

RAJYA SABHA

Wednesday, the 6th May, 1964/the 16th
Vaisakha, 1886 (Saka)

The House met at eleven of the clock, MR.
CHAIRMAN in the Chair.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS**ADVERSE BALANCE OF TRADE WITH
CZECHOSLOVAKIA**

SHRI A. D. MANI: *261. \ SHRI
BABUBHAI [M. CHINAI:

Will the Minister of INTERNATIONAL TRADE
be pleased to state:

(a) whether his attention has been drawn
to the statement of Mr. Josef Horn, President
of the Czechoslovak Chamber of Commerce,
that India's adverse balance of trade with his
country was due to the lack of adequate
initiative and interest on the part of the Indian
exporters to supply consumer goods to
Czechoslovakia;

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction
thereto; and

(c) whether a Czech Purchase Mission,
which came to India recently, have concluded
any trade contracts for Indian goods?

THE MINISTER OF INTERNATIONAL
TRADE (SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH) : (a) to (c) A
statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

(a) and (b) Government are not aware of
any statement made by Mr. Josef Horn,
President of the Czechoslovak Chamber of
Commerce, regard-

The question was actually asked on the
floor of the House, by Shri A. D. Mani.

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ing India's adverse balance of trade with
Czechoslovakia which is alleged to have been
due to lack of initiative and interest on the
part of Indian businessmen to supply
consumer goods to that country. On the other
hand, there is reason to believe that Mr. Horn
was very well satisfied with the visit and saw
immense possibilities of increased trade
between the two countries. As a matter of fact
trade between the two countries is guided by
the Trade and Payments Agreement so that
the overall trade pattern is regulated on a
balanced basis. Yet India is at present having
an adverse balance of trade with
Czechoslovakia because of our need to import
machinery, equipment and raw materials
required for development projects. This
adverse balance of trade is not, as alleged, due
to lack of initiative on the part of Indian
exporters. The following export figures will
reveal upward trend of India's exports to
that country:

A fresh Trade and Payments Agreement valid
from 1st January, 1964 to 31st December,
1968, has been signed between the
Government of India and Government of

Year	Value of India's ex- ports to Czecho- slovakia
(Rupees in lakhs)	
1960	602.58
1961	906.00
1962	998.47
1963	1379.92

Czechoslovakia on 7th November, 1963. It is
envisaged that India's overall exports will
reach Rs. 29 crores by 1966, which will be
more than double of India's actual exports in
1963 and five times of the year 1960.

(c) A Czech Purchase Mission headed by
Mr. Frantisek Ruzicka, Vice-Minister of
Czechoslovak Ministry of Internal Trade,
visited India during March, 1964. The object
of the visit was to make a thorough survey of
all

varieties of consumer goods available for export initiative of the Indian enterprise or its lack of from India and to explore possibilities of initiative.

purchase of non-traditional consumer goods such as, tinned fruit, juices, fish and fish products, ladies chappals, footwear, cigarettes and razor blades. The Purchase Mission has also shown interest in cotton textiles, readymade garments, socks, pullovers, sweaters, knitting wool and yarn etc. Although it is too early to assess the exact effects of their investigations, it is expected that a₃ result of the visit a sizeable quantity of non-traditional goods of the kind mentioned above will also be exported to Czechoslovakia.

SHRI A. D. MANT: Sir, according to the statement the hon. Minister has mentioned that Government are not aware of any statement made by Mr. Josef Horn, president of the Czechoslovak Chamber of Commerce, regarding India's adverse balance of trade with Czechoslovakia. I have before me a cutting from the 'Hindu' of Madras, which is a very well-known and responsible newspaper and which says that Mr. Josef Horn, President of the Czechoslovak Chamber of Commerce, said that India's unfavourable balance of trade with that country was due to lack of adequate initiative and interest on the part of the Indian private sector to supply consumer goods to her. Czechoslovakia wa₃ willing to buy from India almost every consumer article, irrespective of whether it was produced there or not but he was sorry to say that this was not exploited fully by the Indian enterprise. Now, Sir, would the Minister say that Mr. Josef did not mention anything to the effect that the Indian private sector was not taking the initiative in supplying consumer goods to Czechoslovakia?

SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH; Sir, I have laid the statement on the Table of the House and it is for anybody to judge. It shows that the export trade has risen from Rs. 6 crores to Rs. 26

crore_s per year. That reveals the

SHRI A. D. MANI. Sir, regarding consumer goods, were there any enquiries in regard to ready-made garments, socks, pullovers, sweaters, knitting wool, etc. in the past and whether these enquiries resulted in any orders being placed with India?

SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH-. There are thousands of enquiries coming. I do not know the enquiry the hon. Member has in mind. If he asks me specifically about a particular enquiry, I can say something. As a matter of fact, we are selling all these comr&odi-ties to these countries.

SHRI M. S. GURUPADA SWAMY: May I know whether we are paying fully the imports from Czechoslovakia by our exports to that country?

SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH; It is a balanced trade, as the House knows.

SHRI SANTOKH SINGH: May I know if proper use is made of the foreign exchange being earned by the subsidised exports and that it is not being sold at high premiums to other parties by the exporters?

SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH; It is completely without subsidy. There is no subsidised export in this country. Normal assistance that is given all over the world for export promotion is being given here. As for the sales in other countries, that is entirely a matter for their different economic and fiscal policies.

SHRI G. M. MIR. May I know the consumer good_s exported by us according to the agreement with the Czechoslovakian Trade Mission?

SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH: Sir, I think it is a long list of about 350 items. I can read them all, if you like.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Not necessary.

SHRI P. K. KUMARAN: The Minister said there were no subsidised exports at all in this country. May I know under what conditions sugar is being exported?

SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH: That is a subsidy approved by Parliament. We only extend import entitlements and some cash rebate on account of duty and on other accounts to the exporters in order to enable them to develop exports. It is not called 'subsidy' in international parlance.

SHRI A. D. MANI: What are the publicity arrangements which the Government of India has in Czechoslovakia for publicising the Indian consumer goods? Mr. Horn seems to have said in Madras that there was hardly any publicity worth its name for the Indian goods in Czechoslovakia.

SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH: Sir, words do not speak; it is the deeds that speak. We have increased our export trade by more than Rs. 20 crores, from Rs. 6 crores to Rs. 26 crores. I know it is a tremendous increase. I therefore cannot understand what is expected of the Ministry of International Trade. The consumer goods are about 60 per cent, of the total exports.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Next question.

EXPERIMENT ON CANCER CURE

•262. SHRI DEOKINANDAN NARAYAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a well known physician of Bombay has successfully experimented to cure cancer victims with the powdered seeds of the marking nut; and

(b) if so, how many days are required to get cured?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH (DR. D. S. RAJU): (a) and (b) A physician of Bombay has carried out some trials with the seeds of a tree known as

"Semicarpus Anacardium" on Cancer patients. The physician himself did not claim any cure but could only afford some temporary relief and extension of life to some of the advanced cases taken up by him. A couple of cases that did not receive any other treatment before when treated with this drug are reported to have shown marked improvement. Preliminary experimental work on animals at the Indian Cancer Research Centre with this product has not yet yielded any satisfactory results. It is too early to arrive at any final conclusion in the matter.

SHRI DEOKINANDAN NARAYAN: May I know if the Bombay Doctor approached the Medical Council or the Government after the trials and experiment that he carried out?

DR. D. S. RAJU: Yes, Sir; he must have, obtained permission.

SHRI DEOKINANDAN NARAYAN: May I know on how many patients he tried this medicine?

DR. D. S. RAJU: He tried it on 50 cases of cancer.

SHRI N. SRI RAMA REDDY: May I know if the attention of the hon. Minister has been drawn to a recent article published by that famous scientist, Mr. J. B. S. Haldane, with regard to the cure that he suggests for cancer? It appeared only last week.

DR. D. S. RAJU: Sir, so many articles appear in so many issues and we do not take notice of everything appearing there.

SHRI DEOKINANDAN NARAYAN: Sir, these powder seeds of the marking nut are available practically in every village of India. May I know if the Government has ensured that the medicine would be tried elsewhere in Government hospitals?

DR. D. S. RAJU: Sir, first of all, this is in an experimental stage. We