

SHRI LAL BAHADUR: About particular cases I am prepared to discuss them with him. I have no objection to doing that. He may have objection to discussing things with me, but I shall most happily discuss with him.

SHRI H N KUNZRU: May I ask whether he would supply a copy of the Efficiency Bureau's report on the increase in the work-load of each zone?

SHRI LAL BAHADUR: That is entirely an official document, mostly to be dealt with by the Department, by the Railway Ministry. I do not think it would be advisable to supply copies of the report of the Efficiency Bureau, but if the hon Member so desires, I am prepared to supply him with the relevant and necessary figures which he wants to be supplied to him.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Let me ask him a question.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Not at this stage.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Here it is, I will place it on the Table

I want to know what they are going to do with the judgment of the Madras High Court in Ananthanarayanan's case

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Karmarkar.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Everywhere I am in trouble.

RESOLUTION ON THE ENHANCEMENT OF EXPORT DUTY ON TEA

THE MINISTER FOR COMMERCE (SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR): Sir, I beg to move the following Resolution:

"That in pursuance of sub-section (2) of section 4A of the Indian Tariff Act, 1934 (XXXII of 1934), the Rajya Sabha hereby approves of the notification of the Government of India in the Ministry of

Commerce and Industry, S.R.O. No 112, dated the 8th January, 1955 by which the export duty on tea was enhanced from seven annas to ten annas per lb with effect from the date of the said notification"

As hon Members are aware, the Rajya Sabha, during its last session, approved of a Resolution on the enhancement of the export duty on tea from annas four to annas seven per lb with effect from the 2nd October 1954 I informed hon Members then that though the prevailing level of prices of tea at that time justified a larger increase in duty, Government took a long-term view.....

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Just a minute Mr Karmarkar, we will take up all the resolutions together and have a common discussion.

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: I would very much wish to have this Resolution on tea taken up separately so that attention may be concentrated. The others I will move together, and give my observations on them.

I informed hon Members then that, though the prevailing level of prices of tea at that time justified a larger increase in duty, Government took a long-term view and decided to make only a moderate increase in duty in order that this level of duty could be sustained for a fairly long period without damaging our export prospects. At the same time Government examined carefully the need for the introduction of a system which could automatically adjust itself in relation to major variations in price. The details of this system have been worked out and placed before the House by the hon the Finance Minister in his Budget. Under this system Government would be able to mop up profits during a period of high prices while the industry would get benefit automatically when there is a steep fall in prices. The system will at once retain the advantages of a specific duty and avoid the administrative difficulties of an *ad valorem* duty. It

[Shri D. P. Karmarkar.]

was considered that pending the introduction of this system the rate of duty should be raised to a level which would be appropriate to the prevailing price. Hence Government issued a notification on the 8th January 1955 increasing the export duty on tea from annas seven to annas ten per lb. This duty is a moderate one compared to the prevailing price of tea. Incidentally I may mention that Ceylon increased the duty from 100 cents. (Rs. 1) per lb. to 130 cents. (Rs. 1-4-9) per lb. in the month of January 1955.

Sir, I commend the Resolution to the hon. Members of this House.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Resolution moved:

"That in pursuance of sub-section (2) of section 4A of the Indian Tariff Act, 1934 (XXXII of 1934), the Rajya Sabha hereby approves of the notification of the Government of India in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, S.R.O. No. 112, dated the 8th January 1955, by which the export duty on tea was enhanced from seven annas to ten annas per lb. with effect from the date of the said notification."

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA (West Bengal): Sir, I will only make a short speech. The only thing I would ask the hon. Minister when he is moving this Resolution is that he should see that the money realised by the enhancement of this duty is also utilised for the benefit of the plantation workers. During the last two years when the tea market has been looking up and tea prices have been rising, the plantation labour are not given any benefit. On the contrary, their wages are being cut, I mean real wages. Therefore, it is very essential for me in this connection to draw the attention of the Government to that aspect of the matter, because the tea industry depends to a great extent on how our plantation workers work. So, we should look after their interests and see that they are well-placed in

life. As you know, in this industry, British capital is very much entrenched. It is the British who are earning most of the profits, whereas the small elements in the industry, especially the Indian elements, are not always having an easy time. Therefore, it is essential that, when we are revising the export duty, we should look into the other matters connected with the industry, especially the control of this industry by foreign interests. I would only reiterate our demand that this industry has to be taken over, as far as the foreigners are concerned, and pending that, all manner of control is required on the amount of profits that they make and at the same time compel them to fulfil the demands of the workers.

Lastly, the price in the internal as compared with the external market is not at all satisfactory. If we are to stimulate exports as far as this industry is concerned, what is important is to see that not only we extend the export market but extend it to all countries, not only to some countries, because unfortunately England enjoys certain advantages in this matter. That is why the tea market is in London and the tea auction is taking place there, whereas it should take place here in Calcutta, in India. That is something which we have not yet been able to achieve. We feel that, we should not entirely depend upon the British to an extent that they would be in a position to dictate terms to us by reason of their being our monopoly purchasers in the foreign market and also by reason of the fact that they are here entrenched in this industry in a very vital manner. Complaints have been made by the Ceylonese Prime Minister and also by other people here in this country that some measure of control is required. There is a great disparity between the prices of tea here and the prices of tea in England. Now, that works to our disadvantage. What England does is to re-export our tea to the countries on the continent and make huge profits out of it. Those profits would have

come to us if we function independently without any hindrance from that quarter, i.e. the British. These are matters of importance and matters of policy. Therefore, I think that the hon. Minister would do well to take note of them and see that we get what is due to us by eliminating this monopolistic control and financial hold of the foreign British interests.

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: Mr. Deputy Chairman, I might just have contented myself by saying that I have noted the points raised by my friend Mr. Gupta but as they were not exactly relevant to the purpose of this Resolution, I might not have referred to them. But, Sir, out of courtesy to the House, I will just touch briefly on both the points. One is about the labour interests. I think my friend might have forgotten it by this time. I think I made it quite clear on an earlier occasion that this export duty goes to the Exchequer straight away and it is not as if part of it is devoted to the labour interests but I might repeat to him and to the House what I said on an earlier occasion, that the labour interest is in the attention of the Government and whether it is the Plantation Labour Act or by way of reliefs to the Tea Board, Government is always very anxious to do the best by the labour.

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR (West Bengal): No.

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: Since my friend Mr. Mazumdar did not give himself the pleasure and luxury of speech, I take it that he is not very serious about raising it except that he was giving the necessary moral support to his friend.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Moral provocation.

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: Yes, a little of moral—not an immoral provocation to me. My friend again mentioned about the foreign interests whichever they are. On this our policy should have been clear to him by this time but I should say that we have recurrently heard the point he

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has been making about foreign participation in this and other sectors. He said about some protest in Ceylon about U.K. exporting something of what they have received from us, to outside. We have no quarrel with what U.K. does with the supplies they take from us. They take it at the current prices and in spite of the fact that tea has risen in prices, U.K. has been a good market to us and we quite appreciate U.K. buying more and more of Indian tea. I am quite sure that my friend will not have quarrel with them on their buying more of our tea year after year nor with the increase in consumption that they are having because that is to our benefit. I am quite sure that he will not quarrel with the Englishmen for drinking more tea as we are interested in exporting and in expansion of the markets. They are doing very well now and are fetching good prices. I am quite sure that my friend will have no quarrel with that. There is no other pertinent point that he has raised. So I will content myself by saying that I commend this Resolution for the acceptance of the House.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The question is:

“That in pursuance of sub-section (2) of section 4A of the Indian Tariff Act, 1934 (XXXII of 1934), the Rajya Sabha hereby approves of the notification of the Government of India in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, S.R.O. No. 112, dated the 8th January 1955, by which the export duty on tea was enhanced from seven annas to ten annas per lb. with effect from the date of the said notification.”

The motion was adopted.

RESOLUTIONS RE ENHANCEMENT OF EXPORT DUTY ON GROUND-NUTS AND LEVY OF SUCH DUTY ON CERTAIN COMMODITIES

THE MINISTER FOR COMMERCE (SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR): Sir, I beg to move the following Resolution:—

“That in pursuance of sub-section (2) of section 4A of the Indian Tariff