

[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

Table, under sub-section (3) of section 12 of the Government Savings Certificates Act, 1959, a copy each of the following Notifications (in English) of the Ministry of Finance (Department of Economic Affairs):—

(i) Notification G.S.R. No. 2056, dated the 14th November, 1968, publishing the National Savings Certificates (First Issue) Third Amendment Rules, 1968.

(ii) Notification G.S.R. No. 2057, dated the 14th November, 1968, publishing the Post Office Savings Certificates (Sixth Amendment) Rules, 1968.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-2351/68 for (i and (ii).]

LEAVE OF ABSENCE TO SHRI BABU BHAI M. CHINAI

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have to inform Members that the following letter dated the 19th November, 1968, has been received from Shri Babubhai M. Chinai:—

“From the 28th October onwards I am convalescing in the hospital—for the first fortnight in the Willingdon Nursing Home, New Delhi, and now in the Hurkisonadas Narottamdas Hospital, Bombay. As per the Doctors’ advice I shall have to be in the hospital for another three weeks and thereafter to take some rest. In these circumstances, I shall feel grateful if you kindly grant me leave of absence from attending this Session of the Rajya Sabha.

Is it the pleasure of the House that permission be granted to Shri Babubhai M. Chinai for remaining absent from all meetings of the House during the current session?

(No hon. Member dissented)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Permission to remain absent is granted.

RE INCIDENTS IN CUTTACK

SHRI BANKA BEHARY DAS
(Orissa): Mr. Chairman, through you

4—52 R.S./68

I want to draw the attention of the House and the Home Minister also to the very tragic situation that has developed in Cuttack in Orissa. For the last three days Cuttack city is under curfew conditions, there is communal tension and the situation has not improved much. Though the State Government requested the Government of India to send their Central Reserve Police force and they sent the CRP in two special trains from Calcutta, even today in the papers we find—and yesterday through a trunk call also I got information—that arson and looting is still taking place in Cuttack town and the curfew is there. I want to draw the attention of the Minister, because in spite of the fact that such a serious situation has developed in a particular area, up till now the Government has not come out with a statement. Especially I want to know it from the Minister because the news is very scrappy and the newspapers do not show what is the genesis of it. One and a half months back there was a Supreme Court judgment concerning music before mosque . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: You need not go through all those things. Just mention it.

SHRI BANKA BEHARY DAS: I am only saying the genesis. After the judgment, the Government of India immediately should have scrutinised the judgment, given some guidelines to different States, telling them how to behave under certain conditions, but they did not do it. So, naturally communal tension in that area, including my constituency, is growing and it has now resulted in such a . . . situation.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA (West Bengal): You have no constituency. You are from Orissa State.

SHRI BANKA BEHARY DAS: I had represented that in the Legislature. The particular case, for which these things are happening, relate to the very village which was in my Assembly constituency at that time. I want to know from the Minister and he should come out with a statement. I would request him also through this