

(b) Regarding exports, a series of measures have been taken by the Government to boost exports. These measures include mainly import replenishment, removal of capacity constraints, priority in allocation of scarce raw materials, railway freight concessions, drawback of import and excise duties, strengthening of institutional set up, trade agreements, trade fairs and exhibitions abroad, exchange of trade delegations, etc. In regard to our exports to Asia, the Government is trying to increase exports through bilateral trade agreements, exhibitions and fairs etc. Efforts towards Regional Economic Co-operation in Asia are also under way.

(c) The main factors responsible for the steep fall in exports of silk textiles are as under:—

(i) Non-compliance with the changing fashion trend.

(ii) Deterioration in quality.

(iii) Influx of too many exporters into the market resulting in unhealthy competition.

(iv) Fluctuation in prices and high cost particularly in the case of tasar fabrics.

(v) Inadequate publicity.

2. The following steps have been taken to step up exports :

(a) Import replenishment scheme has been streamlined.

(b) Compensatory support available to natural silk products containing 100% tasar silk yarn has been extended to tasar-mixed products also with effect from 1.3.72.

(c) Quality control has been tightened at pre-shipment inspection stage.

(d) Floor export prices have been fixed for scarves, stoles and ties. The question of fixation of floor prices of other silk items is under consideration of the Central Silk Board.]

SELECTION OF LADIES FOR EXPO '70

255. SHRI DHARAM CHAND JAIN : Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of ladies were selected for Expo 1970 held at Osaka if so, the number of ladies sent from India who paid for their own air travel expenses to and fro;

(b) the number of Indian nationals employed (males and females) at Osaka Expo 1970, who were already there and how many of them returned to India on Government expense indicating their names; and

(c) in what circumstances the expenditure for their back journey was met by Government ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE) : (a) Yes, Sir. The Ministry of Foreign Trade selected 27 ladies in India to work as hostesses in the India Pavilion at Expo '70 Osaka (Japan). None of these ladies went at their own expense and the Government of India paid their travel expenses to and fro.

(b) and (c) 10 Indian nationals were employed locally in Osaka. Six were men and 4 women. Only one Kumari Kum Kum Mathur, daughter of Shri Raghbir Dayal, Deputy Commissioner General for Expo '70, returned to India at Government cost as a dependent member of the officer's family.

हाथी दांत की हस्तकला-वस्तुओं का निर्यात

256. श्रीमती लक्ष्मी कुमारी चूडावत : क्या विदेश व्यापार मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि

(क) क्या यह सच है कि हाथी दांत की भारतीय हस्तकला वस्तुओं की विदेशों में भारी मांग है;

(ख) क्या यह भी सच है कि विदेशी बाजारों में हमारी वस्तुओं की प्रतियोगिता चीन तथा हांगकांग की वस्तुओं के साथ है,

(ग) क्या यह सच है कि सरकार ने हाथी दांत पर आयात शुल्क 40 प्रतिशत से बढ़ाकर 50 प्रतिशत कर दिया है.

(घ) क्या यह भी सच है कि शुल्क में इस वृद्धि के कारण हाथी दात की वस्तुओं के हमारा निर्यात पर बुरा असर पड़ा है और ऐसी सभावना है कि इस सबध में चीन विदेशी बाजारों में भारत से आगे निकल जायेगा और

(ङ) क्या सरकार शुल्क में की गई उक्त वृद्धि को वापस लेने के बारे में सोच रही है ताकि हाथी दात की हमारी हस्तकला-वस्तुएं विदेशी बाजारों में प्रतिस्पर्धा कर सके ?

[[EXPORTS OF IVORY-HANDICRAFTS

256. SHRIMATI LAKSHMI KUMARI CHUNDAWAT Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state

(a) whether it is a fact that the ivory handicrafts from India are in great demand in foreign countries,

(b) whether it is also a fact that our products have to compete with those of China and Hong-Kong in the foreign markets,

(c) whether it is a fact that import duty on ivory has been increased by Government from 40 to 90 percent,

(d) whether it is also a fact that as a result of this increase in duty, our exports of ivory goods have been adversely affected and there is livelihood of India losing ground to China in foreign markets in this regard, and

(e) whether Government are considering to withdraw the said increase in duty in order to enable our ivory craft to compete in the markets abroad ?]

विदेश व्यापार मंत्रालय में उपमन्त्री (श्री ए० सी० जार्ज) (क) हाथी दात से बनी हस्तशिल्प की वस्तुओं के निम्नलिखित निर्यात आकड़ों से विदेशों में माग की स्थिति का पता चलता है —

वर्ष	मूल्य लाख रुपये में
1967-68	7 26
1968-69	18 76
1969-70	20 88
1970-71	18 48
1971-72 (नवम्बर, 1971 तक)	8 88

(ख) तथा (ग) जी हा।

(घ) अप्रैल 1972 में शुल्क में वृद्धि किये जाने से पहले भी वर्ष 1971-72 में निर्यातों में गिरावट का रुख रहा है परन्तु यह गिरावट विदेशों में हाथी दात से बने माल की माग में कमी आने के कारण हुई है।

(ङ) शुल्क की अपेक्षाकृत ऊँची दरों के विरोध में हाथी दात से बने माल के निर्यातकों और व्यापारी वर्ग में अभ्यावेदन प्राप्त हुए हैं और इस मामले पर वित्त मंत्रालय के साथ परामर्श करके विचार किया जा रहा है।

[[THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE) (a) The following export figures of ivory handicrafts indicate the demand in foreign countries —

Years	Value In Rs Lakhs
1967-68	7 26
1968-69	18.76
1969-70	20.88
1970-71	18.48
1971-72 (upto Novr 71)	8 88

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir

(d) Exports have shown a declining trend in the year 1971-72 even before the increase in duty in April 1972, but this is attributed to fall in demand for ivory goods abroad

(e) Representations from the exporters of the ivory goods and the trade against to higher duty have been received and the matter is under examination in consultation with the Ministry of Finance.]

उपहार योजना के अन्तर्गत आयात किए गए ट्रेक्टरों पर लगाया गया शुल्क

257. श्री मान सिंह वर्मा: क्या विदेश व्यापार मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि

(क) जब से उपहार योजना आरम्भ हुई है तब से भारतीय नागरिकों का उपहार के रूप में कितने ट्रेक्टर, पावर ड्रिल्स तथा यंत्रोक्त कृषि संबंधी औजार प्राप्त हुए हैं और उन पर