

श्री समावर्ति : आप कम्युनिस्ट देशों का अनहदा बता सकते हैं ?

श्री ललित नारायण मिश्र : मैंने आंकड़े दिये तीन साल के। 1967-68 में 222 करोड़ का, 1968-69 में 310 करोड़ का, 1969-70 में 281 करोड़ का ईस्ट यूरोपियन कन्ट्रीज से व्यापार हुआ। उन्होंने कहा कि निजी लोगों को क्यों करके दिया जाता है। अभी तक वह चीज चलती आई है, उसको धीरे धीरे लेना चाहते हैं। एक चीज और बताना चाहता हूँ। हमारे पास जो सूचना रहती है वह कम्प्यूटरी-बाइज रहती है, इम्पोर्ट-बाइज आंकड़ा नहीं है। अभी तक नामों के नाम से और देश के नाम से आंकड़ा इकट्ठा करते हैं। जहाँ तक इम्पोर्ट करने के क्षेत्र में निजी लोगों की बात है, हमारी यह नीति है कि धीरे धीरे निजी क्षेत्र को हटा दिया जाय।

SHRI MAHAVIR TYAGI : Mr. Chair man, I am surprised to learn that they are earning 250% on the imports. Well, if this is the profit, it is as good as excise duty or tax and when the public sector tends to become monopoly, this profit must be controlled by Parliament. Has the Government any proposal to get the sanction of Parliament to fix a ceiling on profits ? That is my first question.

My second question is this ; How much of the goods is supplied directly to the private users by the Government and how much through agents? What is the ratio between the two?

SHRI L. N. MISHRA : Sir, about the ceiling on profit, it is done commodity-wise. Of course, the STC and the MMTC are answerable to Parliament—the Estimates Committee, the Public Accounts Committee and the Committee on Public Undertakings. They go into the subjects handled by them.

SHRI MAHAVIR TYAGI : I was hinting at the ceiling on profit.

SHRI L. N. MISHRA : About the ceiling on profit, it is for the STC. They have got the Board of Directors and they decide what profit they should have and on what basis. There are items on which there are losses; there are some kind of items, on which they give subsidies.

So far the allegation has been that the public sector units have not been making profits. Here are some organisations which are making profits without causing damage to the economy, rather help the economy. Why should we not appreciate the role played by such public sector organisations which make profits? Then he wanted the percentage about the public and private sectors. That information I have not got at present.

SHRI MAHAVIR TYAGI : I said that the profit comes from the consumers. It is as good as a tax. Would not the Government think of the feasibility of getting a ceiling fixed by the Parliament within which you can operate?

SHRI L. N. MISHRA : It is not possible to come to the Parliament for every item for fixing the profits. There are many items where we make profits or losses. After all what is the percentage? That is sometimes 5 per cent, sometimes 12 per cent, and some-times 11 per cent. We have to take the overall view of the performance of the public sector organisations.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Next question.

PRODUCTION AND IMPORT OF COTTON

*6ai. SHRI R. P. KHAITAN : Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state :

(a) the quantity of cotton (i) produced in the country, (ii) imported from abroad, (iii) consumed in the country and (iv) exported to foreign countries, during the last three years;

(b) the amount of foreign exchange earned on account of its export and the amount of foreign exchange spent on account of its import during the last five years;

(c) the names of the countries from which cotton was imported and the countries to which it was exported;

(d) whether any steps have been taken by Government to produce that quality of cotton which is required to be imported; and

(e) the areas earmarked for production of cotton of the imported quality ?

THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI L. N. MISHRA) : (a) to (c) A statement is attached.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) About 2.15 lakh acres.

STATEMENT

(a)

(Figures in lakh bales of cotton)

Years (ending Aug.)	Production	Import	Export	Consumption		
				Indian	Foreign	Total
1966-67	53.00	7.82	2.45	51.83	5.80	57.63
1967-68	60.50	7.78	2.37	53.63	8.03	61.66
1968-69	58.50	4.29	51.90	56.04	5.95	61.99

(b) and (c)

(In crores of Rupees)

Years (April-March)	Import	Export
	(Expenditure)	(Earnings)
1965-66	28.0	9.7
1966-67 (April-May, 1966) (Pre-devaluation)	5.7	1.3
(June, 66-March, 67) (Post-devaluation)	34.7	9.8
1967-68	38.9	15.9
1968-69	63.3	12.4
1969-70	55.8	18.4

The above figures of foreign exchange expenditure are in respect of imports from the UAR, Sudan, East Africa, Syria and Peru but do not cover imports from the USA from where imports are mostly under PL-480 arrangements.

Exports of cotton are effected to Japan, the United Kingdom, the United States of America, Yugoslavia, Hungary, Belgium, France, Hong Kong and some other European countries.

श्री आर० पी० खेतान : मंत्री जी ने जो स्टेटमेंट दिया है उस में पी०एल० 480 के फीगर्स नहीं दिये गये हैं। तो क्या मैं मंत्री जी से जान सकता हूँ कि पी०एल० 480 के एक्सपोर्ट एक्सपेंडिचर में अगर आप के पास फीगर्स हैं तो वे और काटन का जो इम्पोर्ट हो रहा है वह 1968-69 में 63.3 करोड़ रुपये का आप ने दिखाया है और पी०एल० 480 से अलग होता है तो इस के मायने यह

है कि करीब 100 करोड़ से ऊपर का इम्पोर्ट काटन का होता है, तो यहां जो रुई पदा होती है उस को प्रोडक्शन बढ़ाने का क्या इंतजाम किया गया है? क्योंकि यहां की रुई का पिछले दस वर्ष में कोई प्रोडक्शन नहीं बढ़ा। तो उस के लिए आप क्या कर रहे हैं जिस से कि रुई का इम्पोर्ट धीरे धीरे कम हो जाय?

श्री ललित नारायण मिश्र : जहाँ तक अमरीका का सवाल है हम लोग एक तिहाई रुई अमरीका से मंगते हैं पी० एल० 480 के अंतर्गत, 80, 90 करोड़ की टोटल कपास हम बाहर से मंगते हैं। 1/3 वहाँ से और 2/3 सूडान, इजिप्त और पूर्वी अफ्रीका के देशों से। जहाँ तक कपास उपजाने की बात है, इधर इस वर्षों में कपास का उत्पादन बढ़ा है लेकिन इतना नहीं बढ़ा जितना कि बढ़ना चाहिए था। हम चाहते हैं कि हम किसानों को सीडिंग फर्टिलाइजर, पेस्टोसाइड्स और सल्फीडी दे, पेस्टोसाइड्स के लिए हमारी राय है कि वह किसान को सी फिसदी दिया जाय। हम योजना आयोग से और वित्त मंत्रालय से इस विषय में बात कर रहे हैं और चाहते हैं कि किसानों को यह सब दिया जाय। कपास में हमारे यहाँ सब से बड़ी कमी यह है कि प्रति एकड़ हमारी उपज बहुत कम है दुनिया के अन्य देशों के मुकाबले में और उस उपज को बढ़ाने का एक तरीका यह है कि हम किसानों को अच्छा बीज दें, खाद दें और पेस्टोसाइड्स से किसानों की मदद करें। वह हम करना चाहते हैं।

श्री आर० पी० खेतान : यह जो हम लोगों ने नेशनल काटन कारपोरेशन बनाया है उस के बारे में आज पैपर्स में यह था कि हमारे पास पूरी मशीनरी नहीं है इसलिए हम लोग इसको पूरा हाथ में नहीं ले रहे हैं और धीरे धीरे कर के लेंगे। यह सवाल कई महीनों से यहाँ चल रहा है। तो क्या गवर्नमेंट के पास मशीनरी नहीं है जब कि स्टेट ट्रेडिंग कारपोरेशन और एम० एम० टी० सी० सरकार के पास है, तो उसके द्वारा यह क्यों नहीं कराया गया ?

श्री ललित नारायण मिश्र : माननीय सदस्य जानते हैं कि एम० टी० सी० और एम० एम० टी० सी० केन्द्रीय संगठन है और हर गांव और मंडियों में उन की दुकानें नहीं हैं। इस सदन में इस पर बहुत भी

हो चुकी है और उस में बहुत से सदस्यों का कहना था कि डोमेस्टिक ट्रेड को अपने हाथ में क्यों नहीं लेना चाहते हो। हमारा जवाब था कि अगर डोमेस्टिक ट्रेड लेंगे तो किसानों के और देश के हित में लेंगे, लेकिन क्योंकि इस समय हमारे पास पूरी मशीनरी नहीं है इसलिए नहीं ले रहे हैं। यही बात पहले भी कही थी और मैं यही अब भी कहता हूँ।

जहाँ तक एम० टी० सी० और एम० एम० टी० सी० की बात है उसके स्थान पर काटन कारपोरेशन बना है और यह केन्द्रित संगठन होगा, सेंट्रलाइज्ड अर्गनाइजेशन होगा और जब और मशीनरी हो जायगी तो जो घरेलू खरीददारी है वह भी ले लेंगे लेकिन उसमें कुछ समय लगेगा। लेकिन सिद्धांत में तय कर चुके हैं कि हम आगे जाकर के, इवेंचुअली, डोमेस्टिक ट्रेड काटन का जो है वह भी ले लेंगे। अभी हम इम्पोर्ट लेने को जा रहे हैं।

SHRI M. ANANDAM : Sir, from the Statement that is furnished to us I find that during the year 1967-68 imports of cotton have been 7.78 lakh bales as against 4.29 lakh bales during the year 1966-67; that is to say, the imports have fallen, where as in the case of import expenditure I find that during the year 1967-68 it has been Rs. 38.9 crores and it has gone up to Rs. 63.3 crores during the year 1968-69. It is rather very unusual and extraordinary, Sir, that while the import expenditure has gone up in 1968-69 the import of cotton in the same year has fallen. Will the hon. Minister please explain why the expenditure has gone up in 1968-69 when the imports in that year have considerably fallen ? This leads to another question, Mr. Chairman. Will the Minister be able to assure us that there is no over-invoicing carried on by the business people because, in the year 1968-69, they have raised the Import Expenditure to about Rs. 63 crores as against about Rs. 38 crores in the financial year ? This is a very serious matter and I would request the hon. Minister to assure us that, if necessary, he would carry out an investigation.

SHRI L. N. MISHRA : About over-invoicing or under-invoicing I cannot say at this stage because this subject is dealt with by the Ministry of Finance. As

to the question about the rise in prices when the imports have gone down, Sir, the prices have gone up in some cases because of the high prices that we have paid for the imported cotton.

SHRI M. ANANJAM : It is only evading the question.

SHRI KRISHAN KANT : As usual-

SHRI M. ANANTHAM : The imports have fallen by at least 50% whereas the Import Expenditure has risen by 10 times. There cannot be so much difference in the prices to say that we have to pay more prices because the rates have gone up.

MR. CHAIRMAN : He has explained it to the best of his ability.

SHRI M. M. DHARIA : Mr. Chairman, Sir, while we have been saying all the while about the 'green revolution', this country is now aware that last year we have imported cotton worth Rs. 90 crores. May I know from the hon. Minister, have they got any plan and can they declare in this House that within the coming three or four years all possible measures will be taken so that these imports of cotton are stopped? What is that plan? Secondly, is it not a fact that the present policy of the Government is not to protect the agriculturists but to protect the mill-owners? And that is the job being done by the Tariff Commission. There is no coordination whatsoever between the Ministry of Foreign Trade and the Ministry of Food and Agriculture, and from this point of view may I know Sir, from the hon. Minister whether he will consider the advisability of having a Cotton Board for better production of cotton with a view to seeing that this country becomes indigenous in the matter of cotton as early as possible?

SHRI L. N. MISHRA : So far as these imports are concerned, Sir, I cannot give any firm date by which time we shall be in a position to stop the import of cotton altogether. Apart from the question of the quantity of cotton, there is also the question of the quality of cotton, and for the sake of the quality of cotton I am afraid that for a number of years we will have to import some cotton. But at the same time, Sir, the need for increasing the productivity of cotton per acre is essential. And I had explained that point at some considerable length earlier, Sir. We are having discussion; and we are in touch with the Ministry of Finance and with the Ministry of Food and Agriculture and also

with the Planning Commission about this. In the matter of fixation of the price of cotton there seems to be a wrong impression in the matter of who fixes the price. The price of cotton is fixed on the recommendations of the Agricultural Prices Commission by this Government, not by the Textile Commissioner or anybody. We go to the Cabinet and Government fixes the price of cotton on the recommendations of the Commerce Ministry, which takes into account the recommendations made by the Agricultural Prices Commission.

SHRI M. M. DHARIA : Mr. Chairman, Sir, Please excuse me; I had suggested to the hon. Minister that the present prices are not fixed in the interests of the agriculturist and the Agricultural Prices Commission hardly have any representative of the agriculturists on this Corporation. Will he assure this House that he will have proper coordination keeping in mind that it is the agriculturists who are producing cotton in this country.

SHRI L. N. MISHRA : So far as the agricultural interests are concerned, I may say that we have put one Director as a representative of the cotton-growers. Mr. Dharia suggested the idea of having a Cotton Board just as we have the Tea Board and the Coffee Board. This is a suggestion for action and I will try to examine it and see if it is possible. There should be no difficulty if it is found possible. Why should not we have a Board of this type? I will get it examined.

SHRI CHITTA BASU : May I know whether the hon. Minister will be pleased to state whether he considers that a remunerative price for raw cotton is also one of the elements for the stepping up of production and whether it is or it is not a fact that the Government of Maharashtra has suggested a legislation to ban private trade in raw cotton and no permission was given by the Centre? If it is so, may I know the reason for not giving permission for a legislation of that nature?

My second question is whether it is not a fact that the Government of West Bengal has of late apprised the Government of India that there are possibilities for cultivation of cotton in Sunderbans particularly and in other parts of the state and for that matter they have asked for some assistance from the Government of India for the growing of cotton. If that is

so what has been the reaction of the Government of India to that proposal of the Government of West Bengal?

SHRI L. N. MISHRA : I do not remember to have received any representation or any request from the Government of Maharashtra for banning private trade-in cotton. The Minister of Co-operatives approached me and suggested that he would like to enlarge the activities of the on co-operative organisations and I told him to go ahead and also assured him all help, financial etc. Perhaps he wants to double the capacity of cotton co-operatives in Maharashtra. Therefore there is no difficulty about it.

About West Bengal, I may say that West Bengal does grow cotton and a large quantity of the cotton grown in West Bengal, the Desi variety, is exported. About Sunderbans I have no idea but I shall pass this information to the Agriculture Ministry.

SHRI KALYAN ROY : I think the Minister has seen the press statement of Mr. Chaudhury ex-President of the West Bengal Millowners' Association about the increase in the price of cotton; he has said that one of the major remedies is that Government should procure and distribute cotton at reasonable prices all over the country instead of handing it over to the private industry. What is the reaction of the Government to this suggestion by the ex-President of the West Bengal Mill-owners' Association?

SHRI L. N. MISHRA : This was a question mainly concerning cotton. About mills, there are a number of sick mills in West Bengal. Some of them have been taken over by the Textile Corporation and the case of others is under examination.

About the price of cotton as I said earlier there is something like a support price but now the ruling price is about 6g to 70 per cent above the support price. If some mill-owners want cotton at a lower price it will not be advisable, it will not be in the interests of the growers. So far as imported cotton is concerned henceforward that will be given to each mill by the Cotton Corporation and not by any private individual. This difficulty should get solved once the Cotton Corporation comes into being in three or four days.

SHRI K. S. CHAVDA: In 1968-69 cotton was exported to the extent of Rs. 18.4 crores while the production of cotton was

58.50 lakh bales. In 1969-70 the export of cotton was to the extent of Rs. 18.4 crores. That means the export is on the increase while the production is on the decrease. This adversely affects the price of cotton yarn which is mainly used in handloom industry. I would like to know what steps the Government intends to take to safeguard the interests of the handloom industry.

SHRI L. N. MISHRA : I do not know what is the difficulty. The hand-loom industry has no difficulty. So far as cotton yarn is concerned we have no complaint of that type from the handloom industry that they are not getting yarn. If there is any difficulty I would like to look into it but so far I have not received any complaint.

FARAKKA BARRAGE PROJECT

*6aa. SHRI RAJENDRA PRATAP
SINHA :

SHRI KRISHAN KANT :f
SHRI ARJUN ARORA :

Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) The progress made so far in the Construction of Farakka Barrage Project; and

(b) the time by when the project will be completed ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE
MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER
(PROF. SIDDHE-SHWAR PRASAD) : (a)
and (b) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

(a) Farakka Barrage—Most of the work on the barrage structure has been completed. Only some work of pile cappings and fixing of embedded parts of gates remain to be done. 83 barrage gates have been fixed and 64 spans of the road bridge have been completed out of 109.

fThe question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Krishan Kant.