

Is it the pleasure of the Council that permission be granted to Shri Gopaldas Bulakidasji Mohta for remaining absent from all meetings of the Council during this session ?

(No hon. Member dissented.)

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Permission to remain absent is granted.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

STATEMENT SHOWING OBJECTS ON WHICH AVIATION SHARE OF PETROL TAX FUND WAS EXPENDED DURING 1950-51.

SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS OF ELEVENTH SESSION OF INDIAN LABOUR CONFERENCE HELD IN 1951.

THE MINISTER FOR COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a Statement showing the objects on which the aviation share of the Petrol Tax Fund was expended during the year 1950-51. [Paper placed in Library. See No. P-64/52.]

THE MINISTER FOR LABOUR (SHRI V. V. GIRI) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Summary of Proceedings of the Eleventh Session of the Indian Labour Conference held at New Delhi in August 1951. [Paper placed in Library. See No. IV R. O. (38).]

RESOLUTION RE DIVERSIFICATION OF INDIAN EXPORT-IMPORT TRADE

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : We now take up Resolutions. Mr. Sundarayya to move his Resolution. I have to announce that there is a time limit of 30 minutes for the mover and the Minister concerned and 15 minutes for the other Members.

SHRI P. SUNDARAYYA (Madras) : Sir, I beg to move the following Resolution :

This Council is of opinion that in order to meet the present foreign exchange difficulties and the recent slump in the Indian export market and also to meet adequately our import requirements of machinery and capital goods, the Government of India should take immediate steps to diversify India's export-import trade and start negotiations with the Governments of the U.S.S.R., People's Republic of China, Czechoslovakia, Hungary and other countries of Eastern Europe so as to conclude long term trade agreements with them.

It is a fact that the purpose of the trade of any country and especially our country, with foreign countries must fulfil the following objects. If our country has to be self-sufficient in economy, then we must develop the heavy industries. For this purpose unless we get essential machinery and build up our machine tool industries and other heavy industries, it will not be possible to become economically self-sufficient and our whole economy will have to depend on the foreign countries.

The second object with which we have to conduct our foreign trade should be to get essential supplies with which we can carry on our industries and which essential supplies are not there in our own country or are insufficient to meet our own needs. To meet the cost of these essential supplies of machinery and the raw materials, we must be able to export whatever is surplus.

Now taking these as our objects, does our foreign trade policy fulfil these objects or go to meet these demands of the country ? No, it does not. I will give instances after instances and point out how it does not fulfil these objects. Today most of our trade—both import as well as export trade—is mainly with one set of countries, especially U.S.A., the United Kingdom and its colonies and Western European countries. In 1951-52 from the total imports of nearly Rs. 965 crores, Rs. 288 crores worth of goods have been imported from Great Britain and its colonies and another Rs. 288 crores worth of goods have been imported from the United States of America, which means 30 per cent. from the United Kingdom and the