

[Shri Bhupesh Gupta]

it that the Government has not come out with a clear assessment of this thing? It is not a question of reading one's file. Certain economic steps are taken by a particular Government and they have to be assessed in the light of their policies and also in the background of the operation of the economic laws including the laws of international trade which are in force today. Is it not a fact that this measure has been taken with a view to (1) curtailing imports from the developing countries like India particularly because we send a lot of textiles and other things to England and we are becoming a big exporter to the United Kingdom and (2) creating certain difficulties for us and in general straining our trade relations with them? If that is so—and it should be so and the analysis should be such—what steps are being taken by the Government on its part as a retaliatory measure? That is what I want to know. This measure is aimed at countries like India where we are sending nearly 25 per cent of our exports or may be a little less to the United Kingdom. This measure is against us and similar countries and what steps is the Government of India taking in order to see that the British exports to this country are also made to suffer? This is how you should do it, because our balance of payments position is very bad with regard to our trading with the West. Now, in such a situation, if these additional difficulties are created, our balance of payments position will be worse than it is already today. Therefore, in view of the fact that we have such a large volume of trade with the West, particularly with the United Kingdom and the US together, more or less, is it not necessary for the Government of India to reconsider its trading policy so as to expedite the diversification of the trade and develop trading relations with other countries, take away some of the trade from the UK and divert it to other desired channels, so that we will not be affected? I should like the hon. Minister to explain the position from that angle, rather, than say that we have taken it up with them. They will not care for you at all. Mr.

Dinesh Singh, you were the President of UNCTAD-II and you know very well how these gentlemen treated you at this Conference.

SHRI DINESH SINGH: So far as the scheme is concerned, on the face of it, as it appears today, it will certainly impose restrictions on goods which are of export interest to developing countries and this is a serious matter, about which we have already made our representation to the United Kingdom Government. We shall certainly press that and in that goods of export interest to us also come in. I quite appreciate the concern of the hon. Member in this regard, but we have got to wait and see what the final outcome is as a result of the representations that are being made.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Have you any illusion about it?

SHRI DINESH SINGH: It is our hope that the British Government will honour their earlier statement and commitment and will not discriminate against goods of interest to the developing countries. But should that not happen, we shall certainly consider the suggestion that has been made by the hon. Member.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

NOTIFICATION UNDER THE COLLECTION OF STATISTICS ACT, 1953

THE DEPUTY MINISTER DR. (SHRIMATI) SARAJINI MAHISHI: Sir, on behalf of Shrimati Indira Gandhi, I beg to lay on the Table, under sub-section (3) of section 14 of the Collection of Statistics Act, 1953, a copy of the Cabinet Secretariat Notification S.O. No. 2967, dated the 20th August, 1968 (in English), publishing the Collection of Statistics (Central) Amendment Rules, 1968. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-2334/68.]

NOTIFICATION UNDER THE GOVERNMENT SAVINGS CERTIFICATES ACT, 1959

DR. (SHRIMATI) SARAJINI MAHISHI: Sir, I also, on behalf of Shri Jagannath Pahadia, beg to lay on the