

realise the export targets as may be seen from the following extracts from the Draft Fourth Five Year Plan 1969-74 (P. 93).

"Policy measures, in the first instance, have to be designed to increase the availability of goods for exports. This will call for measures to expand the production base for exports as well as restrain increases in domestic consumption of exportable goods. Fresh investments in export-oriented industries and adequate and regular supply of inputs of right specifications will have to be arranged from domestic or foreign sources."

(d) The detailed steps taken by the Government under the Crash Export Programme as given in reply to part (c) of the Rajya Sabha Starred Question No. 99 laid on the Table of the House on 26-2-1970 have been taken for approximating as nearly as possible the export target. The recent proposals announced in the Budget for 1970-71 for abolishing the export duty on tea and raising the excise duty on loose and packaged tea with a provision for *ad hoc* rebate for exports at rates depending upon the price of tea, reducing the export duty on jute webbings, jute tarpaulins etc. are also expected to help. The broad steps proposed to be undertaken to reach our export targets are indicated in the Draft Fourth Five Year Plan document, pages 93-94.

SOVIET OFFICER TO BUY MORE INDIAN TEA

1007. SHRI SITARAM JAIPURIA : Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Soviet Union has made an offer to buy more tea from India;

(b) if so, the quantity of tea proposed to be bought by the Soviet Union during the next year; and

(c) what is the quantity of tea which is at present being bought by that country?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE (CHOWDHARY RAM SEWAK) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The quantity of tea to be bought by the Soviet Union during the next year has not yet been finalised.

(c) The quantity of tea exported to USSR during 1967-69 is indicated below :—

Year	Quantity in tonnes
1967-68	20,028
1968-69	20,964
1969-70 (April—November, 1969)	21,298

P.M.'S EMISSARY TO WEST BENGAL FOR POLITICAL TALKS

1008. SHRI N. SRI RAMA REDDY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that she sent her emissary to the Chief Minister of West Bengal for political talks during her recent visit to Kharagpur for presiding over the Science Congress; and

(b) if so, what was the nature of the mission and with what results?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI-MATI INDIRA GANDHI) : (a) It is not correct that the Prime Minister sent any "emissary" to the Chief Minister, West Bengal for "political talks".

(b) Does not arise.

NEGLECT OF 'KATAS RAJ' IN WEST PAKISTAN

1109. DR. BHAI MAHAVIR : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that an ancient place of religious pilgrimage 'Katas Raj' in District Jhelum (West Pakistan) is being neglected and is gradually dilapidating;

(b) if so, what steps are proposed to be taken to ensure its proper maintenance and protection by Pakistan Government; and

(c) whether the Government of India propose to seek the help of United Nations in the matter?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH) : (a) Government are making inquiries in regard to the present state of 'Katas Raj', the place of pilgrimage in Distt. Jhelum, West Pakistan.

(b) and (c) Do not arise, at this stage.

भारत में राष्ट्रपति के चुनाव पर सोवियत संघ का प्रभाव

1010. डा० भाई महावीर : क्या वैदेशिक-कार्य मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि सोवियत संघ के दूतावास ने 13 अगस्त, 1969 को लगभग एक करोड़ रुपया भारतीय रिज़र्व बैंक से निकलवाया था ;

(ख) क्या भारत सरकार को इस आशय की कोई रिपोर्ट मिली है कि उस धनराशि का उपयोग भारत के राष्ट्रपति के चुनाव को प्रभावित करने के लिये किया गया था ; और

(ग) क्या इस विषय में भारत सरकार ने कोई जांच की है या करने का विचार रखती है ?

†[INFLUENCE OF THE U.S.S.R. IN PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION IN INDIA

1010. DR. BHAI MAHAVIR : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Embassy of the U.S.S.R. had withdrawn about rupees one crore from the Reserve Bank of India on the 13th August, 1969;

(b) whether the Government of India have received any report to the effect that the money was utilised by the U.S.S.R. to influence the election of the President of India; and

(c) whether any enquiry has been made or is proposed to be made by the Government of India in this matter?]

वैदेशिक-कार्य मंत्रालय में उपमंत्री (श्री सुरेन्द्र-पाल सिंह) : (क) सोवियत समाजवादी गणतंत्र संघ के भारत-स्थित राजदूतावास ने भारत के रिज़र्व बैंक में अपना खाता नहीं खोल रखा है ।

(ख) और (ग) प्रश्न नहीं उठते ।

†[THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH) : (a) The Embassy of the U.S.S.R. in India does not maintain an account with the Reserve Bank of India.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.]

LABOUR UNREST IN FARAKKA BARRAGE

1011. SHRI A. D. MANI : Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the commissioning of the Farakka Barrage project has been delayed on account of serious labour problems;

(b) how many man-days have been lost as a result of labour unrest there and

(c) what steps are proposed to be taken to conciliate the labour situation?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (PROF. SIDDHESHWAR PRASAD) : (a) On account of labour trouble and go slow tactics by the staff/workers, there has been serious set-back to the progress of Farakk Barrage Project works, but whether the commissioning of the project will be delayed or not, depends on how soon the conditions of work return to normal.

(b) There has been no suspension of work by the departmental staff, although they have adopted go-slow tactics resulting in poor progress.

(c) The project authorities and the Government have been considering the demands of the staff/workers with sympathy and a number of demands have been accepted. Their demand that the persons working on the project should be retained in service could not