

SHRI N. G. GORAY : Sometimes he does take up rational positions.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI : Don't give him a label.

SHRI K. R. GANESH : If the impression of the hon. Member is that the Government servants are not doing work during office hours and if my position is that it is a very exaggerated statement I do not think there can be any meeting ground between us.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : It is possible to have some criticism but. Sir, is it not a fact that demoralisation and lack of enthusiasm among the Government servants are due to the fact that high officials who may not be drawing overtime but who are indulging in all kinds of activities instead of inspiring the Government employees that they ought to work diligently and efficiently actually demoralise them? Has the hon. Minister considered this aspect of the matter that the top officials may not be sitting in the sun during the winter season but they do not even come to office and when they come they also gossip and when they gossip they do the wrong type of gossip?

MR. CHAIRMAN : Your question is very clear.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : Sir, it may be clear to you, but I have to make it very clear. You are not asking the question; I am asking the question. Therefore has the Government considered the advisability of looking into this aspect? Sir, efficiency in any office depends on the example being set by the high officials and also on the co-operation between the authorities on the one hand and the representatives of the unions on the other. That is how it is to be done and also by meeting the minimum requirements of the poor Government employees in our country who are very hard hit as a result of rising prices.

SHRI K. R. GANESH : I agree with the statement of the hon. Member that efficiency depends on standards being set by

high officials and on the co-operation of the employees and their organisations. It is something on which there can be no disagreement.

Export of Electrical goods

381. SHRIMATI SUMITRA G. KULKARNI :

SHRIMATI KUMUDBEN MANI-SHANKER JOSHI :

SHRI M. S. ABDUL KHADER :

SHRIMATI SUSHILA SHANKAR ADIVARKAR :†

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Committee set up to suggest a comprehensive strategy for the export of electrical goods has submitted its report;

(b) if so, what are the main recommendations made by the Committee ; and

(c) what decision Government have taken thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (PROF. D. P. CHATTOPADHAYA) : (a) to (c). The Development Council for Heavy Electrical Industries has set up a sub-committee on export promotion of Electrical goods. The Sub-committee recently discussed certain measures for increasing exports. The final recommendations however have not yet been made.

SHRIMATI SUSHILA SHANKAR ADIVAREKAR : There is an emphasis to link production and export and we find that there is a steady increase in production while there is a steady decline in export. The Committee is appointed but if the Committee's recommendations take such a long time to come what measures does the hon. Minister propose to take to safeguard these export-oriented industries which are also labour-intensive industries ?

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shrimati Sushila Shankar Adivarekar.

PROF. D. P. CHATTOPADHYAYA : Sir, in fact both production and also export of electrical goods have increased in the last three years. In 1970-71 export was Rs. 24,70,57,506; in 1972-73 it was Rs. 24,70,57,506; in 1972-73 it was Rs. 29,01,58,305. It is not perhaps correct to suggest that our export has gone down. Problems are there and even though the Committee appointed by us could not submit its report we have not been sitting idle. The problems of the industry have been attended to. Their main problem is about raw materials, cash assistance and shipping. All these problems to the best of our ability have been attended to and met.

SHRI BABUBHAI M. CHINAI : May I know from the hon. Minister whether it is a fact that the cable manufacturers have been finding it difficult to get E.C. grade aluminium and that is why they have not been able to fulfil the export obligations? Also, is it a fact that they are not getting the requisite quality of resin even on the basis of their past performance. May I know whether any representations have been made to the Government against the present distribution policy regarding E.C. grade aluminium and resin? I concur with him in the figures given and the export is going up, but is it not possible for our exports to go up, much more than what is the performance today, if these raw materials, viz., aluminium and resin, are given to the manufacturers in enough quantities?

PROF. D. P. CHATTOPADHYAYA : I would agree that if the basic raw materials could be provided, exports would have gone up, but the condition is a very hard one to be fulfilled. There is shortage of these raw materials all over the world. Besides, the price has gone up enormously. Within these constraints Government have been giving to the industry whatever is available and the arrangement has been made in a very rational and judicious way. On the recommendation of DGTD the raw materials are being supplied to them. Also, other raw materials like steel, etc. are being supplied to them, but I am sure the hon. Member is aware of the acute shortage of these raw materials and their high price.

Subject to these constraints we are doing our best on the recommendation of DGTD and MMTC are distributing these raw materials.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI : May I know, Sir, whether the Minister is aware that one of the strong points in the strategy for increasing the export of electrical goods is the electronics industry? In this connection, the Commerce Minister has taken a step to start an electronics station at Santa Cruz, particularly for export purposes. In regard to this functional industrial complex at Santa Cruz what is the progress? May I know whether he has recently seen some adverse report on its late start and delayed start? That is why there is a possibility of electrical goods exports suffering. What is the present position, what is the progress and what are the difficulties in implementing that scheme very vigorously?

PROF. D. P. CHATTOPADHYAYA : The scheme is progressing and the construction of the standard design factories is also in progress. Some 100 units will be accommodated in the zone and occupation will start by August, 1974. Twenty-seven entrepreneurs have forwarded their proposals for setting up units in the zone. The export potential of the products of these units, when they go into full production, will be approximately Rs. 41 crores. It may even go up to Rs. 50 crores. It would not be correct to suggest that progress is not taking place.

DR. R. K. CHAKRABARTI : The manufacture of transistor radios, small and medium, has virtually become a cottage industry now in our country. May I know from the hon. Minister whether he would be willing to supply the basic raw materials to manufacture these items and whether any survey has been made about the export potentialities in the eastern countries and African countries for exporting transistor radios from our country? How do they compare with those manufactured in Japan and other countries in regard to quality and price?

MR. CHAIRMAN : Does it arise out of this question?

DR. R. K. CHAKRABARTI : Transistor radios come under electrical goods.

PROF. D. P. CHATTOPADHYAYA : It is electronics and that is why remotely connected with electrical goods.

DR. R. K. CHAKRABARTI : Export is through the Commerce Ministry.

PROF. D. P. CHATTOPADHYAYA : That is true. In 1970-71 the export was worth Rs. 1,50,34,014. Next year it went up to Rs. 2,22,87,533. During the next year it marked a slight decline. It came down to Rs. 1,94,46,079 in 1972-73, and that is due to what the hon. Member has mentioned—acute shortage of raw materials. I have already referred to it, and every attempt is being made to procure it and give it to the people at the reasonable prices.

*382. [The questioner (Shri M. K. Mohita) was absent. For answer, vide cols. 33 infra.]

Fall in diamond exports

*383. SHRI SHYAMLAL GUPTA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the export of diamonds has fallen considerably in the recent past; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE) : (a) and (b) Export of diamonds during April to December, 1973 has been higher than the corresponding period in 1972. However, on account of economic uncertainties in the countries to which our diamonds are exported, there has been a set back in the rate of growth of exports in the recent past.

SHRI SHYAMLAL GUPTA : What is the total import of raw diamonds and what is the local production as compared to the exports?

SHRI A. C. GEORGE : Our availability of indigenous rough diamonds is negligible, and almost entirely the rough diamonds are imported from the different countries. I am in a position to give the figures for the past three years. In 1970-71 our import of the rough diamonds was to the tune of Rs. 18.91 crores; in 1971-72 it was Rs. 20 crores and in 1972-73 it was 35.95 crores. Normally, in the case of average diamonds—average in the sense of Rs. 900 per carat—the value added is Rs. 60 to Rs. 100 for a rough diamond. For Rs. 60, we realise Rs. 100. Last year it was to the tune of Rs. 58 crores.

SHRI SHYAMLAL GUPTA : Have we done anything in order to encourage our artisans in diamond-cutting?

SHRI A. C. GEORGE : I fully agree with the hon. Member that the export of diamonds is basically dependent upon the expertise and skill of our artisans because this is basically a processing industry. In Surat, Baroda, Bombay and in the neighbouring areas, we are making frantic efforts to see that more and more artisans are trained so that this highly intensive skill-oriented industry is encouraged.

श्री वीरेन्द्र कुमार सखलेचा : क्या माननीय मंत्री जी बतलायेंगे कि यह सही है कि हीरो के निर्यात में कमी का एक कारण आर्टिजन्स की कमी भी है, लेकिन डायमंड्स की पन्ना की माइन्स में उत्पादन काफी हुआ है, लेकिन वहां पर हीरो का ठीक प्रकार से उठाव न होने के कारण पन्ना माइन्स में काम करने वाले मजदूरों को काम बंद करने की स्थिति आ रही है। क्या यह सही है?

SHRI A. C. GEORGE : The export of diamonds is one sector where we have achieved a phenomenal growth. In 1963-64 our export of diamonds was only to the tune of Rs. 2.43 crores and last year, in 1972-73, as I said earlier, our export has come to Rs. 58 crores. This year we are hopeful of achieving a target of Rs. 75 to