

SHRI K. R. GANESH : The Small Coins Offences Act, 1971, has been passed by Parliament. It was done precisely for this reason that these coins were being used by hoarders for the purpose of melting. This Act is now administered by the State Governments. In the recent past, about 12 persons have been involved in 5 cases of Small Coins Offences in Delhi, U.P. and Maharashtra and these cases are being investigated.

श्रीमती लक्ष्मी कुमारी चूडावत : मैं यह जानना चाहूंगी कि इस शार्टेज का बुनियादी कारण क्या है। लोग मेटल की लालच में सिक्कों को गायब कर देते हैं या शुरू से ही आप के यह छोटे सिक्के कम चल रहे हैं ? अगर आप कहते हैं कि सिक्के कम चल रहे हैं तो वे क्या घट जाते हैं और कभी बढ़ जाते हैं और कभी उनकी शार्टेज हो जाती है, तो आखिर इसका बुनियादी कारण क्या है यह आप ठीक समझ नहीं पाते। आप ने ज्यादा रोलिंग मिल्स खोली हैं कि इनकी शार्टेज न रहने पाये फिर भी यह कमी बरकरार है। तो आखिर आप ने इस मर्ज का इलाज क्या सोचा है ?

SHRI K. R. GANESH : Sir, the basic reason is that there has been a shortage of small coins in the country. This shortage appeared in a very exaggerated form in 1970. After that, these steps which I have indicated, have been taken.

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SHRI D. D. PURI : I would like the Minister to precisely quantify as to what extent the bullion value of some of the coins is in excess of their face value. What steps does he propose to correct this imbalance?

MR. CHAIRMAN : Question Hour over.

SHORT NOTICE QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

MEMORANDUM FROM LEATHER GOODS MANUFACTURERS AND EXPORTERS ASSOCIATION

•1. SHRI SARDAR AMJAD ALI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have received any memorandum from the Leather-goods Manufacturers and Exports Association, Calcutta, regarding (i) grant of cash subsidy to leather goods manufacturers and (u) quota restrictions;

(b) if so, whether Government have taken any decision thereon; and

(c) if the reply to part (b) above be in the affirmative, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The matter is under Government's active consideration.

(c) The details are being worked out.

SHRI SARDAR AMJAD ALI : Sir, I am thankful to the hon. Minister that the subject is getting consideration from the Ministry, incidentally, I may refer to the statement of the hon. Minister, Shri A.C. George on 8th March last in reply to a Calling Attention motion on the same subject. The hon. Minister then said that on the export front of semi-tanned hides and skins, the exports had gone up to Rs. 150 crores from Rs. 90 crores in the year 1971-72. That, of course, is a very healthy sign so far as our export policy is concerned, so far as our export achievement is concerned. But, Sir, with regard to this subject, may I draw the attention of the hon. Minister as to what is being done by Indian exporters with regard semi-tanned skins and hides? It has been brought to the notice of the Ministry of Commerce once and again that producers of indigenous products like the Santiniketan leather goods are fully dependent on semi-tanned skins and hides—that is the raw material required by them—and it is very much known to the Ministry that about 95 per cent of such manufacturers have

closed their factories because of non-availability of this raw material causing, thereby, unemployment to about a few thousand workers, and this difficulty has caused great concern to these small manufacturers particularly. We are all aware of the fact...

MR. CHAIRMAN : Kindly put your question.

SHRI SARDAR AMJAD ALI : I have said that the exporters are causing havoc in this regard. Here is a revealing photostat copy of a very confidential circular given by one Lawrence, Soulie and Company...

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mister, this is a question; this is not a debate.

SHRI SARDAR AMJAD ALI : I am raising the question with regard to this particular document.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Yes, but you are taking so long.

SHRI SARDAR AMJAD ALI : It is not long. I am not going...

MR. CHAIRMAN : That is my view. Your view may be different.

SHRI SARDAR AMJAD ALI : Sir, I am not going to read it. The question is whether the Government is aware of the fact that...

MR. CHAIRMAN : I think the question has been put. You have already put the question. Now wait for the answer.

SHRI SARDAR AMJAD ALI : Sir, I have started my question by saying 'whether the Government is aware'.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now you are repeating it.

SHRI SARDAR AMJAD ALI : Let me finish it. If you do not like that, then let me sit down.

The question is whether the Government is aware of the fact that with the decision taken by the Government for canalising these items in the export front, the exporters of our country are already exporting huge quantities of these hides and semi-tanned hides and skins with the result that the indigenous raw material is getting completely dried up, causing thereby great concern and closing up of the small industries.

SHRI A. C. GEORGE : Sir, early this year the other competing countries, mainly Brazil and Argentina, banned the import of semi-finished leather. Because of that situation there was a spurt in our market. Last year, i.e. 1971-72, our export of semi-finished leather was to the tune of Rs. 84 crores. This year it is quite possible, it is quite likely that we touch the figure of Rs. 140 crores because of the high spurt in the demand in the international market. I agree with the hon. Member that there was an increase in the export of semifinished leather. When the visible sign of this, not so healthy sign, was known to us, on 14-12-1972 the export of semi-finished goods was canalised through the STC. This measure was taken to regulate and discipline this trade. We cannot put a complete ban overnight because this would upset the entire marketing organisation. Our intention, however, is to put quota restriction from 1-4-1973, in the sense that we are pegging it down to the 1971-72 level and over a period of five years to bring it down periodically to the level that was existing in 1971-72. This is the basic raw material for the weaker sections of the society, namely the shoe makers, cobblers and other poor people. So, we are quite aware of this problem and it is precisely to discipline this whole trade that we canalised it through the STC. We are taking prompt measures to see that the raw material is available and to give disincentive to the semi-finished and give incentive to the finished leather.

SHRI SARDAR AMJAD ALI : My next question is that while considering the representation made by this Export Organisation, whether the Government will give consideration for giving more facilities to the small leather manufacturers than to the footwear manufacturers.

SHRI A. C. GEORGE : Even at the level of the semi-finished leather, our intention is to reduce the slab of the export performance of the top people and pass it on to the people who are having low performance, smaller price. Like that, in the export of finished leather goods also preference will always be given to the small sector.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI : The statement made by the hon. Minister in reply to the question of Mr. Amjad Ali shows an amateur's attempt in adopting a policy which has resulted in discouraging employment in Small Scale Sector. This Ministry has got a permissive attitude so far as the large-scale traders or the capitalists are concerned. How the Minister has the guts to say ...

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, Mr. Kul-karni, is this the question whether they have got the guts to say all that ?

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI : The Minister is suggesting that it will be done in a phased manner. You ought to have come forward with a straightforward plan to help the small-scale industry, you should have helped them. The difficulty seems to be that the Commerce Ministry has got no straightforward plan to boost exports in the small-scale industry. That is why all these difficulties crop up.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Are you going to put a question ?

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI : I want to know : What is your scheme to plug all these loopholes and help the small-scale sector ?

PROF. DEBIPRASAD CHATTOPADHYAYA : I quite appreciate the hon. Member's anxiety for the weaker sections in this industry. It is a fact that export of semi-processed hides and skins went up phenomenally high in the year 1972-73. Therefore we are taking adequate measures; there is no half hearted measure, nor is there any vacillation; nothing of that sort. We have taken the decision to reduce the quota of semi-processed skins and hides ...

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI : But the point is why ...

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Kulkarni, will you allow him to complete the answer or not?

PROF. DEBIPRASAD CHATTOPADHYAYA : The question is we must take into account the infrastructural capacity 2—160 RSS/73

of the weaker sections. We may ban totally but the question is whether the materials that we have can be economically and profitably utilised by the existing capacity of finished textiles in the country. So our policy is two-fold, gradually to reduce the quantum of export of semifinished hides and skins and also to increase the infrastructural capacity so that the our raw materials things that are profitably utilised within the country. So we have a policy. I would also like to say that this is a big and complicated question and we are thinking of setting up a Leather Export Development Corporation which will look after the whole thing because we attach very much importance to the whole industry.

SHRI N. R. CHOUDHURY : Will the Minister please give an idea of the magnitude of the loss of foreign exchange as a result of over-invoicing and underinvoicing in the matter of export of tanned leather? Here is a letter written by one firm to the Chairman of the Export Promotion Council for finished leather and leather manufactures and here a definite charge has been made of under-invoicing with the direct connivance of the Export Promotion Council.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Kindly put your question.

SHRI N. R. CHOUDHURY : My question is whether the Government is aware of the fact that there is loss of foreign exchange because of underinvoicing and overinvoicing and in this the Export Promotion Council has got direct connivance.

PROF. DEBIPRASAD CHATTOPADHYAYA : Sir, I repudiate this suggestion. This matter of underinvoicing and overinvoicing is a very general question. If there is any specific allegation which he can bring to our notice we will certainly look into that.

SHRI N. R. CHOUDHURY : I have got it here.

MR. CHAIRMAN : He will look into it then.

श्री मान सिंह वर्मा : श्रीमन्, विगत सप्ताह भी इसी प्रकार का एक प्रश्न आया था और माननीय मंत्री जी ने यही उत्तर दिया था कि हमको इस बात पर चिन्ता है और यहां पर चमड़े की बड़ी भारी कमी हो गई है। सम्भवतः माननीय मंत्री जी यह समझते होंगे कि चमड़े की कमी के कारण आगरा, कानपुर, और बंगाल, जहां जहां भी चमड़े का काम होता है, वहां पर लाखों लाखों की संख्या में लोग बेरोजगार हो गये हैं। जैसा आपने कहा कि हाइड एण्ड स्किन पर बैन लगा दिया गया है, लेकिन आपको भालूम होगा कि कच्चा चमड़ा, सेमी प्रोसेस के बहाने से रा-मटिरियल बाहर जा रहा है। आज कच्चे चमड़े के ऊपर इस तरह का मसाला लगा दिया जाता है कि वह सेमी प्रोसेस के नाम पर बाहर भेजा जा सके और इस तरह से कच्चा चमड़ा हमारे देश से बाहर भेजा जा रहा है जिसका नतीजा यह हो रहा है कि हमारे देश में जो बीकर सैक्शन हैं, जो इस पर अपनी रोजी निर्भर करता है, वह बेरोजगार हो रहा है। आप यह जो कच्चा और पक्का चमड़ा है, उसका बाहर जाना बन्द कर दें ताकि देश की जरूरत पूरी हो सके और जो लोग बेरोजगार हो गये हैं, वे काम पर लग सकें।

SHRI A. C. GEORGE : I think there is a slight confusion in the question of the hon. Member. Even now the export of raw hides and skins is banned. It is only the semi-finished leather about which there is some relaxation. If there are any instances where under the guise of semifinished leather they are exporting raw hides and skins and if they are brought to out notice, we will definitely take action against them.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Next question.

NOCTURNAL VISIT TO DELHI UNIVERSITY'S NEW WOMEN HOSTEL

*3. **SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA :** Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state : (a) whether his attention has been drawn to a report appearing in the Times of India of March 11, 1973 regarding the "nocturnal visit" by "some miscreants in a white car to Delhi University's new women hostel" and the teasing of some girls;

(b) whether his attention has also been drawn to the report that owner of the car is a Congress Leader from a neighbouring State, having many business enterprises;

(c) if so, will the Minister please furnish the relevant particulars including the name of the owner of the car; and

(d) what action, if any Government have taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI K.C.PANT) : (a) and (b) Attention of the Government has been drawn to this report.

(c) and (d) Some inmates of the Post-Graduate Hostel for Women, Delhi University, alleged in a written complaint dated 19th February 1973, addressed to the Chairman of the Managing Committee of the Hostel that there was an incident of intimidation of a girl of the Hostel and her escort by the occupants of a white Ambassador car, No. USS-5113 at about 10-15 p.m. on 17th February 1973. It was also alleged in the complaint that three persons again came in a white Ambassador car to the gate of the Hostel on 18th February 1973, at about 12-30 a.m. and blew the horn. The complainants presumed that this was again car No. USS-5113. On being accosted by the chowkidar of the Hostel, one of the occupants is alleged to have fired from an air-gun a pellet hitting the Chowkidar. Thereafter the occupants fled in the car. The registered owners of car No. USS-5113 are M/s Narang Brothers and Company Ltd. A case has been regis-