

New Export Policy

*336. SHRI BIR CHANDRA DEB BURMAN :f SHRI LAKSHMANA MAHAPATRO : SHRI DEORAO PATIL : SHRI S. W. DHABE : SHRI KRISHNARAO NARAYAN DHULAP :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any new export policy; and

(b) if so, what are the salient features and objectives thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION (SHRI MOHAN DHARIA): (a) and (b) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

Government has already taken initiatives in reformulating the export policy. The major objectives of the export policy would be:

- (i) attainment of a self-reliant national economy,
- (ii) to meet our necessary import requirements at minimum social cost, and
- (iii) to augment and strengthen the productive forces of our economy.

For export expansion, our export policy will emphasise "leading" sectors in which Indian economy has long-term competitive advantage, *e.g.* engineering goods, leather manufactures, project exports textiles including readymade garments etc.; it will encourage the exports of small and medium industry items which are labour intensive and thus have substantial employment potential; in the export of natural resource-based **pro-**

fThe Question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Bir Chandra Deb Burman.

ducts, it would stress only such items in which domestic value added has larger shares and the new export policy will also seek to regulate the export of mass consumption items so that domestic availability of these commodities is not adversely affected.

SHRI BIR CHANDRA DEB BURMAN: I want to know from the hon. Minister whether, in order to attain the objectives of the export policy, the Government would, without issuing licences to private traders, canalise this import and export trade through the State agencies like the STC.

SHRI MOHAN DHARIA: In ' this area it is the mixed sector that is operating. It will be through the STC, the MMTC and other State agencies and at the same time the private sector is also allowed to import and export.

SHRI BIR CHANDRA DEB BURMAN: In the statement it is said that the new export policy will also seek to regulate the export of mass consumption items so that domestic availability of these commodities is not adversely affected. I want to know from the hon. Minister whether, in order to see that at least some of the mass consumption items are not adversely affected, the Government will have wholesale trade so far as these items are concerned, for instance, wheat, rice and edible oil.

SHRI MOHAN DHARIA: This does not arise because the question concerns export and import policy. Taking over the wholesale trade is altogether a different matter.

SHRI LAKSHMANA MAHAPATRO: Only yesterday we had a debate on this matter of foreign trade. Today a reply has come in the form of a statement. I am not able to understand the rationale of exporting groundnut and importing oil, exporting sugar and asking the sugar barons to sell sugar at Rs. 4.50 a kg. to the domestic consumers and importing foodstuff and exporting it after stocking grains here which we are not using properly, *now*

does the new export policy take care of these problems? Is it a fact that when this new export policy is being formulated, you will be thinking of delisting some of these items which are in the canalised list of the STC?

SHRI MOHAN DHARIA: It was only yesterday that the House had discussed at great length the import and export policy and the functioning of the Commerce Ministry. What the hon. Member has described is not the policy of the present Government. This was what happened in the past. Naturally I very much share his feeling. I have already assured the House yesterday that the whole import and export policy of the Government is oriented in the direction of attainment of self-reliance and meeting the domestic demands not only of the individual consumers, but also of industry and agriculture and attaining new heights of economy.

SHRI S. W. DHABE: May I know from the hon. Minister whether it is one of the cardinal principles to contain prices in the country of essential commodities by having an export policy with regard to foodstuff, vegetable oil, etc?

SHRI MOHAN DHARIA: Very much so.

SHRI SAWAISINGH SISODIA: I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether it is a fact that there are certain items on which export subsidy is being provided by the Government of India and if so what are those items and to which extent these items are exported. I would also like to know whether any change is being contemplated in this regard.

SHRI MOHAN DHARIA: So far as the whole list is concerned, I will require notice. But as I said yesterday we are examining the whole issue. I have already clarified that there are certain items for which perhaps this sort of incentive or cash assistance or replenishment is not necessary. But there are certain items which are traditional items

and to which we would like to give all encouragement for purposes of export. The whole issue is being examined.

SHRI LEONARD SOLOMAN SARING: Big variety of Cardamon is the main produce in Sikkim. May I know from the hon. Minister what steps the Government is taking for finding markets in the foreign countries for this Cardamon? I would also like to know whether in the new export policy the export of this variety of Cardamon is included.

SHRI MOHAN DHARIA: Sir, we would very much likely to encourage the export of cardamom. Regarding the efforts made to search for other markets, teams are sent outside and even trade delegations are sent outside. We are having our trade commissions and we are having our embassies. All-out efforts are made to search for new markets and also to diversify our production so that it is acceptable in foreign countries.

SHRI SUJAN SINGH: Sir, I would like to know whether the present export policy of the Government, which is discouraging the export of onions, potatoes and other such items, is a policy which is against the farmers. Is it not an anti-kisan policy?

SHRI MOHAN DHARIA: I could not hear your question properly. Would you kindly repeat it?

SHRI SUJAN SINGH: Is not the export policy of the Government, which discourages the export of onions, potatoes and other such items, an anti-kisan policy?

SHRI MOHAN DHARIA: Sir, we would not like to discourage the production of vegetables like potatoes, onions, etc. The question is that the prices have gone up so high and we have to see how we can make these things available to the domestic consumer at a reasonable price and towards that end we have to take steps and we have to take care of that problem.

SHRI SUJAN SINGH: Sir, I want to know.....

MR. CHAIRMAN: No second supplementary, please. Yes, Mr. Yadav.

श्री श्याम लाल यादव : श्रीमान, माननीय मंत्री जी ने जो नीति बतलाई है, उसका तो मैं स्वागत करता हूँ। लेकिन मैं मंत्री महोदय से यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या उन्हें इस बात की जानकारी है कि वाराणसी और मिर्जापुर जिलों में कारपेट्स का बहुत बड़ा कारोवार होता है और इस से करोड़ों रुपये की आय होती है। लेकिन सरकार की जो एक्सपोर्ट नीति है, उसका परिणाम यह है कि वहाँ पर गोदामों में हर व्यापारी का लाखों लाख रूपयों का कारपेट रखा हुआ है। आज दुनिया के मार्केट में कारपेट की मांग एकाएक गिर गई है और जो राष्ट्रीय-कृत बैंक है वह व्यापारियों को रुपया नहीं दे रहे हैं। जिसका परिणाम यह हो रहा है कि जो नीति आपने निर्धारित की है कि अधिक से अधिक लोगों को काम मिले, उस के स्थान पर बेकारी बढ़ रही है। गांव में जो मजदूर काम करते हैं, इस क्षेत्र में, उन में 50 फीसदी लोग बेकार हो गये हैं, उन के कारखाने बंद हो गये हैं। इस नीति को अगर माननीय मंत्री जी चलाना चाहते हैं जो कि स्वागत योग्य है - तो इस संबंध में वे क्या कार्यवाही करने का विचार रखते हैं ?

श्री मोहन धारिया : सभापति जी, कारपेट्स का जो एक्सपोर्ट होता है, उसमें कई दिक्कतें आई हैं और आ रही हैं, ऐसा मैंने भी सुना है। जो लोग कारपेट्स का धंधा करते हैं अगर उन को क्रेडिट की कोई जरूरत हो तो मैं इस संबंध में फाइनेन्स मिनिस्टर साहब से बातचीत करूंगा।

श्री श्याम लाल यादव : बैंक नहीं दे रहे हैं।

श्री मोहन धारिया : हां, उन्हें नहीं मिला है। मैं बातचीत करूंगा नहीं देने के लिये नहीं। अगर हम उन्हें कुछ ज्यादा दे सकते हैं तो इसके लिये मैं बातचीत करूंगा। बाहर का जो मार्केट है, वहाँ हमारे कारपेट्स की अच्छी मांग हो, इस के लिये हम काफी कोशिश कर रहे हैं। इस के लिए हम एकजीवियन कर रहे हैं और मैं ऐसी उम्मीद रखता हूँ कि हमारे कारपेट्स की जो मांग है, वह जरूर बढ़ेगी।

Purchase of cotton from Gujarat by the Cotton Corporation of India

*337. SHRI KRISHNARAO

NARAYAN DHULAP: SHRI DEORAO PATIL: SHRI S. W. DHABE: t SHRI R. D. JAGTAP AVERGOANKAR :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Gujarat Government have suggested to the Central Government that the Cotton Corporation of India should purchase long staple cotton from Gujarat to clear the accumulated stock there;

(b) whether the State Government has also suggested to the Central Government to grant 25 per cent subsidy on the purchase of cotton as in the case of imported cotton; and

(c) if so what is the Central Government's decision in this regard?

[THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION (SHRI MOHAN DHARIA): (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

fThe question was actually asked on the floor of the house by Shri S. W. Dhabe.