोरेशन के द्वारा बाहर से काटन मंगा कर के सप्लाय करती है, जिससे न केवल मांग की पूर्ति होती है, बल्कि इससे कीमतों को भी रैगुलेट कर पाते हैं। लेकिन इसमें विशेष ध्यान देने की बात यह है कि सही समय पर सही मात्रा में और सही दाम पर बाहर से कपास मंगाया जा सके जिससे कि उसका असर जो कपास वहां पर पैदा होती है उस पर उल्टा न पड़े, न कपास का

दाम बढ़े जिससे जनता को कठिनाई हो और न मिलों को नुकसान हो जिससे कि मजदूरों में अनइम्प्लायमेंट हो। मान्यवर, आज जो काटन कारपोरेशन है वह इस काम के लिये सक्षम नहीं है। जैसे मैंने फूड कारपोरेशन के विषय में कहा तो इसमें भी आपको मूल परिवर्तन करना पड़ेगा बांचे और पालिसी दोनों में ही। केवल सरकारी आफिरो को उसमें बैठा देने से काम नहीं चलेगा। उनके साथ आपको एसोसिएट करना पड़ेगा ऐसे लोगों को जिनको कपास की नीति की जानकारी हो, जिनको इंडस्ट्री की जानकारी हो, जिनको फारेन ट्रेड की जानकारी हो तभी यह इफेक्टिव रोल ले सकेगा। वह प्ले कर सकेगा।

दूसरी बात मान्यवर, यह है कि जब देश में काटन की कमी है तो उस समय मैन मेड फाइबर की एक बहुत महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका हो सकती है। सरकार जो फाइबर को इम्पोर्ट कर रही है वह सही नीति है और देश की फारेन एक्सचेंज की स्थिति का ध्यान करके हमें एक लांग टर्म पालिसी इस संबंध में एनाउंस करनी चाहिए। एक आश्चर्य की बात यह है कि सबसे सस्ता दुनिया का फाइबर पालीईस्टर है जिसको कि हमने एकदम लक्जरी आइटम बना दिया है। इस पालीईस्टर फाइबर से काटन से ज्यादा अच्छा और सस्ता कपड़ा हम बना सकते हैं इसकी धुलाई का खर्च भी कम आता है। तो ऐसे फाइबर को इतना महंगा बना दिया गया है कि यह कामन मैन की रीच से बाहर है। आज पालीईस्टर का सी० आई० एफ० दाम 10 रु० के लगभग पर किलोग्राम है। इसमें इम्पोर्ट ड्यूटी, एक्साइज ड्यूटी लगाकर, सब मिलाकर करीब 90 और 100 रु० पर किलोग्राम इसका दाम हो जाता है। आपको मान्यवर, यह देखना चाहिये, कि जो फाइबर हम कामन मैन के लिये इस्तेमाल कर सकते हैं उस पर इंसीडेंस आफ ड्यूटी इतनी न हो।

उस फाइबर का इन्टरनल प्रोडक्शन भी बढ़ाने की कोशिश करनी चाहिए ।

मान्यवर, तीसरी समस्या कन्ट्रोल क्लार्थ की है । यह हर एक सरकार का फर्ज होना चाहिए कि गरीब जनता को सस्ते दाम पर कपड़ा मिल सके । किन्तु हमारी पालिसी है कन्ट्रोल क्लार्थ की उसमें होता यह है कि गरीब जनता तक तो वह कपड़ा पहुंचता नहीं है बल्कि बीच के जो अन्डिजायरेबल लोग हैं वह उससे पैसा बना लेते हैं और मिलवाला अलग चिल्लाता है कि इसको बनाने में हमको नुकसान होता है । मान्यवर, हमको इसमें कोई रिसर्च करना चाहिए और कोई सस्ता यार्न जिससे हम सस्ता कपड़ा बना सकें इसकी खोज करनी चाहिए । जिससे कि हम कन्ट्रोल क्लार्थ सस्ता बनाकर कामन मैन तक पहुंचा सकें ।

मान्यवर, चौथी बात यह है कि यह पूरी इंडस्ट्री का सोशल अन्वेलोपमेंट है कि कामन मैन को सस्ता कपड़ा मिल सके । केवल कुछ मिलों पर ही इसके लिये यह बोझ लादना उचित नहीं है । आप इक्जामिन करायें अगर कोई सेस हम पूरी इंडस्ट्री पर लगाकर इस चीज को सब्सिडाइज कर सकें तो यह ज्यादा अच्छा होगा ।

मान्यवर, पांचवीं चीज जो एक अरजेंट समस्या है । वह है टैक्सटाइल इंडस्ट्री के माडर्नाइजेशन की । आप जो आई० डी० बी० आई० द्वारा साफ्ट लोन दे रहे हैं वह ठीक है, लेकिन कुछ प्रोजेक्ट सिम्पलीफाई कर दें जिससे कि प्रोसेसिंग जल्दी हो जायें ।

छठवीं चीज, मान्यवर, मैं यह कहूंगा कि एक परमानेंट रिवाइनिंग फंड अगर टैक्सटाइल इंडस्ट्री के माडर्नाइजेशन के लिये बना सकें तो ज्यादा अच्छा होगा ।

आपकी अनुमति से एक्सपोर्ट के विषय में मैं दो बातें कहना चाहूंगा । सबसे पहले तो यह कि विदेशों में जो हमारे ट्रेड कमिश्नर हैं वे बिल्कुल सुटेड नहीं हैं इस काम के लिये । उनका काम केवल यह है कि एक तो वह बैठकर पेपर वर्क करते हैं या पार्टियों में जाते रहते हैं तो इससे कोई निर्यात देश का बढ़ने वाला 3 P.M. नहीं है । आपको इसके लिए एक नया काडर अलग से बनाना पड़ेगा और उस के लिए आपको सिविल सर्वेंट्स के अलावा हर सेक्शन आफ सोसाइटी से चाहे वह व्यापार से हों, चाहे वह प्राइवेट कम्पनियों के लोग हों, या यंग आन्ट्रप्रेन्योर्स हों, उन सब को आपको डाइरेक्ट करना होगा । यंग लोगों को, इमेजिनेटिव लोगों को, डाएनेमिक लोगों को टेक्निकली ट्रेन करेंगे तब आपका काम विदेशों में ज्यादा बढ़ जाएगा ।

एक चीज मान्यवर, यह है कि मैं यह मानता हूँ कि एक्सपोर्ट बढ़ाने के लिए विदेशों में जो एग्जिबिशन होती हैं उनमें हमको शामिल होना चाहिए लेकिन मेरा मुद्दा यह है कि जिन मुल्कों में हम एग्जिबिशन में पार्टिसिपेट करने जा रहे हैं, वहां की क्या रिक्वायरमेंट है वह पहले हमको समझ कर, फिर उस हिसाब से अपने एग्जिबिशन प्लान करने चाहिए । होता यह है कि हमारे जो एग्जिबिशन होते हैं वे स्टीरियोटाइप्ड, मीना बाजार की तरह होते हैं । हमारा इम्फेसिस जो आज होना चाहिए वह डेवलपमेंट और सोफिस्टिकेशन किस तरह का उस मुल्क में होता है उसकी तरफ ध्यान देने की तरफ होना चाहिए ।

मान्यवर, अगर कन्ट्रीज से हम बरूड आइल इम्पोर्ट करते हैं बरूड आइल का दाम थोड़ा भी बढ़ जाता है तो हमारी पूरी इकानामी में उथल-पुथल हो जाती है । इस संबंध में मैं माननीय मंत्री जी का ध्यान आकर्षित करना चाहूंगा कि कुछ दिन पहले पेरिस में ओपेक कन्ट्रीज की कान्फरेन्स हुई थी जिसमें यह विचार विमर्श हुआ था कि डेवलपड

[श्री प्रकाश महरोत्रा]

कन्टीन से कब्ब आइल जो भेजा जाए वह मैचिंग एक्सपोर्ट के अग्रेस्ट भेजा जाए । तो हम को भी एग्जेशन करना चाहिए कि हम कब्ब आइल के अग्रेस्ट आइरन ओर, माइका, जूट, टेक्सटाइल और जो बाकी नान ट्रेडिशनल आइटम्स हैं उनको अच्छी भावा में एक्सपोर्ट करें जिससे कुरुड आइल गंगा सके । यद्यपि, मान्यवर, इस मुल्क में तेल कम है लेकिन हम आइल टेक्नालाजी में उन मुल्कों से आगे हैं। तो उन मुल्कों में हमारे जोइन्ट वेंचर्स होने चाहिए । मेरा ख्याल है, मशीनरी और प्लांट सप्लाय करने के मामले में, और जैसा कि इम्पोर्ट कंसल्टेटिव सर्विस है, मिविल इंजीनियरिंग है, प्रोसेस नोहाऊ है, इन सब को उन मुल्कों को देना चाहिए और मेरा ख्याल है अगर हम एक स्पेशल सैल बना लें इन अरब कन्टीज के लिए तो हमारा निर्यात काफी बढ़ सकता है ।

मान्यवर, आप एक्सपोर्ट बढ़ाने के लिए काफी इमैटिव दे रहे हैं, जैसे कौन सब्सिडी है, इम्पोर्ट एन्टायटलमेन्ट है—ये सब आवश्यक हैं लेकिन मैं समझता था अगर एक्सपोर्ट्स की प्राफिट पर आप डिफरेंशियल इनकम टैक्स करते हैं तो उसके दो फायदे होंगे, एक तो यह कि एक्सपोर्ट बढ़ेगा और लोकल कंजमन कम होगा, उस पर थोड़ा चैक होगा, जिसकी आवश्यकता है; दूसरी बात यह है कि एक्सपोर्ट का जो प्राफिट है उस पर इनकम टैक्स होगा तो उसको बक्स में लाने की कोशिश करेंगे तो ओवरऑल कंजमन कम नहीं होगा ।

(Time bell rings.)

मान्यवर, दो बातें कह कर समाप्त करना चाहता हूँ, एक तो यह कि मैं मानता हूँ आज हमारे फारेन ऐक्सचेन्ज की स्थिति बहुत अच्छी है लेकिन फिर भी हमें इम्पोर्ट जुडिशसली करना चाहिए और एक्सपोर्ट इन्डिस्क्रिमिनेटली नहीं करना चाहिए क्योंकि सेकेंड वर्ल्ड वार के बाद हमारे स्टर्लिंग बैलेन्सेज बहुत अच्छे थे, बल्कि हमने उसको

स्वैडर कर दिया, जिसका नतीजा यह हुआ कि कई साल तक फारेन ऐक्सचेन्ज की हमारी स्थिति खराब रही । दूसरी चीज यह है कि अग्रिकल्चर, इंडस्ट्री, कामर्स इत्यादि को हम ग्राइसोलेशन में नहीं देख सकते हैं । अगर हमको देश को आगे बढ़ाना है तो भविष्य को सामने रखते हुए, इनर्जी काइसिस जो आने वाली है, पावर शाटेज जो हमारे मुल्क में है और उससे इंडस्ट्रियल और अग्रिकल्चरल प्रोडक्शन पर जो असर पड़ने वाला है, पाल्पू-शन प्रॉब्लम जो आने वाला है, उन सब को देखते हुए एक प्रेस्क्रिप्शन तैयार करना पड़ेगा ।

मान्यवर, धारिया जी अपने लक्ष्य और उद्देश्य के प्रति निष्ठा और आस्था रखते हैं, इस में मुझे पूरा विश्वास है और कोई संदेह नहीं है, किन्तु ये कितना कर पाएंगे, यह समय ही बताएगा ।

SHRI RISHI KUMAR MISHRA (Rajasthan): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, while participating in the discussion on the working of the Ministry of Commerce, I would like to draw the attention of the honourable Minister to some of the basic policy issues which have acquired some urgency because of the prevailing economic situation in the country and also because of some confusion that has arisen on account of the conflicting statements of objectives issued by the various spokesmen of the Government during the last few months. In 1970, we had adopted an Export Policy Resolution and I would like the honourable Minister to take this into confidence and tell us whether the Government now proposes to make any changes in that Export Policy Resolution of 1970 and, if the Government intends to make any changes in it, whether there is any likelihood of a new Export Policy Resolution being placed before the country and before this Parliament for discussion. It is important that we should be clear about

our objectives in the field of foreign economic relations and in the field of exports, because the basic objective of building up of our economic independence and self-reliance in the country is closely linked up with our approach to this question. Unfortunately, neither in the Budget speech of the Finance Minister nor in the intervention made by the Prime Minister during the general discussion on the Budget was there any reference to self-reliance and, therefore, an impression is gaining ground in the country that the objective of self-reliance as concretised in terms of reducing the net foreign aid to zero within a fixed time-frame is being given up. This is also confirmed by the new emphasis on import liberalisation and on discouraging exports. Export, Sir, is one of the important instruments of self-reliance. We have, during the last 20-25 years, incurred foreign debts of a considerable magnitude. We were expecting that as India entered the Sixth Plan period, the net credits, the burden of credits, would go down. But, after the Finance Minister's last visit to Washington, we find that the crushing burden of external debts is going to increase and is not going to decrease and, in fact, this is being done at a time when we have a comfortable foreign exchange position and when this could be utilised for reducing the inflow of foreign debts, especially because we need resources, domestic resources, it is not being done. What we need in India is mobilisation of domestic resources and not using the external loans as a resource-raising device and not using them for filling the resources-gap within the country. This policy of incurring external loans would only force on this country a situation in which we will have to go in for avoidable imports. This will adversely affect the growth of the Indian industries, the growth of the Indian economy and the development of science and technology in our country. I would like to request the honourable Minister to take the House into confidence about the overall approach of the Government towards

this particular question. As far as the honourable Minister, Mr. Mohan Dharia, is concerned, I am fully aware of his attitude towards this question and there is no confusion about his commitment to the objectives of self-reliance, of economic independence and of taking the country forward. But what is important is the implication of the steps that the Government as a whole is taking and not the views of any single individual.

Sir, there has been tremendous dynamism in the field of exports and it appears that there is some complacency creeping in the attitude of the Government because of the 23.8 per cent increase in exports that we witnessed last year. This should not be there and I would request all concerned to keep in mind that export promotion is an important tool in the liquidation of our debt burden and also in achieving the objective of self-reliance and the importance of this should not be undermined. As far as the import liberalisation is concerned, Sir, there is a case for going in for larger imports in areas where we really want modernisation of our industries, but to go on with a reckless import liberalisation drive in order to meet the consumption requirements of the affluent elite of the country would be disastrous for the economy of our nation.

SHRI KALI MUKHERJEE: Such as.

SHRI RISHI KUMAR MISHRA: For example, I do not know whether the hon. Member Shri Kali Mukherjee is interested in having imported watches. He may not be. But he may have seen in the Budget that we are going to allow a liberalised import of watches. I have also learnt—and I would be very happy if the hon. Minister contradicts it—that there is a move to allow import of gold. It appears that the Government, unable to check smugglers and unable to prevent 'smuggling of these commodities, thinks that it should perform the function of a smuggler itself. Well, Sir, no Government can be a substitute for smugglers, and if it were so

[Shri Rishi Kumar Mishra]

it would be so that Haji Mastan would be managing the economy, and not Mr. Mohan Dharia. I am quite sure that the Government would not go in for reckless, indiscriminate imports of such commodities and it would not abdicate its responsibility in regard to curbing of smuggling activities by allowing imports of articles which are brought to the channels of smuggling.

There is another aspect to which some hon. Members on both sides have referred, that whenever the middle classes feel the squeeze of rise in prices of certain commodities, there is immediately an outcry that export of these commodities should be stopped as if the Government exists for the middle classes, by the middle classes and in the interest of middle classes. The Indian people—the large majority of them—do not belong to this class. Therefore, the tendency to immediately sacrifice national interests of earning foreign exchange in order to placate the middle classes and the affluent classes should be resisted. For example, take shrimps and marine products. A very small section of the Indian people consumes these things. But as soon as the prices go up, there is a demand, and it appears that the bureaucrats in the Finance Ministry and the Commerce Ministry, who must be consuming some of these commodities immediately prevail upon the Government to stop export of these commodities.

SHRI U. K. LAKSHMANA GOWDA (Karnataka): What about you? Don't you consume shrimps.

SHRI RISHI KUMAR MISHRA: If the hon. Member and myself were consuming these, then we would be prepared to pay a little higher price. The whole point is that the export of those commodities which will benefit the small growers, the small cultivators, should not be discouraged.

Some hon. Members pointed out that we do not ban the export of sugar. Why? This is because there is a powerful sugar lobby. There is a powerful sugar industry lobby. And,

therefore, even if sugar is required by the people of this country, its export would not be discouraged; it would rather be encouraged. But if the price of onions and other such things, which are grown by small cultivators, go up, immediately there is a demand as if only the prices of these commodities have to be pushed down and, therefore, the export of these commodities must be discouraged. This is a somewhat distorted view of the whole thing. For example, take the export of Alfanza mangoes. Some friends in Bombay, Calcutta or Delhi may be interested in this quality of mangoes. If the nation earns some foreign exchange and if the growers of this quality of mangoes can get a somewhat higher return, why should there be such an outcry, and why should the Government succumb to the pressure of this lobby? In fact, Sir, the whole approach and orientation is so much influenced by the personal comforts of people in Government, both, I think, politicians and the bureaucrats, that the small growers and small producers suffer very much. Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, I would also like to ask the hon. Minister one straight question and I would like a straight reply to it. What is the Government's approach towards the objective of import substitution? An important component and an important ingredient of our economic policy during the last few years has been to encourage import substitution because promotion of exports and import substitution are two sides of the broad objective of achieving self-reliance. If the objective of import substitution is sacrificed gradually, then it would seriously affect the country's economic development. Also, if you are going to liberalise imports, what are the industries to which you want to give a protected and sheltered market and what are the industries which you want to expose to competition by the foreign producers? On this, the Government should be clear. If the industries where we have indigenous capacity of production, which can produce and provide employment to our own people, where development

at a satisfactory pace and which do at a satisfactory pace and which do not produce goods and articles of consumption by the affluent sections are exposed to competition, I for one would not have any objection. But if the policy of liberalisation of imports kills those Indian industries and adversely affects our own indigenous capacities, then I think it is necessary to have a serious rethinking about the impact of a reckless policy of import liberalisation. I would also like the hon. Minister to give us an idea of what would be the total burden of debt servicing and repayment of debts by mid-80s. Once we go on dismantling the structure of exports which we had built during the last few years, then how are we going to meet challenges that are likely to arise in the mid-80s in respect of debt servicing and repayment of debts which have been accumulating during last 3 or 4 years? I do not blame the Janata Government for it. In fact, during the last 3 years even during the period of emergency, there has been a tendency of incurring avoidable external debts. Unfortunately that process has got intensified even after the emergency was lifted. It appears that the burden is mounting and by mid-80s this burden of repayment of external debts would be so much that unless we work out a strategy from now onwards, the country may be in a very serious difficulty. In fact, a situation may arise in which, like many other developing countries, India may be forced into a position where we may have to declare a moratorium on debt repayments, a situation which we would like to avoid in the interest of India's credit worthiness in the international world. Therefore, Sir, the Parliament must be taken into confidence about the short-term and long-term implications of the various aspects of the economic policies which are being pursued at the present moment. There should be an attempt to increase the exports of value-added items. The dangerous trend in regard to the encouragement of import of steel and all such pro-

ducts where already there are ongoing schemes and projects in hand for expansion of indigenous production capacities, must be given up. Also, Sir, in certain areas, there is a tendency—and one concrete step has been taken recently—to allow multinational corporations to enter into areas of mining, especially mining of iron ore. For the last two or three years, the Japanese were trying their hard to have a foothold in the manufacture of pellets because they are facing the problem of location of factories and the problem of pollution. Sir, iron is one of our major items of export. So, they wanted an opportunity to make an investment in India. By making pellets in India, they can solve their own problems of factory location and pollution; they can exploit the Indian raw material, the iron ore, and export it to their own country. Sir, the Government of India's stand till recently has been that we will do it in our own public sector units and we will not allow the investment by the Japanese in that field. Unfortunately, this has been permitted recently with regard to the Goa project and this has a very serious long-term implication. And I would urge the Government and I would demand that in areas where the non-replenish-able natural resources are involved, the exploitation of these non-replenish-able mineral resources is there, we should be very cautious because reckless exploitation of these natural resources will do great harm to our country's future. In such areas, it is necessary to be very cautious.

Sir, there has been a talk of discouraging exports of commodities which are needed in this country. I would, therefore, like the hon. Minister to examine the whole scheme of subsidies which are given for export promotion. He mentioned in one or two public speeches that this will be re-examined. I think a judicious reexamination of the schemes of subsidies should be there. For example, Sir, as the House is aware, under the marketing development assistance, the financial assistance which is provided to export-oriented industries has been

[Shri Rishi Kumar Mishra]

of the order of Rs. 240 crores in 1976-77. Similarly, under the drawback scheme, in 1976-77, we spent about Rs. 100 crores. And during the last three years, we have spent about Rs. 242 crores. Thus, you will find that under these two heads alone, namely the marketing development assistance scheme and the drawback scheme, more than Rs. 500 crores have been provided for as subsidy. It is necessary to judiciously examine how far the continuance of huge subsidies to various export oriented industries is justified.

Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, in our foreign economy relations, it is necessary to be firm as far as India's national interests are concerned. And India's national interests include the interests of Indian private sector also. Unfortunately, the attitude of the European Economic Community and the attitude of the United States of America in regard to export commitments already made and in regard to commitment which they had already made to Indian industries in garments and in certain other sectors has been, I would say, not at all creditable. It has been very very unfair and the Indian industry suffered a lot because of the sudden stoppage or cancellation of orders, etc. Sir, the officials of the EEC were here and there were some discussions. I would like from the hon. Minister a categorical assurance that both the USA and the EEC would be clearly and categorically told that the Government of India would not allow them to act in a manner which is detrimental to India's national interest and such sudden cancellation of orders which dislocate Indian economy are something which India cannot countenance in future. Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, in this context, while discussing the functioning of the Ministry of Commerce, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister to the importance of handlooms and handicrafts both as an export-promotion activity and in providing greater employment to our artisans and craftsmen in the rural areas. Sir, a high-

powered committee had gone into the role of our country, as a vanguard in question of revitalisation and development of handloom industry and it had recommended some 25 intensive development projects and 20 export-oriented production projects. The recommendations of the high-powered committee need to be implemented expeditiously. Necessary organisational infrastructure need to be created for this purpose. There has been a lot of talk about emphasis on rural industries, on handicrafts and on handlooms. Unfortunately there is a lot of confusion, which was revealed even in the Finance Minister's approach whereby he equated handlooms and powerlooms. I know that hon. Mr. Mohan Dahiria need not be told that to deal with the both, the handloom and the powerloom, on the same basis would only reveal either support to the vested interests; represented by powerlooms, or a total ignorance that when you are trying to provide some incentives to the two, you are, in fact, doing some harm to the handloom sector. Therefore, it is very necessary that the interests of the handloom sector, which is *one* of the biggest sectors generating employment in our country, are carefully gone into. It is necessary that the recommendations of that Committee, which was set up some time back, are implemented.

Sir, India is the most developed country in the developing nations of the world. It has the third largest scientific and technical manpower in the whole world. We have developed tremendous capacities. Our scientists and technicians have shown that they have attained a standard which is next to none and India has to play a very important role in the struggle that is going on in the whole world for changing the present economic order and in order to change the global terms of trade in favour of the developing countries and in this struggle I am quite sure that the Government of India—it may be the Janata Party Government—would not allow, as far as the international eco-

economic relations are concerned, the role of our country, as a vanguard in the fight for the developing nations against the unequal terms of trade, which are imposed by the developed nations of the world, to be undermined and to be compromised. Unfortunately, of late, there have been some signs of isolationism in the approach of the Government towards these global terms. There is a tendency in a section of the Government that India should have nothing to do, or not much to do, except verbal sympathies in regard to these international problems, that we can settle our problems bilaterally either by pleasing the United States' Secretary of State or his Assistant, if he visits India, or by having some sort of bilateral negotiations with some countries of Western Europe. Well, Sir, unequal economy especially when dealing with these big powers, developed capitalist countries of the world, is a very very tough job and unless we can unite all the developing nations, and can create an inter-national pressure for changing the present terms of trade in favour of the developing nations of the world, Indian interests also will be sacrificed. To take an isolationist view on such incidents would be betraying the hopes of the developing nations of the world reposed in our country and will, in the long term, be against Indian interests also. Therefore, I hope hon. Shri Mohan Dharia, when he replies to this discussion, would reassure this House that as far as this global struggle between the developing nations and the developed nations of the world is concerned, in order to create a more equitable trade relationship in the world, a more equitable and just economic order, India would not lag behind and India would not relent its own role in the restructuring of world trade in commodities and the amelioration of the growing and critical debt problems of the developing countries of the world.

Similarly, Sir, many inequities and unjust practices continue to prevail in regard to the question of transfer of

technology which is one of the sophisticated deals of international economic exploitation. It is very necessary that India takes an initiative in regard to altering the terms of transfer of technology the world over, including the practices in regard to patents, etc. Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, before I conclude, I would like to point out only one aspect which is uppermost in the minds of all of us and which is related to the Departments which honourable Shri Mohan Dharia deals with, namely, the question of rising prices. Well, Sir, I welcome unreservedly the repeated, and I am quite sure, the sincere assurance which the hon. Minister has given to the country and to both the Houses of Parliament about creating a public distribution system. I know, Sir, this is not going to be an easy task for him. All those who tried to create a viable public distribution system in the past—including those in our party—had their heads chopped off because of the pressure of vested interests in trade, in industry, and in commerce. I wish him better luck than the one which overtook the late Shri D. P. Dhar who also was committed to the idea of creating a viable public distribution system. The first step in that direction was taken when the whole-sale trade in wheat was taken over.

Sir, the Prime Ministers—and I am using it in plural deliberately—have a tendency to debunk the idea of creating a public distribution system by saying: "...whether it will work efficiently or not" as if the private distribution system run by profiteers, hoarders and smugglers works very efficiently because it can efficiently fleece the common people. It is the bogey of efficiency which is raised in order to create difficulties in the creation of a viable countrywide public distribution system and it must be fought unitedly by all those who want the common people to get their daily needs. Sir, the term 'common people' also includes the small producers in the villages, the agricultural labour because the vast majority of people in the rural areas are also

[Shri Rishi Kumar Mishra] consumers as what they grow is not enough to meet their requirements. There is need for immediately start-ing a public distribution system, backed by a procurement system which would enable the Government to have physical control over the stocks of certain commodities. I am not one of those who say that you take over all the commodities. Under the Essential Commodities Act, 18 items out of 60 or so were identified in the report which the honourable Shri Mohan Dharia himself had submitted in regard to the creation of a public distribution system. I would be quite satisfied if the Dharia Committee's Report is implemented honestly. It was not implemented earlier and it is one of the lapses which need be condemned but I am quite sure that in the new climate in the country, in view of the commitment which the Government and the whole Parliament have made for maintaining stable prices, the Government will go ahead for the creation of a public distribution system. A beginning can be made in some of the important consumer centres like Delhi, like Bombay, like Calcutta, where the problem of rising prices immediately sparks off unrest among the industrial workers and others and I am quite sure, before the situation gets worsened, steps will be taken to have a national procurement and distribution system.

With these words, I thank you.

SHRI U. K. LAKSHMANA GOWDA: Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, I am going to confine myself to only a few remarks with regard to the plantation industry. . .

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER:
 Coffee.

SHRI U. K. LAKSHMANA GOWDA: Not only coffee, but tea and rubber also. Sir, so far as the general comments are concerned, I am happy that very important points have been made with regard to agricultural production and the export of agricultural com-

modities, by my friend Mr. Bhanu Pratap Singh and I wholeheartedly endorse them. Also with regard to exports, I am again very happy that my friend Mr. Rishi Kumar Mishra has made a very pertinent reference with regard to self-reliance and import substitution and also with regard to subsidies for export. I certainly agree with him, Sir, with regard to subsidies for imports and import substitution, a careful review is necessary now.

Now, with regard to the plantation industry, I must say here that the plantation industry comprising of coffee, tea and rubber has done very well and it has provided this country with substantial foreign exchange earning, during the years 1975-76 and 1976-77. I would also like to pay my compliments to the Ministry of Commerce, both to the hon. Minister of Commerce and also to the officers in the Ministry for the efficient handling of the situation which arose with regard to difficulties in exports and also the rise in prices, both in the internal as well as the external markets. Sir, with regard to tea, we have seen that even during the short period from April 1977, to February we have earned Rs. 260 crores. In regard to coffee exports, last year, 1976-77, we have earned Rs. 120 crores. In this connection, there have been certain references in regard to the rise in prices of tea in the internal market. It did rise. But we have to take into consideration one thing. Even though we have regulated the market, Government have regulated the market by putting back some quantities earmarked for exports into the internal market, it should be borne in mind that for the last 20 years we have been spending money for increasing the tea exports and also for joining the other producing countries in regard to international tea promotion. Therefore, it is necessary to keep up the exports. A duty of Rs. 5 per kg. was levied and it has had a salutary effect. But I would like my friend, Mr. Mohan Dharia, and the Commerce Ministry to take into consideration the recent

fall in the price of tea and see how this can be regulated, as they have done in the case of coffee. So far as tea development, replanting and other things are concerned, satisfactory progress is being made and the Tea Board and other institutions are making the needed provisions for development. Where re-planting facilities have not been provided to the extent we had hoped, other methods of rejuvenation by pruning and so on have been adopted. Subsidies are also being provided. I hope this will encourage increased tea production.

So far as rubber is concerned, I have a few remarks to make. One thing is about the support price which was fixed earlier, in 1972, at Rs. 520. It is well known that the price of rubber which was moving around more than Rs. 700 to nearly a thousand rupees, is now around Rs. 650. So far as the manufacturing units are concerned, I think they are now getting rubber at about Rs. 650. In this connection, I would like to make a suggestion which was made earlier that the manufacturing units should stock at least two and a half months' supply. I do not know what is the position now. This will give encouragement to the rubber producers. Further in view of the higher production and the import of synthetic rubber being liberalised with the reduction in duty, I would like to suggest, in order to maintain the price, that a certain quantity of rubber may be permitted to be exported. I also hope that the support price announcement which is expected any day will be made as early as possible.

So far as coffee is concerned, the export target for 1976-77 was fixed at about 52,000 tonnes. I learnt the day before yesterday that export of about 43,000 tonnes has been completed. A quantity of about 9,000 tonnes remain to be exported. I am sure the Coffee Board and the coffee industry will fulfil the export target of 52,000 tonnes. I also hope that the crop-yield in the coming season would be

105,000 to 110,000 tonnes. This will provide us substantial export earnings, in spite of the fact that the international price is coming down.

In regard to coffee, there are one or two more points which I would like to mention. So far as the cost of production and the release price are concerned, they are still at Rs. 4.50 and Rs. 4.65. This has to be reviewed very early because this relates to the year 1971-72. There has to be a regular revision for the purpose of sales and fixation of the release price and the reserve price. In my view, with the rising cost of production, this is very low and deserves to be reviewed. If this is not done, there will always be a confrontation between the Audit and the Coffee Board. The Commerce Ministry always says that any revision has to be with the concurrence of the Government. This has created certain difficulties. This refers to the releases in the internal market. Of course, it does not concern the export prices. Government should take an early decision with regard to the revision of the cost of production and the reserve price.

So far as the duty is concerned, I am happy that the Government has been giving regular consideration to it. The duty has been brought down to Rs. 1100 per quintal. The other day the Export price fell to 1800 pounds from over 2400 pounds. I was on the point of making a representation, but yesterday I heard that there is going to be a tendency for the Export price to rise. If it keeps up to 2300 or 2400 pounds, this duty will be in order. But if it goes down, it will be necessary for the Commerce Ministry to immediately take it up with the Finance Ministry to see that this duty is revised and reduced further.

Here I would like to mention that the policy of the Janata Government is to develop the backward areas and to give accent on agriculture. The coffee, tea and rubber industries are the agro-based industries. They provide large-scale employment in the

[Shri U. K. Lakshmana Gowda] rural areas. More and more encouragement should be given to develop these rubber, tea and coffee industries. Development of these industries should be on a priority basis.

Sir, now so much is talked about the larger industries going back to the backward areas and giving them every encouragement. In the hilly areas where nothing can be done, what industries could you think of? If an expansion of the plantation industry both in the traditional and non-traditional areas is done, being a labour-intensive agro-industry it will provide employment to the local people and also help generation of development in so many other subsidiary jobs, such as transport and other things. There have been many schemes under the Coffee, Rubber and Tea Boards and I would like the subsidy scheme to continue and more developmental effort should be made so that the development of rural areas where these plantation crops are grown, becomes a reality.

One word about the commodity boards. Now we have one Board for cardamom also. We have already commodity boards for Coffee, Tea, Rubber and Coir etc. for these agro-crops and many other commercial crops are now agitating for the formation of commodity boards. But what I would like to emphasise here is with regard to the representation of the producers on the commodity boards, which has been reduced. I cannot understand how in the case of the three Boards—Coffee, Tea and Rubber—the producers' representation was reduced last time. Unfortunately, the previous Public Accounts Committee presided over by one distinguished colleague of mine and many other Congress Members thought that on the Coffee Board of 32 members, representation of 12 producers was excessive and, therefore, the number was reduced. I do not know what statistical data they took into consideration to consider that 12 producers in the Board of 52 gave them undue weightage. Probably

they thought that they wielded more influence. Anyway I was pained to see that it was reduced in the case of coffee and other commodity boards. I would like to urge upon Mr. Mohan Dharia to see that when the reconstitution of these Boards take place, the earlier strength of representation of producers is revived. As you are aware, there are a large number of small growers in these commodities. About 70 to 80 per cent of the coffee growers are small growers and the same is the case with regard to tea and other commodities. Therefore, if you cannot increase the producers' representation on the Boards, at least it should not be reduced. Before the Board is reconstituted, it should at least be brought on a par with the earlier number.

The other point is with regard to the nomination of members on the Board. I do not want any political considerations to be given to it. In the case of producers' representatives, let the producers' organisations be consulted and out of the panel which they send, the representatives could be selected. It should be done on the same basis as is being done in the case of national trade unions. The national trade unions are asked to submit the names and finally the names sent by them are accepted. The Government might feel that there is undue dominance by producers, but they have got a substantial number of other interests representing on these Boards. There are consumers. There are trade interests. There are other interests. There are Members of Parliament. They can always safeguard if they feel that there is anything which has any bias with regard to the producers. Sir, the producers, you will agree, have a considerable stake in these industries because they are the producers. I hope Mr. Dharia will give due consideration to this when the Boards are constituted in the next few months.

With regard to cardamom. I have already expressed my views when the Cardamom Bill came up for discussion. It is a pity that the production has come down from 3000 tonnes to

2000 tonnes. I hope that more efforts will be made for development, so far as coffee and cardamom are concerned. Then there will be development of these commodities, both in the traditional and non-traditional areas.

श्रीमती लक्ष्मी कुमारी चूडावत (राजस्थान) : श्रीमन्, मैं एक व्यवस्था का प्रश्न आपके सामने रखना चाहती हूँ। कई लोगों ने बोलने के लिए नाम दिये हैं। या तो बोलने वालों के लिए कुछ समय निर्धारित कर दिया जाए, या यह व्यवस्था की जाए कि जितने लोगों ने नाम दे रखे हैं वह सब बोलें। कोई 20 मिनट तक बोलता है, किसी को चार मिनट भी नहीं मिल पायेंगे।

श्री देवराव पाटील (महाराष्ट्र) : उप-सभापति जी, वाणिज्य मंत्रालय में कई विभाग हैं। लेकिन मैं डिपार्टमेंट आफ टैक्सटाइल जो 18 मार्च, 1972 से अलग हुआ है, उस पर मैं अपने विचार रखूंगा। यह सन्तोष की बात है कि आदरणीय मोहन धारिया ने इस महत्वपूर्ण विभाग का कार्यभार संभाला है। वह प्रोग्रामी विचारों के नेता हैं और खासकर देश की आर्थिक व्यवस्था में जो विषमता थी वह कम करने के लिए 10 कर्मी प्रोग्राम जो रखा गया था उसके अमल के बारे में उन्होंने जो प्रयास किया उससे हम परिचित हैं। आज इस महत्वपूर्ण विभाग के उनकी तरफ आने से विभाग में सुधार होने को कई लोगों में उम्मीद बढ़ गई किन्तु इस मंत्रालय को सुधारने का काम साधारण बात नहीं है।

[The Vice Chairman (Shri U. K. Lakshmana Gowda) in the Chair].

उपसभाध्यक्ष जी, इस मंत्रालय का इतिहास खेदजनक और बुरा इतिहास है। इस मंत्रालय ने कभी किसानों के हित का रक्षण नहीं किया, कामगारों के हित का रक्षण नहीं किया, उपभोक्ताओं के हित का

रक्षण नहीं किया। इसके लिए मेरे पास कई सबूत हैं। किसानों की तो भयानक लूट की गई। उनको अपने उत्पादन का उचित दाम नहीं मिला। कपड़ा ग्राहक को महंगा मिला। इस तरह से कपड़ा मिलों के संगठित स्वामी कपास उगाने वालों, किसानों छोटे बुनकरों और उपभोक्ताओं के शोषण के लिए जिम्मेदार हैं। सरकार की नीकर-शाही भी इन वर्गों के शोषण में कुछ हद तक उत्तरदायी है। सरकार की ढिलाई के कारण आज जो परिस्थिति निर्माण हुई है उसके लिए सरकार की नीतियां जिम्मेदार हैं।

उपसभाध्यक्ष जी, मैं इस बात की ओर सदन का ध्यान आकर्षित करना चाहता हूँ कि दुनिया में सब क्षेत्र में कुछ बदल हुआ। 30 साल में एक क्षेत्र जो कृषि के भाव को स्थिर करने का क्षेत्र है लेकिन उसमें बदल नहीं हुआ। जब किसान अपनी उपज का माल मंडी में लाता है तो भाव गिर जाते हैं और किसानों के पास से जब वह माल व्यापारी या बड़े कारखानों या ट्रेडर्स के पास जाता है तो भाव बढ़ जाता है। उसमें अभी तक चेंज नहीं हुआ, उसमें आज तक बदल नहीं हुआ और आज तक इस मंत्रालय की जो पालिसी रही है वह मिल मालिकों के हित की रही है। हमारी सरकार के पास काटन प्रोडक्शन की कोई नीति नहीं है। सरकार यही देखती रहती है कि मिल मालिकों को मदद कैसे दी जाय और उनको कैसे लाभ पहुंचाया जाय। सरकार मिल मालिकों को लाभ देने की कोशिश करती है क्योंकि वे लोग संगठित हैं और सरकार पर दबाव डालते रहते हैं। मैं पुराने इतिहास में नहीं जाना चाहता, लेकिन यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि वाणिज्य और उद्योग मंडल ने एक रिजोल्यूशन पास किया। मैं उस रिजोल्यूशन में इस वक्त जाना नहीं चाहता हूँ। हमारे वित्त मंत्रालय की यह हालत है कि वह विभाग भी काटन ग्रावर को मदद नहीं देना चाहता है।

[श्री देवराय पाटिल]

वह मिलों को तुरन्त बदल देता है। आप कंट्रोल क्लॉथ को ही ले लीजिये। कंट्रोल क्लॉथ के लिए 35 परसेन्ट सबसीडी ही दी गई है। इस संबंध में 1976-77 की एक-नामिक सर्वे रिपोर्ट पेज 27 में यह लिखा है कि :

"The production of control cloth has been declining continually and the obligation to produce control cloth was reduced from 800 million square metres to 400 million square metres, though ex-mill prices were raised by 35 per cent in order to cover cost base."

यह हालत कंट्रोल क्लॉथ की है। जहां तक अन्न की बात है, मैं यह मानता हूं कि अन्न मनुष्य के लिए पहली चीज है। उसके बाद अगर कोई चीज आती है तो वह कपड़ा है। अगर हमें उचित दाम पर सब जनता को कपड़ा देना है तो कपास के महत्व को भुलाया नहीं जा सकता है। मैं आपको बताना चाहता हूं कि संसार में जितने भी काटन की कल्टिवेशन करने वाले मुल्क हैं उनमें काटन का एरिया भारत में सबसे ज्यादा है। सन् 1974-75 में कपास के उत्पादकों की जो इस देश में डिमान्ड थी उससे तीन-चार लाख गांठें कम थीं। आंध्र प्रदेश, तमिलनाडु, पंजाब और हरियाणा आदि में काटन की लांग स्टेपल बैराइटी उत्पन्न हो रही थी। लेकिन ज्यादा कपास का उत्पादन का नतीजा यह हुआ कि वहां पर कपास को लेने वाला कोई नहीं था। काटन कारपोरेशन आफ इंडिया को 10 करोड़ रुपया दिया गया, 70 लाख गांठों की खरीद के लिए अगर 10 करोड़ रुपया दिया जाएगा तो उसका परिणाम क्या होगा? यहां पर पार्लियामेंट के मेम्बरों ने सरकारी एजेंसी द्वारा कपास खरीदी की सदन में मांग की थी। उसके बाद सी० सी० आई० को डेफर पैमेंट पर खरीद शुरू की। आधा पैसा सरकारी बोर्ड और आधा पैसा नकद

दिया जाता था। मैं यह भी कहना चाहता हूं कि किसानों को जो पैसा मिलता है वह सिर्फ साल में एक दफा मिलता है। जहां तक किसानों के जीवनमान का सवाल है, उसकी तरफ तो कोई ध्यान नहीं दिया जाता है। हमारे देश में जो उत्पादन करने वाला वर्ग है, सरकार को उनके जीवनमान पर विचार करना चाहिए। मैं यह नहीं कहता कि आप प्राइसेज को बढ़ा दीजिये, लेकिन जो हमारे देश में किसान है, मजदूर हैं, उनके जीवनमान पर ध्यान देने की बहुत जरूरत है। मैं भावों की बड़ोतरी में इस वक्त नहीं जाना चाहता हूं, लेकिन यह कहना चाहता हूं कि काटन के उत्पादन में जो गिरावट आई है उसके लिए हमारे देश का किसान जिम्मेदार नहीं है। इसका जो मूल्य बढ़ा है, उसके लिए हमारी सरकार की नीति जिम्मेदार है। इस संबंध में एक जो स्टेडी रिपोर्ट है यहां पर कोट करना चाहता हूं—

The all-India situation has been studied by the Directorate of Cotton Development, Government of India. In an article of 1976-77 by Dr. S. B. Rao, M. V. Pawate, B.N.R. Rangaram and C. B. Menon, they stated:—

"...the farmers have been losing interest in cotton crop because the expenses are increasing while the prices are not enough to compensate the cost of production of kapas and surplus margin for minimum standard of living."

इस बारे में एक दूसरी स्टेडी रिपोर्ट भी सामने आई है। कोई डा० पटेल हैं, जो बहुत प्रसिद्ध आदमी हैं। उन्होंने कहा है कि—

"Farmers producing the kapas were in real loss as they had not recovered even the cost of inputs and services used for the production of kapas in 1974-75."

हमारे देश में जो काटन कारपोरेशन आफ इंडिया बनी थी उसके संबंध में हमारा यह

विचार था कि यह किसानों को सपोर्ट देगी। लेकिन उनका सपोर्ट इम्पोर्ट ऑफ कॉटन के बारे में है। इम्पोर्ट ऑफ कॉटन में कितना नुकसान हुआ है यह मिनिस्ट्री की, 1977-78 की जो रिपोर्ट है, उसमें दिया हुआ है। 1977-78 के बजट में 63 करोड़ रुपये का प्राविजन उन्होंने लॉस के लिये रखा है। काटन कार्पोरेशन को जो नुकसान आता है, वह देने के लिये 1977-78 के बजट में 63 करोड़ रुपये का प्राविजन है। 11 करोड़ रुपये गत साल दिये गये हैं। इसी तरह से अगर आपकी नीति रही, तो इस देश में हम कपास के बारे में आत्म निर्भर नहीं हो सकेंगे। कपास के बारे में हम आत्म निर्भर हो सकते हैं। जितनी ज़रूरत है, उतना कपास भारत में पैदा हो सकता है कि नहीं, इसके बारे में गवर्नमेंट की एक कमेटी है। उन्होंने भी इसके बारे में जो बताया है, वह मैं एक ही सन्टेस में बताना चाहता हूँ :

"Thanks to the advance in the technology of cotton production, it is possible for us to produce adequate cotton to clothe our masses and to step up exports."

हम किसान उत्पादन करने को तैयार हैं और उत्पादन करके हमने बताया भी। किसानों को सरकार प्राइस इन्सेंटिव नहीं देती है इस कारण आज हमको इम्पोर्ट करना पड़ा। उपसभाध्यक्ष जी, मैं जिस स्टेट से आता हूँ, वहाँ हमने 1974-75 में मांग की थी कि हमको एक्सपोर्ट करने के लिए इजाजत दी जाय। कारण कपास लेने वाला नहीं था। तो मेरा मतलब यह है कि जो पालिसी सरकार की है वह सिर्फ मिल को सहायता देने की है। उत्पादक किसानों के लाभ के विरोध में है। इस इन्टीग्रेटेड टैक्सटाइल पालिसी के वगैर ये सवाल हल नहीं होंगे।

उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, आप मेरी तरफ देख रहे हैं। इस सेशन में मैं बोला नहीं हूँ। इस विषय में मैं थोड़ा सा और बोलना चाहूँगा।

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI U. K. LAKSHMANA GOWDA): Mr. Patil, the Minister has to reply by 5 o'clock. I would like you to cut short your speech.

श्री देवराव पाटील : मैं केवल 5 मिनट लूँगा।

उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, राष्ट्रपति महोदय का 27 मार्च, 1977 का जो अभिभाषण है, उसके पृष्ठ 3 पर आप देखिए। उसमें लिखा है कि "ग्रामीण क्षेत्र की अपेक्षाकृत उपेक्षा से अर्थ-व्यवस्था में एक भयानक असंतुलन उत्पन्न हुआ है, जिससे लोग गांव से शहर की ओर जाने लगे हैं। किसानों को उत्पादन का उचित लाभ नहीं मिला है।"

इस अभिभाषण से यह स्पष्ट है, और इसमें यह साफ कर दिया गया है कि किसानों को उनके उत्पादन का उचित दाम नहीं मिला है। इस पर कोई कार्यवाही और मेजर लेने के लिए मैं मंत्री महोदय के सामने एक स्कीम रखना चाहता हूँ। मैं कोई नई स्कीम नहीं ले रहा हूँ। हमारे आदरणीय धारिया जी ने एक 10 प्वाइंट प्रोग्राम दिया था। उन्होंने जो स्कीम दी थी, वही मैं बताना चाहता हूँ। देश में आर्थिक क्षेत्र में जो विषमता बढ़ रही थी और खास करके देहात और शहरों के बीच आर्थिक क्षेत्र में जो अन्तर बढ़ रहा था, उसके बारे में उन्होंने जो प्रस्ताव रखा था, उसके मुताबिक, और ए० आई० सी० सी० की वर्किंग कमेटी का जो 1974 का रेज्योल्यूशन है; उसकी पालिसी को अगर आपने अडाप्ट किया अगर सरकार उसको मानती है तो मेरे ख्याल से इससे

[श्री देवराव पाटील]

कपास का उत्पादन बढ़ेगा, किसान को रेम्यनिरेटिव प्राइस मिलेगी, काम करने वाले मजदूरों, कामगारों का हित होगा और मिलों को उचित दाम पर सिस्टमेटिकली, रेगुलर काटन मिलता जाएगा और जो गरीब उपभोक्ता है, उसको भी निश्चित प्राइस पर अच्छा कपड़ा मिल सकेगा। यह क्या रैज्योलूशन है, यह मैं बताना चाहता हूँ :

"Next only to foodgrains, the policy in regard to production and distribution of textiles is of crucial importance to the masses. The two components of textile policy that have either been neglected or have proved ineffective in the past relate to eliminating speculative practices in regard to purchase of cotton on the one hand and a check on the proliferation in the variety of textiles produced, and that too increasingly of an elitist orientation, on the other." "Thanks to advances in the technology of cotton production, it is possible for us to produce adequate cotton to clothe our masses and to step up exports. Based on a remunerative price fixed for the grower, a range of minimum and maximum cotton prices for the mills, should be worked out and enforced in order to eliminate unhealthy and speculative practices in the supply of cotton to the mills. Procurement through public and co-operative agencies should be stepped up. Varieties of textiles should be drastically curtailed and ceiling prices on end-product, i.e. cloth count."

महत्व का मुद्दा यह है कि प्रोक्योरमेंट और पब्लिक एण्ड कोओप्रेटिव एजेंसीज का यह रैजूलूशन है, उसके मुताबिक अगर कदम उठाए गए तो उसमें सब को फायदा हो जाएगा। इस रैजूलूशन के मुताबिक महाराष्ट्र में प्रोक्योरमेंट आफ काटन की स्कीम है। मध्यस्थ को स्कीम से निकाल दिया गया है और किसानों को मूल्य की गारंटी दी गई है। गारंटीड मूल्य देने की स्कीम बनाई जो कि पांच सालों से ठीक प्रकार से चल

रही है। उसमें भाव की गारंटी दी हुई है। अगर गारंटीड भाव जो दिया गया है और मिल मालिकों को वह अन्तिम भाव से कम मिलता है तो उसका नुकसान सरकार देती है। और इसलिए सरकार का एक फंड है। महाराष्ट्र सरकार को इस योजना के लिए पैसा देने की मांग थी। इस साल वे यहां आए। हमारे मंत्री महोदय से वे लोग मिले। उन्होंने मांग की कि पांच साल से रिजर्व बैंक इस योजना के लिए किसानों से कपास खरीदने के लिए पैसा क्रेडिट फेसिलिटी के तौर पर उनको देता था, वहां के महाराष्ट्र स्टेट की कोओप्रेटिव तथा स्टेट बैंक भी उन को कुछ न कुछ पैसा देता था, वह उनको दिया जाए। क्या कारण है इस साल यह जनता सरकार वाले कहते हैं कि एक भी पैसा उनको देने वाले नहीं है। जो पांच साल तक रैगुलेशन क्लस के मुताबिक रिजर्व बैंक और महाराष्ट्र स्टेट की ओर से उनको पैसा मिलता रहा है, वह पैसा देने के लिए मेरे ख्याल में सिर्फ एक दिक्कत हो सकती है महाराष्ट्र में कांग्रेस सरकार है। वित्त मंत्रालय को कोई दिक्कत नहीं होनी चाहिए। लेकिन जहां भी किसान के भले की बात आती है वहां वित्त मंत्रालय अपनी टांग उसमें अटका देता है? दूसरी महत्वपूर्ण बात मैं एक मिनट में कहे देता हूँ। एक दफा शास्त्री जी ने कहा था कि आप तो किसान को भी टाली देना चाहते हैं और ग्राहक को भी टाली देना चाहते हैं। किसान को कपास का उचित मूल्य देना चाहिए और ग्राहक अथवा उपभोक्ता को भी फेयर प्राइस पर कपड़ा मिलना चाहिए चाहे वे लोग गांवों में रहते हैं या शहर में रहते हैं। सरकार की पालिसी ऐसी होनी चाहिए कि

the policy should link prices of cotton and end-product, i.e. cloth.

यहां हमारे पार्लियामेंट में कपास के बारे में हमारे आदरणीय मंत्री जी श्री राज नारायण का जो स्पीच है, सब उनकी स्पीच पर आधारित है। हम भाव बढ़ाना नहीं चाहते। जिस भाव पर आप कपड़ा

लेंगे उसमें काटन की कीमत क्या है उसको आप निकाल कर देख लीजिए। अगर यह नहीं होता तो कपास की कीमत तय कर लीजिए, उस आधार पर कपड़े की कीमत तय कर लीजिए। यहां होता क्या है। जब किसान के पास कपास आता है तो वह मंडी में जा कर बेच देता है क्योंकि कपास पूरा मार्केटेबल है और वह माल मिल मालिकों के पास निश्चित काल में चला जाता है। फिर टेडर्ज बीच में पड़ कर रू के भाव बढ़ा देते हैं। इसलिए हम चाहते हैं कि आप कपड़े की कीमत तय करें और उसके मुताबिक उसमें जो बर्च हो, निकाल लें अर्थात् कपास की कीमत निकाल लें। इसकी स्टेडी हुई। हमारे अर्थ मंत्री, कृषि मंत्री और वाणिज्य मंत्री ने एक्सपर्ट्स को बुलाया और उन्होंने स्टेडी की। उन्होंने बताया कि यह सम्भव हो सकता है। फिर वित्त मंत्रालय ने एक हाई पावर्ड कमेटी बनाई : आपने हाई पावर्ड कमेटी की रिपोर्ट देखी होगी। मैं यह चाहता हूँ यह जो स्टेडी हुई है उसके मुताबिक विचार करें और ज्यादा से ज्यादा किसानों को रिजनेबल प्राइस देने की कोशिश करें। मेरी तीन मांगें हैं...

(1) The Government should formulate an integrated cotton and textile policy in such a way that the farmers get remunerative prices for kapas and the consumers get good cloth at fair prices.

(2) In order to calculate the share of cotton price receivable by the cotton growers from the textile mills, we demand that the cotton

mills should be brought under compulsory cost audit system and the cost audit report should be made available to the public.

(3) Based on a remunerative and guaranteed price fixed for the grower, a range of minimum and maximum cotton prices for the mills should be worked out and enforced in order to eliminate unhealthy and speculative practices in the supply of cotton to the mills. Procurement of cotton through public and co-operative agencies should be stepped up.

In the case of the Cotton Procurement Scheme of Maharashtra State, the Reserve Bank of India should not create difficulties by withholding credit facilities. Thank you.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI U. K. LAKSHMANA GOWDA): Mr. F. M. Khan. Not here. Mr. Lakshmana Mahapatro.

SHRI LAKSHMANA MAHAPATRO (Orissa): Thank you, Sir, for giving me some time.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI U. K. LAKSHMANA GOWDA): Only about 10 to 12 minutes.

SHRI LAKSHMANA MAHAPATRO: That was exactly what I was apprehending because, as a matter of fact, I belong to a particular party which should have got its members speaking in proper time. You have put me at the end...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI U. K. LAKSHMANA GOWDA): Not at the end, Mr. Mahapatro.

SHRI LAKSHMANA MAHAPATRO: Almost at the end.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI U.K. LAKSHMANA GOWDA): There are quite a number of speakers.

SHRI LAKSHMANA MAHAPATRO: The Minister is to reply at 5 o' clock...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI U. K. LAKSHMANA GOWDA): You need not waste your time on other things. You can utilise it for your speech.

SHRI LAKSHMANA MAHAPATRO: Sir, today according to the order Paper, we are to discuss the working of the Ministry of Commerce. On earlier occasions here and in the other House, the working of the Ministry of Commerce and Civil Supplies has been discussed. So today we are required to limit our discussion to only the Ministry of Commerce. And the name of "Ministry of Commerce" is also a misnomer, according to me because the dictionary meaning of "Commerce" is trade. But it is not trade that the Ministry of Commerce is dealing with. It is only export trade or foreign trade that it deals with and it should be correctly called the Ministry of Foreign Trade instead of the Ministry of Commerce. It is a very bad thing that has been happening for the last so many years and the result of it I shall presently tell you with reference to different items that we are exporting and importing. We have been made to suffer like anything. What for is there a Ministry of Commerce or, for that matter, a Ministry of Foreign Trade in the country unless it is for the good of the people? And who are the people, after all? Are they the exporters, the importers, the fleecers, the hoarders, the blackmarketeers and the smugglers? Or, are they the growers, the producers, the workers, the small farmers or ul-

timately the large number of consumers? For whose benefit is there going to be such a Ministry of Commerce or Trade or whatever you call it? Now, I have seen from the different things that are mentioned in the report that has been supplied to us as also from the Performance Budget, that it is doing nothing beyond what was being done in the Congress raj. This Ministry is doing nothing beyond what was done in the Congress raj. During the Congress raj also, there had been very very stiff words, harsh words used here against these persons. Sir, for that matter, Mr. Mohan Dharia is not a new man to Parliament. He had been holding a very important portfolio, that is, the portfolio of Planning. He had also headed a committee and given a report. And he, of all persons, should have known what this Commerce Ministry was understood to be in the country. It was a cess-pool of all corruption, and the breeding ground of all smuggling, black money, everything. It is not true that the Pondicherry licence scandal was because of the Foreign Trade Ministry? Is it not true that other licence scandals were because of the Foreign Trade Ministry? And having known very well about this particular Ministry, should he not take adequate steps? Should he like the Prime Minister adopt the way of appeasing these traders? These horse-leeches whom you have known since a long time, you want them to behave. And what have they been doing? You started on 3rd May at Ahmednagar, and on the same day or the next day a news item appeared in the Economic Times wherein it was said the Prime Minister appealed to the goodness of the hoarders and blackmarketeers. He has been regularly appealing to them to behave and not to resort to malpractices, to eschew malpractices. The Janata Party Government has already initiated steps to check price rise. Thereafter, on the second day or the third day—maybe on the fourth day—there was a spur in prices of items like sugar, pulse-groundnut, cotton-seed oil, etc. etc

This is what the news item said. Therefore, this requesting them to behave did not yield results. I shall take you to what our Finance Minister wanted us to have in our country and how he framed his Budget. In the last paragraph of his Part B speech he said, "My party has emphasised liberty; but liberty does not mean freedom to starve and freedom to feel unwanted; large-scale poverty and unemployment degrade those who suffer from them, and debase those who tolerate them." I am in full agreement with this particular statement of the Finance Minister. But one thing I missed to see there. He has not mentioned one thing, and without mentioning that you cannot complete the whole idea and the whole gamut of things that are going in this country. And that is after having said, "But liberty does not mean freedom to starve and freedom to feel unwanted," he should have added, "and also liberty does not mean freedom to corner all the national income". That he has omitted to write, because that is the reason why large-scale poverty, unemployment, etc. are flowing. Therefore, what is it that you are doing? You are again putting the whole thing in the hands of the same person who comes as an exporter, the other moment he is also an importer, and he ultimately is an imposter. That is what we have been seeing here. And that is why we see now in spite of the Finance Minister wanting things to happen in this way, I do not think he will be achieving any good results, and his achievements will be much below the mark or rather they will be something average. Now, Mr. Mohan Dharia has taken charge of this thing and he is well in the know of things. He has organised the so-called meeting of all representatives of the trade unions, the business class, the industrialists and also the political parties. And should I allude to what happened there? On that day he used very fine words. He requested them not to behave as the Prime Minister said. He wanted them to have at least of freeze

of the prices. And he went on talking to them on different problems and wanted to know what their mind was. And this is what he got ultimately from Mr. Poddar who represents the business community and who is president of the FICCI: He says he opposed the call to social organisations to hold the price line, because he said it will be inviting lawlessness, chaos and anarchy. We have in this country different non-official bodies which are controlling and which, according to us, should have a say in the matter. The other day Mr. Fernandes wanted Parliament Members to cooperate when we brought to his notice the difficulties in getting cement. This is what he wanted. He wanted us to cooperate. What does this cooperation mean? Are we not also non-officials? We are not Minister nor are we holding some other offices. How will the people react if we go and tell the traders that this should be done like this or it should be done in a particular way or they should not sell it at higher price? This will definitely lead to chaos and anarchy. This was what Poddar said.

Let us go to the other problem. Before that, I want to say that Poddar did not want this to happen. He also said: We are taking self-regulatory measures; we are restraining ourselves; we will give you at the price you want and we are prepared to sacrifice for the country. To that extent he goes. He says he is prepared to sacrifice for the country. Ultimately, what happened to all the efforts to freeze the prices? For every item Government have to act. What is happening now when there is rain and when there is flood? You have to move about in helicopters to help the marooned people in different places. In the same way, you have to step in whether it is edible oil or whether it is sugar or whether it is textile. If it is handloom it is still worse. You take any item which the commodity

[Shri Lakshmana Mahapatro] boards or the corporations want to encourage. This is the story. It is this that you got from them.

What did Bharat Ram tell you? He said: Unless the cost of inputs is reduced, there is no scope for any price reduction. Even price freeze cannot be maintained for a long period unless production costs are cut. He also called for self-reliance and imports to boost production so that they may *not* be crippled by power cuts and so on and so forth. Therefore, it is clear they are not interested to maintain even the price freeze. They wanted cut in the price of inputs and then only they will be able to reduce the price of commodities. (Time bell *rings*.)

Sir, I have taken only seven minutes.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI U. K. LAKSHMANA GOWDA): It is over ten minutes. You started at five minutes past four. You can go ahead and finish in another couple of minutes.

SHRI LAKSHMANA MAHAPATRO: In a couple of minutes I cannot finish. I need more time.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI U. K. LAKSHMANA GOWDA): You were speaking about Bharat Ram. You can mention others also quickly.

SHRI LAKSHMANA MAHAPATRO: I will do that. It is this trust that you put in the trade that has led you to this situation. We have, what is called, the export policy resolution wherein it is said that everything will be done. It was also quoted in the Lok Sabha when the debate was going on. Everything will be done in such a way and we will conduct ourselves in such a way that everything will be attended to in the interests of the nation or in the national interests. This is what you

said. In the export policy resolution of 1970 you find a call for national self-reliance and to expand export earnings to reduce dependence on others. This is in the first paragraph in which the most important phrase is 'self-reliance'. Is it true that we are going that way? Are we strictly obeying what is said therein, what is said in the Export Policy Resolution? No; it is not being followed at all, because the objective of self-reliance has been forgotten. Now, Sir, I would like to tell you what happened in the matter of self-reliance. Now,, immediately after the Janata Party took charge of the administration, the Janata wave has eroded into the concept of self-reliance. Despite all the policies adumbrated by the Government that they would curb monopoly that they would initiate measures for tackling the economic problems, despite their new philosophy, despite their export or import policy, despite their utmost trust in trade and so on, what has happened actually is de-canalisation in respect of certain items. Sir, I would like to tell how it is being done in a very subtle way. Decanalisation has been done in a very subtle form and the method used is to remove certain items from the list of canalised items which are reserved for the STC and its subsidiaries. Therefore, Sir, the "Economic Times" of the 29th April said: "The Centre proposes to make certain changes in the industrial licensing policy and there is a move to initiate an era of free enterprise." Sir, I want the Minister of Commerce to take note of these news items that have come and the impression that is created in the country and I want the honourable Minister to answer my question as to how far these news items are correct or incorrect and why of all things such news items are coming, in spite of the fact that he has been saying every time, including the occasion when he spoke replying to the debate in the Lok Sabha, "Nothing doing. We will not yield. The common man's items will not be allowed to be exported." Sir, the "Economic Times"

says like this: "No common man's consumer items will be allowed to be exported." This is what Mr. Dharia has said. In spite of all these things, things are happening in a different way

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI U. K. LAKSHMANA GOWDA): Please wind up now.

SHRI LAKSHMANA MAHAPATRO: Sir, I am just finishing after covering one or two points more. Sir, I would like the Minister of Commerce to consider three aspects of the subject: (1) the channel of the trade. (2) the items of trade, both import and export and (3) the area. I am in full agreement with my friend, Shri Mishra, in respect of certain points that he made. He has covered the major points which I wanted to cover and he has thus lightened my burden.

Now, I would like to say a word about the various corporations, the public sector corporations. As far as these corporations that we have formed like the MMTC, STC, etc., I would like to say that they have been handling a very few items and they have been handling a very little percentage of the export and import business. Therefore, it seems that the private sector is having the strangle hold over the export-import trade and I feel that cent per cent of the export-import trade handled by the STC, MMTC, etc. I know that the MMTC has done very badly in the chrome deal recently and it has incurred a loss of about two hundred crores of rupees. STC is also doing like that. All the same, I want these Corporations to be strengthened and they should continue and continue with a view to handling the whole of the export-import trade of the country.

Then, Sir, I come to the question of items of trade. You must be aware of the balance of payments position of

our country last year. And we are also fortunate in having what you call non-traditional items also. But this is not going to be of much help. We have built up foreign exchange reserve to the extent of Rs. 3200 crores. But you are now going to almost squander it away by importing this thing and that thing and not importing those things which we really need to import.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI U. K. LAKSHMANA GOWDA): Please wind up.

SHRI LAKSHMANA MAHAPATRO: I am winding up. So far as this foreign exchange reserve is concerned, there is a sort of complacency. The bigness of our foreign exchange reserve is really deceptive. Therefore, we should be very careful. And we shall have to make use of the foreign exchange only for import of those items which we cannot afford to have by our own efforts. And now here I shall give one example of stainless which is.....

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI U. K. LAKSHMANA GOWDA): You have made your point. I am going to call the next speaker. Please wind up

SHRI LAKSHMANA MAHAPATRO: Now, there is relaxation of import. Already the Congress have done it. Further relaxation is going to be given. But who would benefit from this import of capital goods? That is the question. Why can't you bring down the domestic prices which are disproportionately higher? Why can't you use what is called the carrot and stick policy for getting them down, without giving undue concessions in duties? That, I know the Government will not do. Therefore, even if you lift the ban on a selective basis, it will help the capitalists or multi-nationals and will not help the common man.

Lastly, I wish to state only two commodities. Sir now and then...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI U. K. LAKSHMANA GOWDA): It is not fair. I may tell you that ether speakers would not get an opportunity.

SHRI LAKSHMANA MAHAPATRO: I will take one minute more.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI U. K. LAKSHMANA GOWDA): You have taken 20 minutes.

SHRI LAKSHMANA MAHAPATRO; I will take only one minute and close.

Sir, now and then _____

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI U. K. LAKSHMANA GOWDA); It is *not* fair.

SHRI LAKSHMANA MAHAPATRO: Now and then we speak of price rise. Take the import of oil. The Minister has himself stated that the CBI has been entrusted with an inquiry. It has come out in the papers today how the importers of oil have been passing oil for vanaspati. Now and then it is said that since more money has come into the hands of workers, there should be a freeze. During the emergency, there was a wage freeze of Rs. 15,000 crores. You have not yet paid the C.D.S. You have not yet paid the bonus. Yet we find that there is rise in prices. What is the reason for all this? That is the question to be put. My answer to that is that as long as you have either the foreign trade or the domestic trade put in the hands of private business people,, you are not going to have any escape from this sort of vagaries. etc. Therefore, I would suggest that in spite of the allergy that some people may have to what is called state-trading, it is the answer. It was started half-heartedly as far as wheat was concerned. Don't do it that way. Be full hearted. Don't go in for partial control.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI U. K. LAKSHMANA GOWDA): Kindly wind up. May I ask Mr. Bhardwaj to speak?

SHRI LAKSHMANA MAHAPATRO: Whether it is foreign trade or domestic trade, as long as you put it in private hands, you will be suffering from this malady and you are not going to land in 'a soft place. It is only with full control that the consumers, the worker, the grower and the producer will benefit.

Thank you.

SHRI JAGAN NATH BHARDWAJ: (Himachal Pradesh): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir,, while speaking on the Ministry of Commerce, Civil Supplies and Co-operation, I must congratulate the Minister and his predecessor for the good performance of this Ministry. This is evident from the fact that deficit of about 1200 crores of rupees in balance of trade in foreign countries has been turned into a surplus of about 72 crores of rupees. This is really a good performance. I have gone through the Report. The different arrangements to promote exports are very nice and this tempo of effort must continue so that our country had a better image in the eyes of the other countries of the world. This can be possible only if we remain determined in our ways of doing things. For example, imports should be restricted as much as possible and if sometimes we have to remain in difficulty, we should not mind it and we should not indulge in politics. We should not tarnish the image of our country in the world. Now, we are having imports and we are thinking of stopping exports. My friend was just making the points that we are very readily prepared to stop the export of onions and potatoes whereas the other important things for which there is a lobby are not touched. Therefore, it is very essential that in the matter of imports we should be very restrictive in our thinking so that the imports remain at the minimum level. It was as a result of our restricting the imports that there is a remarkable change in our balance of trade account. Another thing that worries me most is the rise in prices. To tackle this problem as

I said the other day, we will have to take some unconventional measures. Otherwise if we go in the same old fashion of doing things, it would not be helpful. If the Government wants to restrict prices, we will have to take some unconventional steps so that the prices can be controlled. Those steps can be like this. There should not be a thinking in terms of controlling the prices of all the commodities. If we can control the prices of a few essential commodities, that will automatically bring down the prices of other things also. As my friend was pointing out, the report of Mr. Dharia suggests 18 commodities. In the same way, I also think that we should not concentrate on controlling the prices of all the items. There can be some 15 or 18 or 20 items. Maybe we have to appoint a Commission. This Government is fond of appointing Commissions. If they appoint one commission—that will surely be unlike the other commissions that they are appointing—just to control the prices, that will be a good thing that they will do for themselves and for the country. That Commission could be like this: It may be a commission, it may be an organisation and it may be a board. What should this commission do? This commission should fix the prices of essential commodities. Sir, there are the Essential Commodities Act and so many other Acts. But they are not very serious about prices. They simply say that prices should be controlled; the inspector goes to the shop and he has the authority to fix the prices. Sir, prices should be fixed by some responsible authority in the country. In those 15 or 20 or whatever number of essential commodities we may name, their prices should be fixed very judiciously and it should be seen to it that the goods are sold at those prices fixed by the responsible authority. That authority may be a commission as I have just mentioned. And that should be a standing body. It should not be that we appoint a body today and after two or three months, we dissolve it. No. It should be like that. It should be

a standing body which would have constant vigilance over prices. It should fix the prices of those essential commodities, and after every six months, the prices should be reviewed. There should be a continuous process of looking into the prices and the whole country should stick to those prices. The things should be sold to the consumers only at those prices.

Sir, after the prices are fixed, the question of distribution arises. For distribution also, we will have to evolve a system. The co-operative system can be the best in this system, we should involve public, officials, consumers and other important interests. Then the whole thing will have to be reviewed. There should be a distribution agency at the primary level, then at the district level and then at the State level. In this way, we will have to create a network of these co-operative institutions. Some co-operative institutions may be already working there. They should be organised. Where there are no such institutions, we should manage to get them organised so that these commodities are sold through them. These essential commodities should further be divided into two categories—very essential and essential. Very essential commodities should be sold through those organisations meant for them. The Government should always be in readiness to deal in these commodities if any difficulty arises, as it was done in the case of wheat. We should not be led away by the experience in foreign countries. We are a country of 60 crore population. That is, one fifth of the world's population is in India. Our problems are different; our ways of living are different; our difficulties are different. Therefore, keeping in view all this, we should evolve a system of our choice. And we should not be conservative in our ideas about controls. We will have to have controls in this large country. It is very difficult to go without fixing the prices. These things

[Shri Jagan Nath Bhardwaj] are happening for years and they will go on happening. Therefore, it is time that the Government adopted a very unconventional and firm line on the control of prices. *(Time bell rings)* Sir, I have much to say, on this point. Since you have rung the bell, I will take some other opportunity to talk about this. I now conclude. Thank you.

श्रीमती लक्ष्मी कुमारी चूडावत : उप-समाध्यक्ष महोदय, जहाँ तक वाणिज्य विभाग की विदेशी मुद्रा और विदेशी व्यापार का प्रश्न है पिछला साल उसके लिए एक बहुत बड़ा अच्छा साल था। जबकि पहले के वर्षों में हमेशा विदेशी मुद्रा के लिहाज से 1100 करोड़ या 1200 करोड़ तक का डिफिसिट रहता था, 76-77 में 72 करोड़ का सरप्लस रहा और उस साल में एक्सपोर्ट बढ़कर 4980 करोड़ पर पहुँचा। इसका मतलब यह हुआ कि वाणिज्य मंत्रालय ने पिछले साल में जिस तरह से एक्सपोर्ट किया, वाणिज्य किया उसमें वाल्यूम में भी और वैल्यू में भी बढ़ोत्तरी हुई। पिछले 7 सालों में तान शुना वाणिज्य बढ़ा जबकि इंटरनेशनल एक्सचेंज के रेट में रिसेस और ऊँच नीति की गड़-बड़ियाँ चल रही थीं। यह सब कुछ होते हुए और इसकी बैकग्राउंड को देखते हुए और यह जानते हुये कि माननीय धारिया जी एक कुशल और योग्य प्रशासक है, उनके अपनी नीतियों के बारे में मुझे हुए विचार है, मेरे सामने एक प्रश्न आ रहा है और वह मैं श्रीमान् धारिया जी से पूछना चाहूँगी कि एक्सटरनल असिस्टेंस जो इस साल लिया गया है उसमें इस दफे ज्यादा बढ़ोत्तरी क्यों की गयी है जबकि पिछले साल 1108 करोड़ रुपये एक्सटरनल असिस्टेंस के मद में लिये गये थे लेकिन इस साल उसे बढ़ा कर 1295 करोड़ कर दिया गया है अर्थात् 187 करोड़ रुपए की वृद्धि की गयी है। यह वृद्धि जहाँ तक हमारी इंडस्ट्री को मजबूत करने के लिये

ली गयी हो उसे मैं बुरा नहीं समझती हूँ लेकिन इससे जो रिलायन्स बढ़ेगा विदेशों के ऊपर मैं वह सोचती हूँ कि हमारी नीति के पक्ष में नहीं रहेगा और देश को भी इससे कोई फायदा नहीं मिल सकेगा क्योंकि मेल्फ रिलायन्स की पालिसी केवल हमारी पार्टी पालिसी न होकर नेशनल पालिसी रही है फिर भी यह 187 करोड़ रुपये का एक्सटरनल असिस्टेंस ज्यादा लिया गया है। तो मेहरबानी करके क्या मन्त्री जी बतायेंगे कि कौन सी ऐसी योजना आपके हाथ में है जिसका उपयोग हमारे नेशन को मजबूत बनाने में किया जायगा या अपनी इंडस्ट्री को बढ़ाने के लिये किया जायेगा और उसके लिए इतनी बड़ी रकम ली गयी? टाइम कम होने से बड़े संक्षेप में मैं 2-3 बातें श्री धारिया जी के सामने रखूँगी। इस दफा उन्होंने जो अपना बजट बनाया उसमें कई मदों में कई खर्चों में कटौती की, मैं उस कटौती की बुराई नहीं करती हूँ लेकिन यह कहती हूँ कि जहाँ गड़बड़ी हो उस को बेशक ठीक किया जाय लेकिन फारेन ट्रेड के एक्सपोर्ट प्रमोशन में इस साल जो कमी की गयी वह क्यों की गयी। यह सरकार का एटीट्यूड है या आपका एटीट्यूड है या किस बात को लेकर यह कमी की गयी क्या माननीय मंत्री जी जरा इसे समझाने की कृपा करेंगे।

दूसरे में जानना चाहूँगी कि क्वालिटी कंट्रोल के मद में भी कटौती की गयी जब कि उचित यह था कि हमारे देश में क्वालिटी कंट्रोल को और भी मजबूत बनाया जाता। बाहर जाने वाली चीजें किसी भी कीमत पर हों पर यह भी एक शिकायत रहती है कि हिन्दुस्तान से बाहर भेजे गये माल की क्वालिटी गिरती जाती है, ठीक नहीं हो पाती है और उसका दुष्परिणाम हमारे सामने आ भी चुका

है। जो हम ऊन के गलीचे यहाँ से बाहर भेजते हैं इस दफा क्वालिटी कन्ट्रोल ठीक न होने के कारण करोड़ों रुपयों के बुलेन कारपेट वापस लौटा दिये गये और इसका मिर्जापुर और भादोही सेक्शन के मजदूरों पर बुरा असर पड़ा, छोटी पूजी वालों के ऊपर बुरा असर पड़ा। हजारों करोड़ों के जो आर्डर मिलते थे वह आर्डर आने बंद हो गए। वहाँ पर छोटी पूजी वालों की हालत यह है कि जो उन्होंने, अपनी पूजी लगायी, जो उन्होंने लकड़ी और काठ के ढाँचे बनाये हैं वह कहते हैं कि हम क्या इनको चूल्हे में डाल दें। क्योंकि हमें आर्डर नहीं मिल रहा है। मजदूर बेकार हो गये हैं।

श्रीमन्, जबकि गलीचों का सवाल आ चुका है तो मैं अपने राज्य को लेकर 2 बातें उनके सामने रखना चाहूँगी बहुत ही संक्षेप में क्योंकि महोदय मुझे समय का खयाल है। पहली बात तो यह है कि हमारे जो ऊनी गलीचे बनते हैं उनके लिए आगने कई जगह सेन्टर खोले हैं। हम ऊनी गलीचों का बाहर व्यापार करते हैं। ईरान में अभी बच्चों के लेबर के ऊपर प्रतिबन्ध लगा दिया गया है उससे हमको 100 करोड़ रु० का बाजार, वहाँ के गलीचे बाहर न भेजने की वजह से मिला है, 100 करोड़ रुपये का और ज्यादा माल हम बाहर भेज सकते हैं। जो एक गैप है उस गैप को पूरा करने के लिए आपके मंत्रालय ने जगह-जगह पर स्थान-स्थान में गलीचे बुनने के केन्द्रों की स्थापना की। सब से पहले ये केन्द्र कायम किए गए मिर्जापुर के आस-पास। मुझे कोई शिकायत नहीं है; मिर्जापुर एक बड़ा केन्द्र रहा है, वहाँ पर गलीचे शुरू से बुनते आ रहे हैं और वहाँ पर वह काम आसानी से सीखा जा सकता है, मैं इसके पक्ष में हूँ, लेकिन मैं आपसे जानना चाहूँगी कि इस मामले में राजस्थान को क्यों निग्लेक्ट किया गया है, पूरी तरह से निग्लेक्ट किया गया है, जबकि हिन्दुस्तान में जो ऊन पैदा होता है

उसका सबसे बड़ा भाग झकेला राजस्थान पैदा करता है। राजस्थान में ऊन पैदा होता है और बाहर जाकर उसके गलीचे बनाए जाते हैं और राजस्थान के बारे में आप यह भी नहीं कह सकते कि वहाँ पर कारोबार नहीं है, या हुनर नहीं है। गलीचा बिनने का जो हुनर है, वह राजस्थान में पारम्परिक रहा है, एक से बढ़ कर एक गलीचे वहाँ बनाये जाते रहे हैं, एक्सपोर्ट क्वालिटी के, आज से पचास-साठ साल पहले भी बनाए जाते थे और आज भी बनाए जाते हैं और आज भी उसका एक्सपोर्ट होता है, बल्कि हमारे बीकानेर के जेलखाने, जोधपुर के जेलखाने, जयपुर के जेलखाने भी एक ज़माने में गलीचे बनाने के लिए मशहूर थे; कई दफा ईरान के गलीचे के भ्रम में पड़ गए थे हमारे यहाँ के जेलखानों में बने गलीचों को देख कर। तो राजस्थान बहुत बुरी तरह निग्लेक्ट किया गया है। राजस्थान में बड़े शहरों में ही नहीं, छोटे कस्बों में भी—हमारा गांव देवगढ़ छोटे सा कस्बा होने पर भी वहाँ गलीचे बनते हैं, उन के गलीचे बनते हैं। तो मैं मंत्री महोदय से निवेदन करूँगी कि वहाँ पर केन्द्रों की स्थापना करें तो केवल राजस्थान में जयपुर को न देखें, जो जोधपुर, बीकानेर, जैसलमेर में भी छोटे-छोटे कस्बे हैं वहाँ पर भी केन्द्र स्थापित करें—वहीं का ऊन है और वही के काम करने वाले।

अब मैं राजस्थान के माइका की तरफ ध्यान दिलाना चाहती हूँ। इसके बारे में मैंने आपको पत्र भी लिखे थे; आप से मिली भी थी। मुझे अफसोस के साथ कहना पड़ता है कि जिस दिन से “मिटको” की स्थापना हुई, राजस्थान का सारा का सारा माइका का जो वाणिज्य था वह चौपट हो गया जब कि आज “मिटको” की स्थापना होने के पहले राजस्थान का नाम हिन्दुस्तान के नक्शे में दूसरे नंबर पर था। लेकिन आज तीन चार साल से वहाँ का मजदूर हाथ पर

[श्रीमती लक्ष्मी कुमारी चूडावत]

हाथ धर कर बैठ रहा है। जो माइका निकाला है वह पड़ा है, ढाई साल से आप के मंत्रालय से बात कर रहे हैं लेकिन उसका कोई नतीजा नहीं निकला। राजस्थान को माइका के मानले में भी नेगलेक्ट किया जा रहा है। जो कुछ किया जा रहा है बिहार में किया जा रहा है। अगर आफिस बने तो वहां पर और पहले जो प्रतिनिधित्व दिया जाता है वह बिहार को दिया जाता है जब कि एक कमेटी मेम्बरों की बनाई गई एडवाइज देने के लिए उसमें तक राजस्थान के किसी एम० पी० को नहीं रखा गया जब कि मैंने आपको लिख कर रिक्वेस्ट की थी, आप से पहले मंत्रालय के जो मंत्री थे उन को, कि राजस्थान को भी उचित प्रतिनिधित्व दिया जाए

डा० राम कृपाल सिंह : बिहार की भी माइका इंडस्ट्री बहुत गिरावट में है।

श्रीमती लक्ष्मी कुमारी चूडावत : हो सकता है। बिहार के लिए मुझे कोई आपत्ति नहीं लेकिन जिस तरह से राजस्थान को नेगलेक्ट किया जा रहा है, उस तरह से नेगलेक्ट न किया जाए। उसे उसका उचित स्थान दिया जाए। आपका मंत्रालय बराबर यही जवाब देता है कि राजस्थान का माइका बेवी है; मैं मानती हूँ कि वह बेची है, लेकिन उसमें दूसरे गुण हैं—उसमें फ्लेक्सिबिलिटी है, वह हीट का इंसुलेशन करने वाला है, अच्छा है, लेकिन वाणिज्य मंत्रालय का जब इंटरनेशनल कांटेक्ट हुआ तो उन्होंने जिस क्वालिटी का माइका रखा जाता है उसका जिक्र नहीं किया। जब इंटरनेशनल मार्केट में स्पेसिमेन दिए गए तब राजस्थान के माइका को नहीं रखा गया इसलिए आज उनके सामने ये सारी की सारी परेशानियां पैदा हो रही हैं। तो इस तरह से इस माइका का स्पेसिमेन रखा जाए कांटेक्ट में कि इसकी क्वालिटी की रखा जाए।

मेरी नजर घड़ी की तरफ है और अब

मैं दो छोटे से मुझाव आप के सामने रखना चाहती हूँ। जहां तक वाणिज्य मंत्रालय का सवाल है, आपके जो कामशियल कौंसलर्स हैं वे सारे के सारे आई० ए० एस० आफिसर हैं जो कि वाणिज्य को उतना नहीं समझ पाते हैं। उनका कंट्रोल करती है एक्सटरनल एफेयर्स मिनिस्ट्री और उसका नतीजा यह होता है कि आई० ए० एस० आफिसर वहां जाते हैं और जब तक वह मार्केटिंग समझने लायक होते हैं जब तक वह उसका कुछ ज्ञान प्राप्त कर लेते हैं तब तक उनको एक जगह से दूसरी जगह भेज दिया जाता है। नतीजा यह होता है कि आपके जो कौंसिलर्स होते हैं वे वाणिज्य में स्पेशलिस्ट नहीं हो पाते हैं। इसलिये मेरा निवेदन है कि कामशियल सर्विस का एक केंद्र अलग से ही बनाया जाय जो वहां से अनुभव प्राप्त करके आये, जब वे देश में वापस आये तो जो कुछ सीख कर आये हैं उनके अनुभव का फायदा देश को मिले। वे उल्टी रुट्स में न चलें कि जैसे कि वह आज तक चलते रहे हैं। आजकल जिस तरह का इंटरनेशनल वाणिज्य है, हो रहा है, जिस तरह की साफिस्टीवेटेड उसकी प्रक्रिया है, उसको देखते हुए यह बहुत जरूरी है कि आप उसके लिये अपना एक अलग केंद्र कायम करें।

दूसरा मेरा एक और छोटा सा सजेसन है यह कि अपने यहां ट्रेड इंफार्मेशन सेंटर कायम किये जाने चाहिए। अभी आपने मंत्रालय में पूरी इंफार्मेशन प्राप्त नहीं हो पाती। जो भी इंफार्मेशन है वह कई जगहों पर, कई आफिसेस में बिखरी हुई है और वह भी पूरी नहीं है। अगर कोई व्यक्ति एक्सपोर्ट करना चाहता है तो उसको दुनिया भर की छाक छाननी पड़ती है। बड़ी मेहनत के बाद भी उसको पूरी जानकारी नहीं मिलती। इसलिये मेरा निवेदन है कि आप एक कंप्यूटराइज्ड इंफार्मेशन सेंटर यहां कायम करें ताकि पूरी जानकारी लोगों को मिल सके। यह एक बहुत बड़ा काम है, लेकिन यदि आज आप उसकी बुनियाद डालेंगे तो दो, चार साल में जा कर

यह काम पूरा होगा। यह मेरे दो छोटे से सत्रेशन हैं। मैं ठीक टाइम पर अपना भाषण समाप्त कर रही हूँ और सभापति महोदय, मैं आपको धन्यवाद देती हूँ समय देने के लिये। और जो सत्रेशन मैंने दिये हैं आशा है कि मंत्री जी उन पर ध्यान देंगे और जो दो, तीन सवाल मैंने पूछे हैं उनका उत्तर मुझे जवाब में सुनने को मिलेगा।

श्री प्रेम मनोहर (उत्तर प्रदेश) :
आदरणीय उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, वाणिज्य मंत्रालय किसी भी देश का बैरोमीटर होता है। उससे पता चलता है कि वहाँ की आर्थिक स्थिति किस प्रकार से चल रही है। अगर हमारा फारेन एक्सचेंज सरप्लस बढ़ता चला जाता है तो हम कहते हैं कि हमारा वाणिज्य मंत्रालय बहुत अच्छा काम कर रहा है और यही सरप्लस अगर सरप्लस न रह कर रिक्स डाइरेक्शन में जाना शुरू कर देता है तो पता चलता है कि हमारा वाणिज्य मंत्रालय बहुत खराब काम कर रहा है। इसलिये यह वाणिज्य मंत्रालय हमारे देश की रीढ़ की हड्डी भी है और बैरोमीटर भी है। हमारे देश की आर्थिक स्थिति किस प्रकार से चल रही है इस बात का पता इससे चलता है। अभी जैसा कि हमारी बहिन जी ने कहा कि सब से बड़ी बात, जो हमारे कारपोरेशन्स हैं उनके हेड आप अपने यहाँ के आई०ए०एस० अधिकारियों को बना देते हैं। मैं यहाँ पर उनकी बुराई करने के लिए नहीं खड़ा हुआ हूँ, लेकिन मैं यह मानने में हिचकूंगा नहीं कि उनको व्यावसायिक अनुभव बहुत कम रहता है। अभी जैसे कि माइका कारपोरेशन की बिहार की बात है और अपनी बहिन जी ने राजस्थान की बात बताई है, दोनों में यही स्थिति है, दोनों को एम०एम०टी०सी० के थ्रू कैनलाइज किया गया है यानी आफिसर्स ट्रेड को रिप्रेजेंट नहीं कर पाते और इस कारण देश का माइका ट्रेड समाप्त हो रहा है। पिछले साप्ताह में चपड़े के बारे में एक प्रश्न

आया था कि आज हमारा चपड़ा एक्सपोर्ट नहीं हो रहा है क्योंकि इसको भी गवर्नमेंट ने कैनलाइज कर रखा है। हमारे ग्रामीण भाई जो चपड़ा इकट्ठा करते हैं वह बाहर नहीं जाता और उसे वह बेच नहीं पाते और हम इस बात को लेकर बैठे हैं कि चपड़े का जो भी एक्सपोर्ट होगा वह गवर्नमेंट के जरिये से ही होगा। तो मेरी अपनी मंत्री महोदय से यह प्रार्थना है कि जो भी ऐसे आइटम्स हैं कि जिन को हमारी गवर्नमेंट एक्सपोर्ट नहीं कर पाती, उनको आप डिस्कनलाइज कर दीजिए। उनको गवर्नमेंट ट्रेड से बाहर निकाल दीजिए और जो व्यापारी लोग हैं उनको करने दीजिए। अगर उसका एक्सपोर्ट फिर बढ़ जाता है तो भले ही आप उसको फिर ले लीजिए, लेकिन देश का हित नहीं होना चाहिए। अगर आप इसको प्रेस्टिज इश्यू बना लेंगे, ऐसी धारणा बना लेंगे कि गवर्नमेंट को इसे एक्सपोर्ट करना ही है तो उससे देश का बहुत बड़ा नुकसान होगा। अभी कई मित्रों ने यहाँ की महंगाई के बारे में बतलाया, तेल की महंगाई के बारे में कई बातें कहीं। बहुत बड़ी क्वांटिटी में अभी तेल को बाहर से इंपोर्ट किया गया। अभी अखबारों में आया है कि उसमें भी कई परेशानियाँ आईं। टैंकर्स नहीं हैं, हमारे पास स्टोरेज कैपेसिटी नहीं है। रेलवे टैंकर्स पूरे मिलते नहीं हैं और ज्यादा दिनों तक हम उस तेल को अपने पास रख नहीं सकते इसलिये कि उसमें एसिडिटी डवलप कर जाती है। इसलिये मेरा सुझाव है कि आप तेल को न मंगा कर बाहर से आयल सीड्स को इंपोर्ट करें, दूसरे देशों से, ताकि इंपोर्ट करने में, उसको ट्रांसपोर्ट करने में और छोटे छोटे गांवों तक पहुँचाने में भी आपको किसी तरह की दिक्कत न आये। जो दिक्कतें आपके रास्ते में आई हैं उनका इलाज करने के लिए आपके पास लाली टैंकर्स भी नहीं हैं। बम्बई में आप नहीं कर सकते हैं। लेकिन जब आप उसको छोटे शहरों में लाते हैं, मेरठ में, गाजियाबाद में लायेंगे तो उसके स्टोरेज

[श्री प्रेम मनोहर]

कंपेसिटी की प्राबल्य होती है। यह बफर स्टॉक का काम थोड़े दिनों तक ही कर सकते हैं। लेकिन जब आप आइलसीड्स इंपोर्ट करते हैं तो उनको 6 महीने तक स्टोर कर सकते हैं। इसके बाद उसमें ऐसिडिटी डेवलप हो जाती है। तो जो ऐक्सपैलेस बन्द हैं उनको भी आपके द्वारा काम मिलेगा। अगर साल में कभी भी शार्टेज आयेगी तो आप अपना स्टॉक रिलीज कर दें। इसके कारण जो ट्रेडर इस बात का नाजायज फायदा उठाते हैं, थोड़ी सी शार्टेज के लिए ज्यादा दाम बढ़ा देते हैं तो इस चीज से उन लोगों को मजबूरी भी रहेगी। इस प्रकार से मैं समझता हूँ कि जो भी इस तरह की शार्टेज रहती है उनके लिए दो तरह के कदम उठाने पड़ते हैं। एक तो शार्ट टर्म और दूसरे लांग टर्म। शार्ट टर्म कदम इंपोर्ट का है और लांग टर्म में किसानों को उचित भाव देना है। जब तक ठीक भाव आप किसानों को नहीं देते हैं तब तक उनका रुझान उन चीजों को पैदा करने का नहीं होता। जब भी पैसा बढ़ाते हैं तो केवल बड़े व्यापारी, मैन्यूफैक्चरर्स, ड्रेडर्स लोग इसका फायदा उठाते हैं। किसी भी गांव के किसान को, गांव के आदमी को उसका फायदा नहीं मिलता। इसलिए गवर्नमेंट रेग्युलेटिव दाम दे तो किसान अपनी उपज बढ़ायेगा। जब तक इस तरह का काम आप नहीं करेंगे, इस तरह की कमी बनी रहेगी।

महोदय, कुछ दिन पहले धारिया जी ने कहा था कि जो ऐक्सपोर्टर्स हैं उनको वी० आई० पी० ट्रीटमेंट दिया जाएगा। बड़ी अच्छी बात है। लेकिन एक बात है, अगर वी० आई० पी० ट्रीटमेंट शब्दों में ही दिया गया तो कुछ मजा नहीं रहेगा। अभी अपने एक मित्र ने बताया कि टेक्निकल ऐक्सपोर्ट्स में हमारा देश तीसरे नम्बर का है। कच्चा माल हमारे पास है। लेकिन फिर भी हम अपना ऐक्सपोर्ट बढ़ा नहीं पाते। छोटे छोटे देश, ताइवान सरीखे देश 5 हजार

करोड़ रुपये का चमड़े का सामान ऐक्सपोर्ट कर रहे हैं। हमारे पास कच्चे चमड़े की कमी नहीं है, ऐक्सपोर्ट्स की कमी नहीं है, मशीनों की कमी नहीं है, फिर समझ में नहीं आता कि कौन सी चीज की कमी है। मैं तो केवल एक ही बात समझता हूँ कि अगर कमी है तो हमारे मंत्रालय की है, ऐडमिनिस्ट्रेशन की है, उसके ऐक्शन की है। जब हम लोग ठीक तरीके से चीजों को नहीं कर पाते, तभी इतना बड़ा देश होते हुए भी, कच्चा माल होते हुए भी, ऐक्सपोर्ट्स होते हुये भी हम छोटे छोटे देशों से भी पीछे रह जाते हैं। अगर यह ऐक्सपोर्ट्स हमें नहीं मालूम होती तो इसकी तरफ भी हमारा ध्यान जाना अत्यंत आवश्यक है।

जब हम ऐक्सपोर्ट करने जाते हैं दूसरे देशों को तो हमें दूसरे देशों से भी कंपीट करना होता है। वहां पर गल्फ कंट्रीज में, अफ्रीकन कंट्रीज में, जापान, जर्मनी और चाइना है। कंपीटिशन में। इन तीन देशों के आदमी वहां पर बराबर रहते हैं। किसी भी होटल में जाकर देखिये, हिन्दुस्तान के डेलीगेशन वहां पर बहुत कम मिलते हैं। एक एक होटल में एक शहर बगदाद, तेहरान या बहराइन में जायेंगे तो एक एक दो दो हमारे डेलीगेशन मिलेंगे और उन तीन देशों के तीन-तीन चार-चार और पांच-पांच डेलीगेशन मिलेंगे। जिस तरह का व्यवहार अपने ऐक्सपोर्ट्स के साथ गवर्नमेंट करती है, उसका मैं एक उदाहरण देता हूँ। यहां पर आई० डी० वी० आई० है। रिजर्व बैंक का कहना है कि टर्न-की बेसिस पर 1 करोड़, दो करोड़ या 3 करोड़ की वह ऐस्कैलेशन कास्ट उसके अन्दर रखें। लेकिन कोई भी फारन कंट्री इसके लिए तैयार नहीं होता और जापान, जर्मनी और इटली सभी लोग इस बात को मानते हैं कि हम आपसे कंफ्रम्ड कंट्रैक्ट करते हैं कि हम दो साल, तीन साल तक कोई दाम नहीं बढ़ायेंगे। जब रिजर्व बैंक से आई० डी० वी० आई० की बातें होती हैं तो उन बातों को तय करने में

को महीने निकल जाते हैं फिर भी कोई डिस्-
जन् नहीं हो पाता । इसलिए एक्सपोर्ट्स
को बी० आई० पी० ट्रीटमेंट देना चाहते हैं
तो उनकी सुविधाओं को व्यवहार में लाना
चाहिए ।

(Time bell rings.)

श्रीमन्, यह मेरी मेडन स्पीच है । . . .

(Interruption) 5

P.M.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI U.
K. YAKSHMANA GOWDA): No, no. It
has been agreed that the Minister will reply at
5.15 P.M. and there are two more speakers. I
request you to wind up.

श्री प्रेम मनोहर : उपसभाध्यक्ष जी,
मेरा कहना यह है कि अगर आप एक्सपोर्ट्स
को बी० आई० पी० ट्रीटमेंट देना चाहते हैं तो
यह बात व्यवहार में भी आनी चाहिए ।
हमारा जो एडमिनिस्ट्रेशन है, जो हमारे
एडमिनिस्ट्रेशन के परसोनल हैं, जो हमारी
गवर्नमेंट की मशीनरी है उसकी तरफ भी
विशेष रूप से ध्यान देने की जरूरत है । वे
लोग कोई भी काम जल्दी में करना चाहते हैं ।
इसके विपरीत व्यापारियों को विकसित देशों
के साथ कम्पिटीशन में खड़ा होना पड़ता है ।
इसलिए आवश्यकता इस बात की है कि
एक्सपोर्ट के संबंध में कोई विस्तृत योजना
बनाई जाय । मैं यह भी कहना चाहता हूँ
कि क्या कारण है कि यू०के० के साथ हमारा
इम्पोर्ट बहुत ज्यादा होता है ? मैं समझता
हूँ कि इसका एक ही कारण है कि वहां पर
लायजनिंग की सुविधाएं हैं । जो लोग वहां
पर जाना चाहते हैं वह बहुत आसानी से
वहां पहुंच सकता है । वहां पर आदान-
प्रदान के तरीके बहुत अच्छे हैं । इसलिए
आवश्यकता इस बात की है कि इसी तरह की
सुविधाएं दूसरे स्थानों पर भी उपलब्ध कराई
जानी चाहिए ।

दूसरी बात मैं यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि
हमने 105 नेशनल टेक्स्टाइल मिलों को

अपने हाथ में लिया है । इन पर प्रति माह
6 करोड़ रुपये का लोस हो रहा है । इसलिए
मैं मंत्री महोदय से यह निवेदन करना चाहता
हूँ कि इस लोस को समाप्त करने के लिए कोई
लांग टर्म प्लानिंग की जानी चाहिए जिससे
यह लोस कम हो यानी एक साल में या दो-
तीन सालों में यह स्थिति आवे कि इस लोस
को हम मिनिमाइज कर सकें ।

SHRI GULABRAO PATIL (Maharashtra):
Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, I am very glad that
you have at least given me five minutes to
speak on the working of the Ministry of
Commerce. In fact, the Ministry is concerned
not only with commerce but also with supply
and cooperation. I wanted to say a few words
on cooperation, but I was told that I am not
allowed to say anything as far as cooperation
is concerned.

Mr. Dharia is a dynamic Minister and I
personally feel that I should point out to him
two things particularly in regard to the entire
working of the textile mills. Mr. Dharia is
also a trade union leader. Having led so many
labour agitations in the country, he knows the
problems of the textile mills. There are so
many sick textile mills in the country and the
National Textile Corporation was set up with
this and in view that those sick units should
be nationalised and taken over by
Government. The result of this policy is, as
the hon. Member who just preceded me said,
that every year Rs. 6 crores worth of loss is
being incurred by Government.

SHRI PREM MANOHAR: It is Rs. 6
crores per month.

SHRI GULABRAO PATIL: It was done
with a view to seeing that the labour was not
thrown out of jobs and safeguarding the
interests of the workers. Otherwise the private
mill-owners used to say on one pretext or
another that their mills were not

[Shri Gulabrao Patel]

working properly. They had invested in machinery whatever money they could get, they had gained so much profits out of these mills and, therefore, they wanted to close these mills and throw their workers out of jobs. Government, however, thought it proper to take these sick mills over and continue these workers in their jobs. So they are incurring losses. My only plea to the hon. Minister is that instead of investing money in the modernisation of these textile mills the Government should set up new tex-tile mills in the public sector wherever raw cotton is being produced so that the farmers will also get remunerative prices, the workers will also get jobs and the industry will get decentralised instead of being centralised in places like Bombay and Ahmedabad.

Whenever these mills are closed by the private textile mill owners, so many agitations and other things take place in the cities and they create law and order problems. Therefore, my humble submission to the hon. Minister would be that he should take into consideration this particular thing.

There is one mere point regarding the production of control cloth about which so many hon. Members have spoken. I would like to point out to the hon. Minister one particular thing. Here also they were required to produce a particular quantity of cloth but most of the private mill owners never produced this control cloth and, on the contrary, they manufactured other types of cloth for export or other purposes, and taking undue advantage of rising prices in the domestic market, they got more money. They were prepared even to pay fine to the Government. Even the fine has not been recovered from the textile mills and, in the meantime, these textile mills have been declared sick and Government had to pay something like six crores of rupees to them. All such unscrupulous things indulged in by the private tex-tile mill owners should be dealt with severely. I do not know why it is not being done and also I do not know why the hon. Shri Dharia who is a cham-

pion of nationalisation is not coming forward with legislation for nationalising all these textile mills so that he can give protection to the workers and production is according to the requirements for export purposes as well as domestic purposes. Instead of giving a free hand to the private trade and these textile mill owners, Mr. Dharia may consider this point.

Sir, another point is with regard to power looms. The power loom sector also is a very important sector. One million workers are engaged in this sector and if yarn is not made available in time, these workers will be thrown out of employment and the powerlooms will be closed. So many times it has happened. When we see the policy of the Government of India on this, it is somewhat strange. Of course, I am not here to speak on the Finance Bill. But they are levying so much excise duty from them and they cannot compete with the composite mills. In the case of handlooms, Mr. Dharia gave a categorical assurance in this august House that he will see that the handloom sector gets yarn particularly well in time through the apex co-operative of the handloom cooperatives. Just as he has made this arrangement for handlooms, he can also come forward to make such an arrangement for the power looms also.

As far as production of agricultural commodities which are meant for export is concerned, I find, for instance, that export of sugar and tobacco has fallen. It may be because of so many factors. May be, the export price in the international market has fallen. But I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister to one thing. Whatever promotional measures have been undertaken by the Government, particularly for the cane-growing areas, I can only point out to him that unless the prices are remunerative he should not expect that merely because they will get better prices the farmers would come forward and grow these crops. Why is the Government not taking to the policy of declaring the

prices of these commodities well before sowing takes place? This is a most important factor. What they are doing now is that they take into consideration the prices prevailing in the market. Being an agriculturist yourself, Sir, you know that only when in the previous year the prices of a particular commodity were much more beneficial than in the following year the farmers take to that particular crop. When the area of that crop is increased, the production increases and the prices fall and that way the agriculturist is being exploited. Therefore, I would urge upon the hon. Minister that he should take some steps—whether it is cotton or sugarcane or oilseeds—in this direction. We know that there is so much of a crisis in the country because the prices of edible oils, particularly groundnut oil, have gone beyond the reach of the poor people, the fixed income group people or the middle class people. Here also, a very sustained and continuous policy should be there. Therefore, I would urge upon the hon. Minister to take into consideration these factors.

Then, as far as the money products are concerned, the plight of the fishermen, who constitute a weaker section of society, is pitiable. Why should they not be entrusted with the task of export promotion instead of asking some private individuals to export brawns and shrimps? More and more of fishermen's co-operative societies should be encouraged. They should be given all facilities so that whatever benefits the private persons or the middle men are getting out of the toil and hard work of these poor people accrue to them.

These are my observations.

Thank you.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI U. K. LAKSHMANA GOWDA): Shri Pattiam Rajan—not here. Shri Ranga. You can take 5 minutes. You are the last speaker.

SHRI N. G. RANGA (Andhra Pradesh): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, at the

end of this debate, there is not much scope to go into the general aspects of these questions with which my hon. friend the Minister incharge, is concerned. But, one thing is clear. There is general consensus today on these issues, as there has been in the past also whenever these issues were discussed in both the Houses of Parliament. The trouble comes at the level of execution. It was there that my hon. friend Mr. Dharia failed last time because, as is clear, of his own fault—not there is his report there to stand to his credit—but because of the manner in which the Government works. I hope this time at least he would have the opportunity of implementing the report that he had himself sponsored and signed on behalf of that committee.

(Interruptions)

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI U. K. LAKSHMANA GOWDA): No interruptions.

SHRI N. G. RANGA: Then there is cotton. The prices of cotton have got to be related to the prices of different types of cloth coming out from the mills. But very little effort has been made in that regard. The prices that the cotton growers are getting are much less than what they deserve just because of the profiteering that is being made by the mill-owners, the middle men, the distributors and everybody else. Something has got to be done. As a matter of principle, it was accepted by the previous Ministry also—and their Minister—but it has not been implemented.

Similarly, there is the question of sugar. We have too much stock of unsold and unsalable sugar today in our country. Our people would like it to be exported to Saudi Arabia and other countries in the region and also Bangladesh and Pakistan. Some of the Members in the other House also have spoken about it. But somehow the Government of India is not willing even to make an effort to explore the possibilities for export. Unless something is done in this direction, large

[Shri N. G. Ranga]

numbers of people are going to suffer very badly.

Then, my hon. friends have put in the plea for the power-looms. One million people are dependent on them. I have no quarrel with it. But then there are 32 million handloom weavers in our country who are getting a lot of trouble and are undergoing starvation. Not something but everything has got to be done for them. First priority must be given to their needs. Instead of that, the past Government—as well as this Government—have been spending crores of rupees every month to subsidise those 100 sick mills which were made sick by the vested interests in order to provide employment to one lakh people. But what about the three crores of people who are dependant upon handloom? My hon. friend has presided over a conference the other day. The weavers' representatives are going to meet him as well as the Prime Minister. Definite decisions have got to be taken by the Government and quick action has got to be taken in order to provide employment to as well as protection for these 30 million handloom weavers.

Then, Sir, there is the question of the tobacco-growers. They are being fleeced by the monopolists. They have been fleeced not in this year alone, but they have been fleeced and are being fleeced for decades by the monopolists. The biggest monopolist is the Indian Leaf Tobacco Co. (ILTC). It is named differently now in order to put a kind of sop to our nationalist sentiments. There is another, *Nay Bharat*. It is a nice name. These two companies, aided by all the others, have been exploiting our tobacco-growers. Something has got to be done. They wanted to have a Tobacco Development Board like the Cardamom Board, the Coffee Board, the Tea Board. The growers' representatives, as you have yourself said, Mr. Vice-Chairman, are unsatisfactorily and in-

adequately represented on these Boards. Their constitution should be changed so that the growers could have a predominant voice there along with the workers employed therein.

Then, in regard to export trade. Why is it that the Government has been lagging behind in regard to this matter? If there is any case at all for nationalisation or what you call complete state-trading monopoly, the strongest possible case is in this regard, tobacco. But little has been done in this direction. At least, I want the Government to give the biggest possible support to its own State Trading Corporation. Sir, I am one of the people who are supposed to be the father of this State Trading Corporation. I was associated when it was brought into existence, and we wanted it primarily to help our people who are interested in exporting our agricultural produce to other countries, and more so to those countries where purchases are made from other countries on a monopolistic basis. Very little has been done in this direction. Even recently efforts were being made to prevent the STC, the State Trading Corporation, from helping our people by purchasing as much of tobacco as possible and exporting it to the communist and other totalitarian countries. I want my hon. friend to pay special attention to this particular matter.

Then, the last point that I would like to make is this, Sir. Now that there is a clear national consensus in regard to this matter, let them realise this new dispensation and let them realise that there is no politics when it comes to these questions and that we are all agreed. Therefore, let them try and win the co-operation of the Opposition also not only here but at the State level also and evolve a national policy from time to time. State by state, crop by crop and what you call exportable commodity by commodity and help our national economy to achieve the maximum possible self-reliance. Thank you, Sir.

SHRI MOHAN DHARIA: Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, I am indeed grateful to the House for their constructive, co-operative and creative approach and particularly for lifting the whole debate without in any way bringing in party politics as so far as the export-import aspect of the Commerce Ministry is concerned, it has been treated to be very much vital for the national economy, and naturally, I do treat the various suggestions that have been put forward including the criticisms, as a healthy sign. I have no doubt that these suggestions will help me in further improving the working of my Ministry.

Sir, certain issues have been made out by the hon. speakers, and particularly these questions have been put to me: What is the exact strategy of the Government?

How does the Government look at the whole Commerce Ministry, at the export trade and import trade? It is in this context that I felt that I should spell out the policies in a very precise form and the House will please bear with me if I read, to that extent, a part of my speech. And afterwards I shall take up the suggestions from hon. Members.

The Ministry of Commerce has a very important role to play in the economy of the country. The export production efforts, the import and export policies, our attitude to international trade policy matters are integral components of the Government's overall developmental strategy of promoting growth with social justice. It goes without saying that to perform its task effectively, the Ministry of Commerce and the organisations and agencies under it as also its representatives abroad form a well-knit group manned by honest, sincere and dedicated persons. Soon after I took charge of this Ministry, I had to take urgent measures to cleanse and reorganise the Ministry. Those persons about whom there were reasons to believe that they placed the consideration of themselves

or other individuals above the interests of the country had to be relieved of their responsibilities and steps have been taken to find suitable replacements. The internal working of the Ministry has also been restructured with a view to increasing its efficiency. I am also presently engaged in the task of examining ways and means of strengthening our commercial representation abroad so as to serve our trade interests better.

Sir, let me take this opportunity to outline the basic thrust of our policies which derive their logic from the Government's commitment to achieve full employment of our precious human resources as rapidly as possible and to accelerate our progress in the path towards economic self-reliance.

With our new priorities, in order to meet the necessary import needs of our growing economy, we reiterate our commitment to the goal of rapid export expansion. As hon. Members are aware, for the current year, our export target is placed at Rs. 5,750 crores, amounting to a growth rate of our exports as high as 12 to 13 per cent.

Sir, the basic elements of our new approaches are;

(i) To shift our export mix towards the "dynamic exports".

These "dynamic exports" will be the "leading" sector of export expansion. These "leading sectors" are the ones in which we have long-term competitive advantage and whose export growth can be sustained without the help of long-term artificial crutches. These "leading sectors" of export expansion are engineering goods, ready-made garments, leather manufactures, handicrafts and technology-intensive products, e.g. exports of consultancy and engineering services and project exports.

(ii) The second element of our "new export strategy for our traditional exports is to increase their"

[Shri Mohan Dharia] productivity and to diversify the commodity mix so that we maximise domestic value added in these traditional exports. For instance, we are shifting away from our exports of raw hides and skins to finished leather and leather manufactures. We will be exporting progressively larger amounts of packet and bagged tea rather than bulk tea. Similarly, we will be increasing domestic value added in the exports of renewable natural resources, that is, marine products, forestry products, etc., or depletable resources like ores and minerals.

(iii) The third element of our export strategy is to minimise social costs of our exports by regulating the exports of essential mass consumption items. In case of items such as oilseeds, pulses, tea, vegetables, onions etc. domestic requirements will always take precedence over the exports and export efforts will not be allowed to have adverse effect on domestic availability or price. That does not mean that we shall not export. Here the question is one of safeguarding the interests of the producers and" also of the consumers and ultimately it is a question of safeguarding the interest of our country. However, I must underline that in many items or goods which usually cater only to elitist consumption, we may have to restrain domestic consumption to fulfil our export commitments or to exploit international market opportunities when they arise. Such a sacrifice, if at all it can be called as sacrifice, should not be looked upon with any undue concern.

(iv) The fourth element relates to the strengthening of the bargaining power Of our exporters through the support of state trading organisations and other infrastructural support in terms of better international marketing and information system.

The basic aim of our new export policy package is that it shall contribute to deploy our abundant resources

at higher level of utilisation as well as with greater efficiency. In other words, new export strategy would increase direct and indirect domestic employment opportunities for both skilled and unskilled labour in products such as textiles, handicraft, handlooms, leather manufacturers metal based industries, engineering and consultancy services. The new strategy would also help to minimise the social costs of the needed export generation and expansion. I firmly believe, our new export strategy, by very choice of the export products, will give additional boost to small scale and medium scale industries and help decentralised production in different regions of our country.

The Government's import policy is similarly designed to achieve the national objectives as spelt out in our manifesto. The basic objectives of our import policy are to make imports available in order to —

(i) increase domestic production and employment through better capacity utilisation;

(ii) increase the efficient lines of export promotion by making critical inputs available at international prices to our exporting community.

(iii) increase productivity of our material resources by modernising various sectors of our economy by making available advanced technology-intensive capital goods and industrial machinery.

Although we have adopted the policy of selective liberalisation of imports, adequate care has been taken to safeguard the genuine interests of indigenous producers. We reiterate our commitment to give unqualified support to indigenous industries that can produce efficiently the goods and services required by our national economy. And this naturally includes the import substitution as well. I have already asked my officers to review the impact of import liberalisation on indigenous industry and

examine whether any change is required in the policy to ensure adequate protection to indigenous industries' interests. We will continue to give all the needed incentives for such import substitution projects of our entrepreneurs.

In our new import policy, a special care has been taken to safeguard and promote the interest of small scale, cottage and village industries. In the procedures of import licensing, we have now removed the discrimination faced by the small units by making them available the facilities enjoyed only by large scale units in the past. We have provided special facilities to expand opportunities for young entrepreneurs, unemployed youth and graduates in science and technology for innovative participation in the development of their industrial units. Import needs of vital public institutions such as research and educational institutions, hospitals and medical institutions, research laboratories, etc., are fully provided in our import policy. Equally, in regard to registered exporters and export houses, we have introduced many innovations so that exporting community gets all the facilities to counter the handicaps which they have been facing in the past to make their products competitive in the overseas markets.

Government has also been taking new initiatives in rationalising the trade policy instruments. It is our endeavour to make the official machinery and various procedures simplified and encourage the process of decentralised decision-making so that the industry and trade are served efficiently in meeting genuine needs. The Government have asked the Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad, to study in depth the working of the STC and MMTC and make recommendations in order to sharpen our strategic instruments of state trading in accordance with our policy to give the public sector a leading role in our drive towards self-reliance and export expansion.

In order to ensure coordinated

efforts in the area of export marketing another supporting services, attempts are being made to rationalise the role and responsibilities of various Commodity Boards and Export Promotion Councils. These institutions are obviously important as they provide the link between individual exporters, their associations, and the Government as well as with international market. I can assure the House that so far as these Boards and Councils are concerned, we shall take care that the small growers, small manufacturers, small scale industries representatives are well-represented on these Boards and Councils. The hon. Members will appreciate that the Government's efforts in this vital area of international trade are essentially directed to strengthen the national economy so as to enable us to march rapidly towards the goal of full employment with social justice.

As far as current developments in the world trade are concerned, I must share with the House the Government's anxiety about the protectionist moves that have been followed in some of the developed countries. Unilateral action by some of the developed countries to restrict the textile exports from developing countries including India not only disregard the aspirations of the new international economic order but even violate the solemn agreements between the sovereign nations. Reluctance on the part of the many developed countries to recognise the imperative need of creating a new international economic order is indeed a matter of great concern. For instance, the developed countries' response to the integrated programme for commodities in various forms has been disappointing. The progress, whether of the multilateral trade negotiations or the multifibre agreement, has so far been equally disappointing due to less than positive attitudes of the key developed countries. India, along with other developing countries would like to participate in international division of labour that would benefit all the nations; but then it has to be a two-way process. If the developed

[Shri Mohan Dharia] countries continue to adopt protectionist policies, they cannot expect us to continue to expand our imports of key industrial commodities from them. Government earnestly hope that the developed countries would change their attitudes and respond positively to the demands of developing countries.

As far as developing countries are concerned, we will continue to encourage developmental cooperation among these countries. The actions of the rich countries which I have just mentioned only underline the greater need for rapidly increasing the under-developing countries trade. We should recognise that this is perhaps a very convincing instrument for increasing developing countries' bargaining power in today's world. Consistent with our overall policy of developing closer relations with our neighbours and promoting economic and commercial cooperation among the developing countries, we intend to further strengthen our commercial and trade exchanges with our neighbours in South Asia as well as our partners in the Gulf and the African continent. To this end we propose to make the fullest use of instrumentalities of trade agreements, joint committees and commissions. In the recent conference of the foreign ministers of the Bureau of non-aligned countries, we offered to carry out studies and prepare suitable schemes on the fullest use of complementarities in terms of resources endowments and industrial, technological capacities. We hope that the studies will further open up opportunities for greater regional and intra-regional economic and commercial cooperation.

I would also like to invite the kind attention of hon. Members to our approach and efforts in improving and revitalising the important sectors of textiles, jute and plantations.

A sound and healthy textile industry is of vital importance to our national economy. Currently, we are giving the highest priority to formulating a long-term development plan

for this industry which would harmonise the different components of this sector and help us to meet our national objective of providing all better clothing at the minimum social cost. Such a comprehensive and coordinated textile policy will take into account all aspects of industry such as the mill sector, handloom sector, powerloom sector and man-made fibres. Of course, as I have made it very clear, we have to realise the importance of handlooms which are in the decentralised sector. After giving full protection to handloom, we will then protect the powerlooms. They are also in the decentralised sector. Handloom and powerloom cannot be on a par for purposes of protection. First, protection to handloom and then protection to powerloom. After that we shall take care of composite mills and man-made fibres. A proper division has to be made and that shall be our endeavour.

While in the process of transition, Government is giving full attention to the immediate problems faced by all segments of this industry. Through a better pricing policy, Government is giving adequate incentives to increase domestic cotton production. The domestic fibre supplies will be augmented by appropriate imports of fibres, of various varieties. The Cotton Corporation of India has been stepping in the market to help the State agencies so that the farmers' interests are protected. The Central Government is also assisting the State Governments in their efforts to reopen viable textile units so that levels of employment are ensured. In this regard, I have written to all the Chief Ministers of State Governments highlighting the importance of preventive action. As suggested by the House, we have urged the State Governments to set up vigilance committees which would keep a watch on the weak mills. The House may perhaps be aware that it was suggested in the House and immediately wrote to the Chief Ministers and I am happy to inform the House that most of the Chief Ministers have responded to this suggestion made by this House.

In order to help the handloom sector, steps are being taken to make available sufficient quantities of cotton, viscose filament yarn and other inputs. These steps are necessary as the Government gives high priority to healthy development of handloom sector. We are strengthening the cooperative movement in this vital sector so that the handloom weavers get necessary protection in securing inputs and credit facilities for production and for marketing and they become self-reliant. The Plan outlay has been doubled this year to strengthen this decentralised sector which provides employment to millions of our people. Perhaps, Sir, this House is aware that the Plan outlay has just been doubled and it has gone up from *ten* crores to twenty crores. As the honourable Members are aware, we are facing a rather difficult situation at present in the jute industry. Some shortages of raw jute and the reported move by the Indian Jute Mills Federation suggesting block closures of jute mills have aggravated the situation. I had personal discussions with the Chief Minister of West Bengal, representatives of the jute industry, labour and other officials. The Jute Commissioner is assessing the stocks in each concern and public co-operation has also been solicited for discovering hoarded stocks. It would be our policy to function in close touch with the State Governments in all matters relating to the development of jute industry. Only yesterday and the day before yesterday, I had a very important dialogue with the Chief Minister of West Bengal, who was here, on this very subject.

In order to protect the interests of labour and also to see that production is not hampered, the management of three jute mills has been taken over by the Government of India under the IDR Act. Apart from this, two more units have also resumed their normal production. Active steps are also taken to see that the jute growers get a fair return. The Jute Corporation of India will enter the market not

only to see that floor prices are not lowered down by interested middlemen, but also to see that some price stability is achieved by the JCI's larger purchases and release of stocks when necessary.

The problems relating to some of our major plantations like tea, coffee, rubber, cashew, cardamom, etc. have been discussed at length in this House in the context of questions that have been raised here or certain Calling-Attention Motions or when bills were discussed. These sectors have a vital role to play in our economy in terms of employment potential, their ability to satisfy domestic needs and the potentials of exports. The Government have decided to give all possible co-operation and incentive to these sectors so that they become an area of dynamic growth.

I am sorry, Sir, that I have read out a speech. But I felt that the precise policy should be before the House and I am sure that this will satisfy the Members and will meet many of the suggestions and many of the grievances and the difficulties mentioned by the honourable Members. Now, Sir, coming to the various suggestions—of course, it is very difficult to deal with all the suggestions made by the honourable Members, but I will try to catch some of the important ones as were made during the course of their speeches—I would like to say that many important suggestions have been made. Mr. Dhabe, Mr. Patil and certain others have made a mention of the sick mills. They are a bit worried over my statement that the National Textile Corporation will no more take any sick textile mill. When this statement was made, I had made it very clear in the House that at present the NTC was managing 103 nationalised units and that two more units were taken over for management. With the management of 105 sick mills, the losses incurred by the National Textile Corporation were of the order of Rs. 30—35 crores. If the whole of the

[Shri Mohan Dharia]

NTC goes sick tomorrow, what would happen to the whole sector? That was the question I asked. So, in this situation, I felt and I feel that it would be the duty of the Government first to take care of the NTC itself and to see how the NTC stands on its own and how it becomes healthy and then allow it to play a dynamic role in the country. Therefore, right from modernisation, several programmes were taken up, as was mentioned by the honourable Members, and in this connection, I have already said that it is not that if there is any sick textile mill, the central Government will not help the State Government. On the contrary, I have made an open offer to all the State Government that if there is any sick textile mill and if the State Government comes forward with a viable proposition, the Central Government shall be too willing to give all possible co-operation. And this is not merely verbal cooperation. In Western India, in Gujarat, the Priya Lakshmi Mills, which has been taken over by the Gujarat Government, will soon start its operation. Similar is the case with one mill at Indore, and...

AN HON. MEMBER: Mention something about Kanpur also.

SHRI MOHAN DHARIA: Wherever we get any proposals from the State Governments, we shall extend all possible co-operation. My business is to see that the workers do not suffer. The workers should not suffer. I do feel and I do believe that it is the endeavour of the State Governments and the Central Government to take care of all the workers. But naturally when taking this care, there are several restrictions—I mean, fiscal restrictions and also managerial restrictions. And to that extent, I have made that proposal. That is the whole approach in looking towards this problem.

Sir, a mention has been made regarding the dues of workers. I do agree with the suggestion made by

the hon. Member. I shall get it examined. Priority should be given to the dues of workers. In principle, I accept this suggestion.... (*Interruptions*). I shall certainly move in that direction.

Sir, my colleague Mr. Bhanu Pratap Singh expressed his concern for producers. I can very well appreciate his feeling and his concern for the producers. When the Government announced that we have banned export of onions, potatoes, vegetables and all that, it was in the interest of the common consumer here. There is no question whether he is from the rural areas or urban areas. But naturally as Government we have to take care of the essential domestic requirement. I appreciate the suggestion made by the hon. Member that if we can produce more in the agricultural sector for export purposes, why should it not be encouraged, instead of giving cash incentive, duty drawback and all that? If we give some incentives to our own farmers, why should it not happen, and...

SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH: It was a blanket ban.

SHRI MOHAN DHARIA: Sir, if the production is adequate enough to take care of the domestic demand and also the export outside, I would not be dogmatic. On the contrary, as I have said earlier, the Government is more interested in regulating the whole thing. The Government is not interested in putting bans on these articles. If there is enough production within the country, We hope we can take care of our domestic requirements but if we can export from the agricultural sector, we shall be happy to do that. In this context, I am prepared to welcome any proposal whatsoever.

SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH: If you can announce here that if production goes up then exports should be allowed, I am sure, production will go up. Unless there is a clear announcement from the Government, produ-

cers are hesitant whether to produce more or not.

SHRI MOHAN DHARIA: Sir, I have made it very clear. If we can take care of our domestic requirements here and if the price line is maintained, and also if the production is more, I shall be quite willing and happy to give all possible co-operation for the exports. Is it all rights? ... (Interruptions)... In this case, I should like to add that if tomorrow there is adequate production and if there is no market here and also if the prices are slashed down, to protect the interests of producers we shall have to allow exports. And this will be done. We must take care of producers, who are producing for the country. The only thing is that while taking this care, let us not forget that normally it is not the producers who necessarily gets the benefit; it is the middle man who takes the profit. It is not as if the producers are the gainers. I have seen in many other areas that it is the middleman who is a big earner. In this context, I would say that if we can link up the producer and the consumer to take care of the needs of the country and our exports, then that would be the best thing for the country.

SHRI G. LAKSHMANAN: That is why these commodities must be exported only by the Government and the middlemen should not benefit.

SHRI MOHAN DHARIA: I do appreciate the suggestion.

Sir, a reference was made to the Export Policy Resolution of 1970. I have adequately replied to it in my written speech. So far as that Resolution is concerned, there should be some more emphasis on self-reliance with some more emphasis on taking adequate care of the domestic requirements. We shall see that it is modified to that extent. Otherwise, so

far as the basic principle of attaining the objective of self-reliance is concerned, I do not think there is any need for any change.

Sir, it was said here that the Government has planned to import gold. There is no such plan. There is no such proposal before the Government. I can certainly assure my hon. friend that the Government shall never like to play the role of a smuggler. On the contrary, the Government would like to take care of the smugglers so that smuggling is stopped.

Sir, it was suggested by some Members that even shrimps and alfonso mangoes are not being allowed to be exported. It is not correct. Shrimps and alfonso mangoes are allowed to be exported. There is no ban on them at present. If these are the requirements of the elite class, they are required to pay for it. To some extent, they have to sacrifice in the interest of the country. There is no other alternative but to sacrifice.

A suggestion has been made regarding the examination of all the present schemes through which we give cash assistance, duty drawback, etc. Yes, we have started our examination in the matter. A thorough examination shall be made because it should not happen that this assistance is paid where it is not required and on the contrary it should not happen that this assistance is not paid where it is required. We shall have to take a balanced view and that shall be examined.

A reference has been made to the distribution system. Of course, it is not directly concerned with the Commerce Ministry. It is true that I am very much attached to that report. I was the Chairman of that Committee. That Committee had insisted that right from morning till late at night, we should identify what are the basic requirements of the common man. They have to be identified. Then the

[Shri Mohan Dharia] Committee had insisted that we must give priority to the production of these articles, whether agricultural or industrial. It should be controlled right from the stage of production, procurement, storage, transport and distribution which should be at a reasonable price. A massive distribution system should be created in the country. *(Interruptions)*. Production, procurement, storage, transport and distribution are the various aspects. This is my report. I am very much conversant with it. It is not that I have simply signed that report. Here what is needed is the involvement of the whole country. That report has been updated by my Ministry. It is being discussed with the Planning Commission today. After these discussions are over, it will be discussed in the Cabinet. Once the approval of the Cabinet is taken, then that report will go to the various State Governments. I would very much like to take both the Houses and the Members into confidence. And after obtaining all these suggestions, a final decision will have to be taken at the level of the National Development Council because it is...

AN HON. MEMBER: By what time? Will it take ten years?

SHRI MOHAN DHARIA: Not ten years. Those days of functioning are over, my dear friend.

For your information. Sir, I would like to clarify the schedule also, as I have planned. I do not foresee any difficulties in it. I had planned that by the end of July, it will be updated. By the end of July, it had been updated. It is now being discussed with the Planning Ministry. As I have made it clear yesterday in the Chief Ministers Conference, we expect that by the end of September, it should be possible for the Cabinet to have its own view and to make it available to the State Governments and to other agencies. So, by the end of September, it will go to the State Governments and afterwards, after the re-

commendations are received from them, we shall sit some day, we shall have a dialogue and we shall finalise the same. This is the time schedule and I am very much interested in pursuing the time schedule.

Sir, my friend, Mr. Mishra said that those who tried to implement this system, their heads were chopped off. I am very well aware that there were many areas and there were many occasions when those who strove and stuck to principles, their heads were chopped off. But let us not forget ultimately it is that supreme sacrifice that alone can keep the head of the country much above and not otherwise. And you may rest assured that what I feel today is that so far as these 61.5 crores of people are concerned, if their permanent care is to be taken, if we want to break this vicious circle of rising prices and more demands for dearness allowance—no sooner the allowances are made available, again there is a further escalation of prices—if this vicious circle is to be broken, a massive distribution system making all these essential commodities available to the common man at reasonable prices, is a must for the country. And to that extent, all efforts, all endeavours that are needed shall be made. And I have never bothered in my life whether the head is chopped off or not and it is absolutely irrelevant when we think of our country. Sir, here I would like to have the co-operation from everybody. As you have treated the whole debate today as a national debate, I feel that for this creation of a massive distribution system and retention of prices everywhere, what is needed is the involvement of the whole country, the involvement of the Members of Parliament irrespective of parties. We shall have to get ourselves involved. We shall have to be partners in implementing these basic things in the interest of our country. I don't think there would be any difference of opinion so far as such, I may say, healthy projects are concerned,

Sir, some references were made to the plantations, to the STC, to the MMTC and other organisations. I think we have discussed those issues many times on the floor of the House when we discussed various questions. Calling Attention notices or even Bills like the Cardamom Bill. I may only assure the House that all these plantations are very much a part of agriculture and whether it is tea or coffee or cardamom or cashew or rubber, all these are very much vital in the interest of our economy. And how we can revitalise the present bodies and try to take care of these plantations is a matter of great concern for us. And we have started not only our exercises but we have also started restructuring these bodies that are working today.

So far as the tea plantations are concerned, this House should be proud and this country should be proud to know that this country is the biggest producer in the world. The production of tea, this year will touch the 540 million k.g. mark. India is occupying a first class position so far as the production of tea is concerned and here also, with a view to meeting the domestic demand, we have decided that the exports will be of the order of 225 million k.gs. and the rest of it will be made available to the country so that we take care of our domestic demand while taking care of our exports. It is how in every sphere all possible planning is being done.

I do not want to go into all these various areas today because there is a meeting of the Economic Committee of the Cabinet where rubber prices, cotton prices and prices of some other things are going to be considered. Commerce Ministry being one of the important Ministries, naturally I shall have to remain present. But, I may state that so far as these various areas are concerned, several suggestions have come and I shall bear in mind all the suggestions.

I must, however, satisfy the hon. Member, Shrimati Chundawat, not that because she is a Lady Member, but also because she has been fighting her cause since long regarding mica from Rajasthan. I agree with the hon. Member, yes it was neglected. But, then it was only in the month of May the Russian and Czechoslovak delegations have visited those areas and we are seeing how this mica, that we are getting from Rajasthan, could be exported outside. Those efforts are being made.

Regarding Mitco, it has been decided that this year the purchases, which were of the order of Rs. 5 or Rs. 4 lakhs last year, shall be of the order of Rs. 20 lakhs this year and due protection is given. Regarding the carpet industry, I can assure the hon. Member that we would not like to neglect Rajasthan. It is the home of culture, it is the home of art and with the hon. Member here, who is perhaps the representative of that culture, we would not like in any way to disregard her feelings. I very much value her feelings and, therefore, I would like to assure her that it has been decided to open ten new centres for carpet weaving this year. So, we would like to take all possible care so far as Rajasthan is concerned. Of course, due care will be taken in the case of all the States. Otherwise, some States may say that, well we are neglected. But, I may say that when the hon. Member made her suggestion in an appealing way, I felt that I should respond to her in the same spirit and therefore I have done that.

SHRI NRIPATI RANJAN CHOU-
DHURY: What about the Indian Trade
Service?

SHRI MOHAN DHARIA: There cannot be any deviation so far as our External Services or Commercial Services are concerned. What is needed today is all possible co-ordination of the commercial representatives working in our embassies and others working there. They all represent the country and we are trying to have

[Shri Mohan Dharia] the best possible co-ordination. I can very well understand the charge that is being made, namely, that those who go there simply attend parties and do not do anything. I may suggest that it will be too wild a charge because the exports of the country...

SHRI NRIPATI RANJAN CHOU-DHURY: I asked about the Indian Trade Service, manning the office of the C.C.I. & E.

SHRI MOHAN DHARIA: I am coming to that. I was saying that it is because of our commercial representatives in foreign countries, because of the efforts inside the country and because of the efforts of everybody that our exports have gone above Rs. 5,000 crores and naturally everybody can legitimately claim some share. Therefore, I say let us not dishearten them, let us not discourage them; that will not be a correct approach. But, so far as the suggestion' regarding this Export Trade Service is concerned, I can very well appreciate the question. It is being examined, as I have already assured this House earlier. I would not like to

6 P.M.

detain the House further. We have discussed the Commerce Ministry for the whole of the day. Various suggestions, very constructive and positive suggestions, have been made by the hon. Members. I know that within the short span, it might not have been possible for me, perhaps, to satisfy everybody but you may rest assured that so far as the policy of the Government is concerned, it is absolutely clear. It is the interest of the country, it is the interest of our people which is supreme before us and keeping these interests in our mind, all possible care shall be taken so that these policies are properly implemented and executed. I am thankful to the House for the discussion.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI U. K. LAKSHMANA GOWDA): The House stands adjourned till 11 A.M. tomorrow.

The House then adjourned at one minute past six of the clock till eleven of the Clock on Tuesday, the 2nd August, 1977.