

The Second Annual Report
of
The Madras Provincial Handloom
cloth Merchants Association
Madras

1949-51



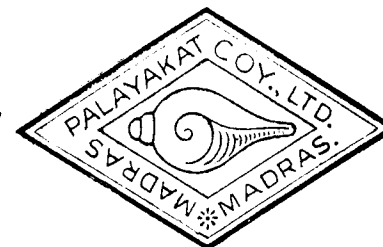
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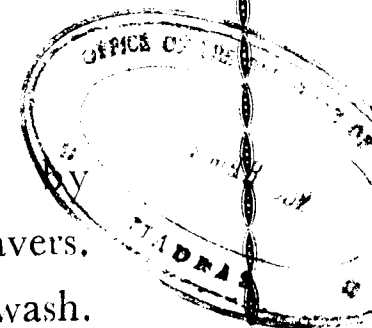
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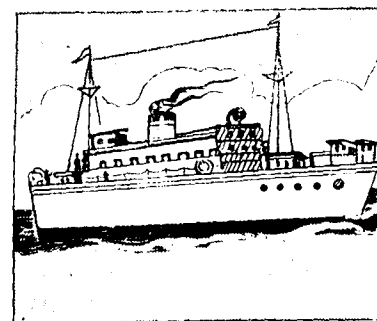
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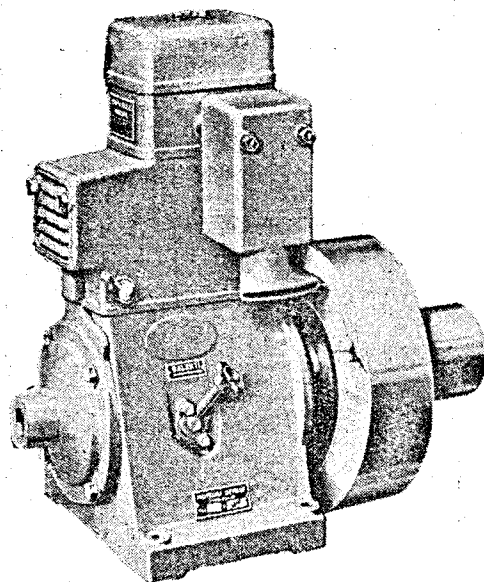
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THE SECOND ANNUAL REPORT

OF

**The Madras Provincial Handloom Cloth
Merchants' Association, Madras**

FOR THE YEAR 1949-51.

*Together with the Audited Balance Sheet and Statement of
Accounts for the period commencing from 1st January 1949
and ending 31st March 1951.*

1. The Governing Body has pleasure in presenting to the General Body the report of the Association for the period 1st January 1949 to 31st March 1951. Our thanks are due to almighty God for having vouchsafed this privilege to us.

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION.

2. The Second Annual Meeting of the Association which in the usual course ought to have been held sometime during 1950 could not be held at the time owing to pressure of work and other unforeseen circumstances. Naturally the Report which we are presenting to-day covers a period more than a year beginning from 1st January 1949 to 31st March 1951.

The last meeting of the General Body of the Association was held at Rajaji Hall, Mount Road, Madras, on 16th July 1949 at 11-30 a.m., under the Chairmanship of Mr. M. S. A. Majid, B.A., M.L.A., President of the Association. The proceedings commenced with a short speech by the President.

3. Mr. M. S. A. Rahim, Honorary Secretary presented the Annual Report for the period ended 31st December 1948 copies of which had already been printed and circulated to the members. Mr. M. S. A. Majid proposed the adoption of the Report and the audited Balance Sheet and Statement of Accounts for the period ended 31st December 1948. Mr. V. P. Sarangapani seconded the motion and it was unanimously carried.

OFFICE-BEARERS FOR THE YEAR 1949-51.

4. The following office-bearers and a governing body consisting of 20 members were elected.

PRESIDENT:

Mr. M. S. A. Majid, B.A., M.L.A.

Proposed by: Mr. N. V. R. Sourirajan.

Seconded by: Mr. V. Sankaran Chettiar.

VICE-PRESIDENTS:

1. Mr. S. Hussain (Moulana).

Proposed by: Mr. K. A. S. Syed.

Seconded by: Mr. M. Vadivelu.

Mr. T. N. Sabapathi Mudaliar.

Proposed by: Mr. V. P. Sarangapani.

Seconded by: Mr. S. M. Syed Ali.

HONORARY SECRETARIES:

Mr. M. S. A. Rahim.

Proposed by: Mr. N. K. A. Kuppuswami Mudaliar.

Seconded by: Mr. V. C. Sreeramulu Chetty.

Supported by: Mr. V. Sourirajan.

Mr. N. V. R. Sourirajan.

Proposed by: Mr. V. Sankaran Chettiar.

Seconded by: Mr. K. S. Abdulla Hussain.

MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

Proposed by Mr. M. S. A. Rahim and *seconded by* V. P. Sarangapani, the following 20 members were elected:—

1. Mr. A. V. Varadarajulu Naidu.
2. " T. S. Subramania Mudaliar.
3. " V. P. Sarangapani.
4. " A. V. Krishnan.
5. " P. L. Krishna Iyer.
6. " P. Sreeramulu Chetty.
7. " V. C. Sreeramulu Chetty.
8. " M. Vadivelu.
9. " S. Abdul Shukkoor.
10. " S. P. Pakeer Mohamed Masthan.
11. " M. M. Badsha.
12. " S. M. Syed Ali.
13. " S. M. Syed Mohamed.
14. " M. Mohideen.
15. " V. Sourirajan.
16. " V. Sankaran Chettiar.
17. " M. M. Rajagopala Mudaliar.
18. " A. A. Sheik Dawood.
19. " Masilamani Mudaliar.
20. " O. V. Eswara Rao.

After the election of the office-bearers, the meeting terminated with the concluding speech of the President.

MEETINGS OF THE GOVERNING BODY.

5. In all 13 meetings, including 1 Extraordinary General Body Meeting and 3 Special Meetings of the Governing Body were held during the year under report and the average attendance was satisfactory.

MEMBERS OF THE ASSOCIATION.

6. At the end of the year under report the membership of the Association stood as follows:—

	1948—49.	1949—50	1950—51.
1. Affiliated Members ..	15	6	6
2. Ordinary Members ..	288	226	163

The fall is due to several deaths, resignation, etc.

DEFAULTING MEMBERS.

7. The Governing Body regrets to point out that there are a large number of defaulting members whose subscriptions have fallen into arrears for periods ranging between one to two years and who have not chosen to remit their subscriptions in spite of repeated reminders. The Association appeals to such members to remit their arrears immediately and thus help its cause.

MEMBERSHIP OPEN TO ALL.

To

8. The membership of the Association is open to all persons without distinction of caste or creed and engaged in the Handloom Industry and Trade. The Association is of more than provincial importance as its activities extend to places outside the Province of Madras and also to countries beyond the seas.

AUDITED STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS.

The Audited Statement of Accounts, and the Balance Sheet, embodied in the report as Appendix A, gives the financial position of the Association for the period under review.

FINANCES.

9. During the year under report, the aggregate amount of subscription and interest on Bank Deposits, etc., realised was Rs. 10,162-13-0.

VISITORS TO THE ASSOCIATION.

1. Mr. B. K. Massand, Government of India Trade Commissioner in Ceylon, on 21—1—1950.
2. Mr. L. R. S. Singh, I.C.S., Indian Trade Commissioner in Ceylon on 2—6—1949.
3. Mr. Harekrushna Mehatab, Minister for Industry and Commerce, Government of India, on 7—1—1951 and 12—1—1951.

The Memorandum presented to the two Trade Commissioners and the Hon'ble Minister for Commerce and Industry referred to above is printed as Appendix B to this report.

REPRESENTATION.

STANDING HANDLOOM COMMITTEE OF THE ALL-INDIA COTTAGE INDUSTRIES BOARD.

10. The Ministry of Industry and Supply, New Delhi, in their Memorandum No. 22/27-Tex.2/49, dated 18th November 1949 approved the appointment of Mr. M. S. A. Majid, B.A., M.L.A., as a member of the above Committee. He continued to be a member of the above Board ever since its inception up to the date of its dissolution. During its existence the All-India Handloom Board elected our President as a member of the Export Advisory Council to safeguard the interests of Handloom Export Trade. With the abolition of the Board he ceased to be a member of the Export Advisory Council also. After abolishing the All-India Handloom Board the Government of India constituted the All-India Cottage Industries Board. This Board appointed a Sub-Committee. When members were selected for this Committee from all parts of the country no seat was provided for the Association. In this connection the necessary representation was made to the authorities regarding the legitimacy of providing a seat for our Association on this important Body. By the recommendation of the Government of Madras, Government of India was pleased to nominate our President on this Committee. Even before he could attend one single meeting of the Sub-Committee, it was reconstituted along with the All-India Cottage Industries Board. Once again no seat was given to the Association in this reconstituted Body. A separate representation has been sent to the authorities, requesting to reconsider their decision and provide a seat for our Association on the Committee.

Our President continues to be a member of the State Handloom Committee appointed by the Government of Madras.

INDO-PAKISTAN TRADE CONFERENCE.

11. The Government of India invited our President, Mr. M. S. A. Majid, to attend as its representative the conference convened

for the purpose of discussing problems relating to the handloom piece-goods and its export to Pakistan. He attended the conference held in Calcutta on 18th August 1949. The summary of the Trade Agreements entered into and ratified by the two governments is printed as Appendix C.

UNVEILING THE PORTRAIT OF MAHATMA GANDHI AT 5-30 P.M. ON 16—7—1949 AT RAJAJI HALL, MOUNT ROAD, MADRAS.

12. The Hon'ble Sri P. S. Kumaraswamy Raja, Premier, was requested and he kindly consented to perform the ceremony and to be the Guest of Honour at the dinner arranged to mark the function. The speeches delivered by the Premier and our President will be found in Appendix D. Mr. M. S. A. Rahim proposed a vote of thanks and after a musical concert by Sri Balasaraswathy, the function came to a close.

GOVERNMENT CIRCULARS AND NOTIFICATIONS.

For the benefit of our members, we have always sent to all of them copies of the various circulars relating to the handloom trade and industry issued by the concerned local and central authorities. This procedure is very much appreciated by our members, as it keeps them informed of the day-to-day changes in the Central administration.

THANKS.

GOVERNMENT: From a perusal of the preceding report it will be readily seen the great sympathy and the earnestness shown by the Provincial and Central authorities, whenever we represented to them the several hardships of the handloom trade and industry, as a result of the administration of the controls and to other causes. Therefore, it gives us immense pleasure to convey to the authorities our deep sense of gratitude and thanks.

PRESS: Several of our activities would have gone unnoticed had not the press in our Province given them due publicity. They have understood the value of the handloom trade and industry to the economy of our Province, and therefore they have rendered unstinted support to the several agitations carried by our Association, in the progress and development of the handloom industry of our Province. Anticipating their continued sympathy and support, we record our heartfelt thanks to the press in general of our Province.

OFFICE-BEARERS—President: It is but right to place on record our deep sense of appreciation of the invaluable services rendered to this Association by Mr. M. S. A. Majid, B.A., M.L.A., as its President. At very critical times he shouldered the entire responsibility of the Association by representing the grievances of the Handloom Merchants of this Province. While representing the cause of the handloom merchants he did not overlook the legitimate rights of the handloom weavers.

But for his guidance and leadership, the handloom merchants of the Province, and the handloom weavers would have suffered a good deal. By his persuasive argument, he was able to convince the Government the justness of the cause of the handloom merchants and weavers, and get redress in time.

In the Legislative Assembly he has earned the esteem and regard from the Ministerialists as well as the Opposition by his sober, yet eloquent argument on every question relating to public interest, more particularly on questions relating to the handloom industry.

Vice-Presidents: It gives us great pleasure to record our appreciation of the services rendered by our Vice-Presidents Messrs. S. Hussain and T. N. Sabapathy Mudaliar. Mr. Hussain, with his pleasing manners and generous disposition endeared himself to one and all, and with his business ability, born out of years of experience as a successful businessman, helped the Association in several ways.

Mr. Sabapathy Mudaliar a businessman of ripe experience also assisted us in fulfilling the several objects of the Association. We take this opportunity to record our sincere thanks to both of them.

Secretaries: In our Secretaries Messrs. M. S. A. Rahim and N. V. R. Sourirajan, we have two ceaseless workers. It was largely due to their love and enthusiasm and to the promptitude, with which they executed the mandates of the Executive Committee that the Association was able to make considerable headway. We deeply appreciate their services and convey to them our warm thanks.

Executive Committee Members: For want of time and space, we are not able to single out each and every one of the members of the Executive Committee and record the great services rendered by each one of them. We think it is sufficient for us to say that every one of them took keen and abiding interest in the welfare of the Association, and assisted and guided it in all possible ways. It may not be out of place, if we mention here, that our Executive Committee Meetings have always had very good attendance. We have great pleasure in offering our gratitude to every one of them.

M. S. A. RAHIM,

N. V. R. SOUKIRAJAN.

Hony: Secretaries.

Dated,

5—12—1951

M. S. A. MAJID,

President.

HON'BLE SRI NEOGY

MINISTER COMMERCE

NEW DELHI.

EXPRESS

19th January 1949

"REF YOUR LETTER HM LI BY 49 DATED TENTH INST. PLEASE ACCEPT SINCERE THANKS FOR LETTER STOP RELIABLY UNDERSTAND FROM EXPORT TRADE CONTROLLERS OFFICE THAT TEXTILE COMMISSIONER BOMBAY HAS DIRECTED TRADE CONTROLLER TO ISSUE LICENCES TO SOME PRIVATE PARTIES IN MADRAS TO EXPORT HANDLOOM GOODS TO PAKISTAN STOP THIS DIRECTION IS IN CONFLICT WITH THE PRINCIPLE OF GOVERNMENT TRANSACTION ADUMBERATED IN YOUR LETTER REGARDING EXPORTS TO PAKISTAN STOP IF LICENCES ARE TO BE GIVEN TO PRIVATE TRADE THEN A DECLARATION OF GENERAL POLICY BY THE GOVERNMENT WOULD BE FAIR TO NORMAL TRADE RATHER THAN AUTHORISING TEXTILE COMMISSIONER BOMBAY TO SINGLE OUT SOME PRIVATE DEALERS FOR THE ISSUE OF EXPORT LICENCES TO PAKISTAN STOP SUCH PROCEDURE WOULD LEAD TO UNHAPPY SPECULATION IN A MARKET OVERFLOWING WITH ENORMOUS STOCKS OF HANDLOOM CLOTH OF EXPORTABLE VARIETIES STOP REQUEST THAT YOU WOULD BE PLEASED TO SUSPEND SUCH PROCEDURE TILL GOVERNMENT FORMULATE DEFINITE EXPORT POLICY IN RESPECT OF EXPORTS TO PAKISTAN STOP PENDING DECISIONS REGARDING PAKISTAN EXPORT MAY I MOST EARNESTLY REQUEST YOU TO ALLOW EXPORTS TO OTHER DESTINATION UNDER OPEN GENERAL LICENCING SYSTEM STOP THE POSITION IN MADRAS PROVINCE IS REALY VERY GRAVE AND THEREFORE I AM FORCED TO MAKE THIS APPEAL STOP COPY TO HONBLE SRIMUKARJEE STOP "

"LOOMCLOTH"

THE HON'BLE SHRI K. C. NEOGY,

21st January 1949.

NEW DELHI.

While I was seized with the contents of your kind letter under reference I was informed by some of the members of my Association that the Textile Commissioner, Bombay, has instructed the local Export Trade Controller, Madras, to issue permit to one or two private parties in Madras to export some hundred bales of handloom cloth to Pakistan. This was really a surprise to me in view of the fact that you have informed me in your letter that export of handloom cloth to Pakistan would be on a Government to Government basis and that "having regard to our overall cloth position, it would not be possible to agree to any supply of handloom cloth from India to Pakistan which would be in addition to the quota already fixed." I, therefore, saw the Export Trade Controller and enquired whether the information I heard was correct. He informed me that the information was correct.

On ascertaining the information I sent the wire to you pointing out how the direction given by the Textile Commissioner, Bombay, to the local Export Trade Controller was in conflict with the principle of Government to Government basis adumbrated in your letter. I thought that since you have written the letter, Government have modified the policy and therefore the direction of the Textile Commissioner. If such a modification has taken place in the policy, then I felt that the benefit of that modified policy should be for all those who are to-day suffering as a result of accumulation of handloom cloth and not for few individuals selected by the Textile Commissioner. This was only fair and equitable. Therefore my anxiety and the anxiety of the members of my Association.

In order to clarify the position I laid a trunk-call to you. I was happy that I got you on the phone. The replies which you were pleased to give me, no doubt, cleared several doubtful points. But the most encouraging reply to me was when you said, "wait for four or five days and you would hear some good news."

You were pleased to say that all the unutilised special export licences that were issued for export of handloom goods to Pakistan sometime during April 1948 would be revalidated for exports to destinations other than Pakistan. In respect of this procedure, I venture to say that the revalidation of licences, which have lost their value when Government were pleased to declare a free-period (23rd April 1948 to 31st July 1948), would lead to confusion and possible speculation in the market.

The system of issuing this special licences during the free period was not uniform in all the ports. Or to be more correct the system

adopted in Madras Port was slightly different from Bombay and Calcutta. At Madras, Export Trade Controller started issuing special free licences to all those who applied for them. As the rush for applications for free licences increased enormously and as the several of the applications happened to be speculators Export Trade Controller, Madras announced that no free licences would be issued but export would be permitted against shipping bills filed by the exporters. This was, no doubt, a very good system which weeded out the speculation and helped those who had stocks of goods ready for shipment. When this system came into force, no free licence was issued from 1st May 1948. Those that obtained the licences since the declaration of a free period up to 30th April 1948 did not utilise their licences as they started sending goods against shipping bills. And as goods were allowed to be shipped against shipping bills, considerable number of shippers did not get licences. Therefore, the only people who are going to be benefited under the system of revalidation of old licences are those who were fortunate enough to get licences during those five days (that is 23rd March 1948 to 30th March 1948). There is another fact to be remembered in this connection. Those that were able to obtain licences were mostly shippers who were resident at Madras City. By the time the moffusil shippers could obtain the licences, permission to ship goods against shipping bills came into force.

I have laboured hard to show how the procedure proposed would be unfair to those shippers who did not get the free licences issued during the April 1948. It is my considered opinion that if it is really the anxiety of the Government to give relief to suffering handloom weavers and dealers in handloom cloth due to huge accumulation in the Province, they should without any loss of time declare a free period to all destination other than Pakistan and with regard to export to Pakistan, they should either arrange to revise the Karachi Agreement as to bring export of handloom cloth under a separate item or considerably increase the quantity of handloom cloth under cloth item in the Karachi Agreement.

Yours sincerely,

(Signed) M. S. A. MAJID,

President.

Dear Mr. Sitarama Reddy,

14th February 1949.

Permit me to convey to you on behalf of the handloom industry and trade, of our Province my deep gratitude for the stand you have taken on the question of export of handloom piecegoods. It was the force of your representation, particularly the one which your Department made last to the Ministry of Industry and Supply of the Government of India, that was responsible for breaking the ice and for including the Central Government to liberalise their export policy. Of course there was persistent public agitation as a result of acute suffering in the handloom industry; but that agitation would never have been brought in the desired result had not your Government taken a parallel action.

Enclosed please find a Circular No. 63/49, dated 11th February 1949 issued by the Export Trade Controller, Madras, containing the procedure that exporters should adopt when they desire to export cloth to all destinations including Pakistan. The procedure formulated by the Export Trade Controller contain several instructions. Two of the following instructions deserve consideration:—

(a) That exporter should submit a certificate issued by the Income-tax office, along with their shipping bills.

(b) That they should also submit sealed samples certified by the Textile authorities.

With regard to (a), I have nothing to say. From one point of view I welcome the system of filing income-tax certificates for this reason that it will eliminate people who are not in the trade and who do not pay anything to the revenues of the State. A considerable number of unhealthy practices that prevailed when export licences were indiscriminately issued, would disappear.

But the instruction indicated in (b) will work as a great brake on exports. Besides it is an impracticable proposition. The circular enumerates categories of handloom cloth. Categories like Madras handkerchiefs, lungies, sarongs, even dhoties and sarees are notoriously handloom cloth that certificates, to the effect that it is handloom cloth, is unnecessary. Besides there are no mill in the country which produces, categories indicated above. Further Customs Officials and Appraisers and Examiners at all the important ports like Madras, Dhanushkodi, Tuticorin and Cochin, have been examining handloom cloth before permitting shipment, ever since the control on export of handloom cloth was introduced, that is since the year 1942. I really do not understand why a novel procedure should be adopted now. Perhaps it may be argued that some exporters might try to export mill cloth under this concession. Whenever such contravention of export regulations occurred in the

past, goods of such exporters were confiscated by the Customs not to speak of heavy funds ranging from Rs. 10,000 to Rs. 20,000 imposed. If the Export Trade Controller wants that no contravention should take place, he might increase the percentage of examination of bales. At present about 10 per cent of the bales of handloom cloth reported are examined by the Customs officials.

Coming to the question of getting sealed samples certified by the Textile authorities, I have to point out certain practical difficulties. The circular says textile authorities. It means Provincial Textile authorities for there are no Textile authorities belonging to the Government of India in Madras. If it is the Provincial Textile Commissioner how could he undertake issuing of certificates to people who are sending handloom goods from innumerable points in the Province and when goods are exported from four major ports in the Province. He has not got the requisite staff to do the job. Besides Provincial Textile Commissioner is more than an administrative officer than a technical officer. Even District Collectors cannot be thought of for this work. In the circumstances the only competent authority who could undertake the task of certifying is the Principal of the Government Textile Institute. He is one man for the whole Province. Though technically he might be able to do the certifying, administration he cannot do.

In view of what I have stated I request you to kindly intervene in the matter and request the Government of India if possible by wire to instruct the Export Trade Controller not to insist on sealed samples but to follow the established procedure of Customs examination.

With best regards,

Yours sincerely,
(Signed) M. S. A. MAJID.

From Government of India, Ministry of Commerce, New Delhi.

25th February 1949.

From

H. C. Sahgal, Esq.,

Assistant Secretary to the Government of India.

To

The Honorary Secretary,

Madras Provincial Handloom Cloth Merchants' Association,
Madras.

Subject.—Representation on the Madras Port Committee.

Sir,

With reference to your letter No. C.D. 236/4-48, dated 17th December 1948, on the above subject, I am directed to say that

Mr. M. S. Abdul Majid, now President of your Association is a member of the Export Advisory Council representing the interests of the All-India Handloom Board and by virtue of being a member of the said Council is attending regularly the meetings of the Madras Port Committee. In this capacity he can bring to the notice of the Committee any problems that may crop up from time to time in connection with the export of handloom piecegoods. The Government of India, therefore, feel that it is not necessary for the present, to have a separate representation to your Association on the Committee.

Yours faithfully,

(Signed) H. C. SAHGAL,

Assistant Secretary to the Government of India.

4th April 1941

From Government of India, Commerce Ministry, New Delhi.

From

Mr. K. Srinivasan, M.A.,

Under-Secretary to the Government of India.

To

The Madras Provincial Handloom Cloth Merchants' Association,
Madras.

Sir,

In continuation of this Ministry's letter No. B-FTA(1)/49, dated the 17th February 1949, regarding the difficulties experienced by exporters of handloom goods to Burma, I am directed to say that individual cases of hardship were taken up by the Commercial Secretary in the Indian Embassy in Rangoon with the Government of Burma for such redress as might be possible. It is regretted that the response has not, however, been encouraging. In view of the present unsettled conditions in Burma and the fact the country is now a Sovereign Independent State it is felt that no further action can be taken by the Government of India in the matter.

Yours faithfully,

(Signed) K. SREENIVASAN,

22nd July 1949.

To

The Deputy Secretary to the Government of India,
Ministry of Commerce,
New Delhi.

Sir,

Subject.—Mutual supply of handloom cloth between
Pakistan and India.

Reference.—Your letter No. 28-FT(D) (83)/49, dated
15th July 1949, received to-day.

Usually Madras used to export about 3,600 bales of handloom cloth per month to undivided Bengal. Out of this quantity more than 80 per cent was consumed by Eastern Bengal. When there was acute shortage of cloth in the Province during war years the local Provincial Textile Commissioner introduced a restriction on export to inter-provincial markets and for Bengal he permitted only 2,000 bales of handloom cloth per month. The figure was fixed by the Provincial Trade Commissioner after consulting Textile Commissioner, Bombay. This restriction resulted in huge accumulation of handloom cloth produced exclusively for Bengal market and the handloom industry was very much affected. We, therefore, agitated for the removal of export restrictions to Bengal which was eventually accepted by the local authority.

Our normal export to Bengal was about 3,600 bales. Out of this quantity 3,000 bales went to Eastern Bengal which is at present Eastern Pakistan. In other words we usually exported to Eastern Pakistan 45,00,000 yards of handloom cloth per month (1 bale = 1,500 yards). The average value per yard of cloth is Rs. 1 (one).

Apart from exports to Eastern Pakistan, Madras exported considerable quantity of handloom cloth to Western Pakistan also. We may not be able to give a correct figure as regards exports to Western Pakistan. But this much we can say that during the free period in 1948, (that is about three months) we have exported 20,000 bales to Karachi alone.

Continued restrictions and ban on exports to Pakistan have resulted in huge accumulation of handloom cloth produced exclusively for Pakistan markets. There are about 75,000 bales of such accumulated cloth. There is acute suffering among handloom weavers and if early arrangements are not made for free import of handloom cloth into Pakistan worst crisis would overtake the Madras industry.

Our suggestion in this connection is that all restrictions on either side should be immediately removed and all transactions should be allowed to be on trade to trade basis.

Yours truly,

(Signed) M. S. A. MAJID.

24th October 1949.

Dear Mr. Neogy,

I hereby confirm the following telegram sent to you this day:

"REFERENCE CEYLON TRADE DELEGATION TO INDIA STOP. YOU (ARE) AWARE (THAT) CEYLON IS THE BEST MARKET FOR MADRAS HANDLOOM PRODUCTS STOP WHILE HAVING TALKS ON EXCHANGE OF COMMODITIES WITH CEYLON YOU WOULD (BE GOOD ENOUGH TO) SAFEGUARD THE INTEREST OF HANDLOOM EXPORTS TO CEYLON STOP".

I need not here elaborate the importance of the market of Ceylon, particularly to the handloom products of South India. It was Ceylon, which came to the rescue of the South India handloom industry when, due to extension of hostilities to Far Eastern Countries, the industry faced a crisis in 1942. Even now Ceylon is the only steady and the best market available to the handloom products. Though I cannot say, that it consumes all the exportable varieties of handloom products produced in South India. its off-take is really appreciable.

Therefore you would be pleased to safeguard the interest of handloom cloth exports to Ceylon while negotiating a trade pact with the Ceylonese delegation who are at present at Delhi.

With best regards,

Yours sincerely,

(Signed) M. S. A. MAJID.

24th October 1949.

Hon'ble Dr. Syamprasad Mukherjee,
Minister for Industry and Supply,
Government of India,
New Delhi.

"IT IS MOST UNFORTUNATE (THAT) HANDLOOM INDUSTRY AND TRADE OUTSIDE (THE) COOPERATIVE ORGANISATIONS ARE NOT GIVEN REPRESENTATIONS IN SOME (OF THE) VITAL COMMITTEES CONSTITUTED TO GIVE PROTECTION AND HELP TO (THE) HANDLOOM TRADE (AND) INDUSTRY STOP IT IS SO REGARDING APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEE BY GOVERNMENT TO CONSIDER (THE) QUESTION OF RESERVING CERTAIN LINES OF PRODUCTION STOP TWO MEMBERS TAKEN FROM MADRAS REPRESENT ONLY (THE) COOPERATIVE SOCIETIES STOP IN THIS CONNECTION WE WOULD LIKE TO IMPRESS UPON GOVERNMENT (THAT) COOPERATIVE SOCIETIES REPRESENT NOT EVEN ONE FOURTH OF (THE) HANDLOOM TRADE (AND) INDUSTRY OF (THIS) PROVINCE STOP DUE TO PRESENT CRISIS (THE) SUFFERINGS OF THOSE WHO DO NOT COME WITHIN (THE FOLD OF) COOPERATIVE ORGANISATIONS ARE MUCH MORE ACUTE THAN THOSE WHO BELONG (TO THE) COOPERATIVE SOCIETIES STOP IT IS (THEREFORE) OUR REQUEST (THAT) GOVERNMENT SHOULD NOT DISCRIMINATE AGAINST (THE) NORMAL TRADE AND INDUSTRY IN ANY OF THEIR UNDERTAKINGS AND (THAT) JUSTICE (IS) DONE TO (THE) INDUSTRY AND TRADE IRRESPECTIVE OF (THE) FACT WHETHER THEY BELONG TO THE COOPERATIVE SOCIETIES OR NOT."

MAJID,

"LOOMCLOTH"

From

The Collector of Customs,
Madras.

To

The Honorary Secretaries,
Madras Provincial Handloom Cloth Merchants'
Association,
Madras-1.

Subject.—Export of handloom piecegoods—Customs' examination.

Sir,

Reference.—Your letter No. G.L. 361/12-49, dated
13th August 1949.

Your allegation that handloom piecegoods are subjected to a greater scrutiny than other classes of goods by the Customs has no foundation. As a rule, opening and examination are done in respect of 10 per cent of the consignment subject to a minimum of two bales. However, in cases of small consignments, the minimum perhaps gives an idea of a high percentage of "opening."

Instructions are being issued to my staff to reduce this minimum to one bale, but if any discrepancy is noticed, the number of bales for examination will also be increased enough to establish the true details of the consignment.

(Signed) K. K. MENON,
For Collector of Customs.

21st July 1949.

To

The Provincial Textile Commissioner,
Madras.

Sir,

Subject.—Textiles—Export of handloom cloth to Pakistan
and import into India from there—Report.

With regard to item 1 of the letter under reference we have to state that until we know the types of cloth manufactured in Eastern Pakistan we cannot say whether cloth manufactured in that area can be allowed to be imported freely into our Province for easy consumption. In this connection we wish to bring to your notice one important fact. Handloom cloth dealers of our Province who have recently visited Eastern Pakistan have informed us that the prices of cloth manufactured in Dacca and other places are almost double the Madras rates. This is so because the price of yarn consumed in Eastern Pakistan and the dyeing charges of yarn are very high. In view of this it may not be possible to market easily handloom cloth manufactured in Eastern Pakistan.

We have no particulars about the quantity and varieties of handloom cloth manufactured in Eastern Pakistan. Director of Industries, Eastern Pakistan will have to be addressed in the matter.

Particulars of handloom cloth manufactured in Madras Province and which would find ready market in Eastern Pakistan are shown below:—

Lungies; Sarongs; Kasthuri; Burma Lungies; Like Pathies;
Ammavarikuppam, Nepthal, Sarees; Gamsa, etc.

At present we have 75,000 bales of these varieties of cloth ready for shipment to Pakistan.

Yours truly,

(Signed) N. V. R. SOURIRAJAN,
Honorary Secretary.

25th July 1949.

To

The Provincial Textile Commissioner,
Madras.

Dear Sir,

Subject.—Textiles—Export of handloom cloth to Pakistan
and imported to India from there.

We are sorry to say, that it is not possible to collect a detailed data, regarding the quantities of each variety, that should be allowed to be exported to Eastern Pakistan, as it will entangle a considerable time (roughly four months) and labour. But we can give the number of bales of the handloom cloth produced and intended only for the Pakistan markets. That we had already given in our letter No. P.T.C. 226/8-49, dated 21st July 1949.

Subsequent to your letter, our President Mr. M. S. A. Majid, M.L.A., received a letter from the Commerce Department, Government of India, on 22nd July 1949. He had replied to that letter, a copy of which has been enclosed for your information.

Thanking you,

Yours truly,

(Signed) M. S. A. MAJID,
President.

17th August 1949.

SOUTH INDIA HANDLOOM CLOTH MERCHANTS'
ASSOCIATION, CALCUTTA.

Memorandum submitted to M. S. A. Majid, Esq., M.L.A., who has been deputed to represent the Government of India at the Indo-Pakistan Trade Conference on 18th August 1949.

Respected Sir,

We are greatly relieved to know that Government of India have arranged a Trade Conference with Pakistan to discuss the import and export of handloom cloth between the two Dominions and that you have been chosen as one of the Indian delegates to represent the Government of India at the forthcoming Conference.

As members of the South India Handloom Cloth Merchants' Association, Calcutta, who are mainly dealing with handloom cloth of exportable varieties, such as Lungies, Kasthuries, Garha, etc., we wish to present below certain vital problems affecting the export trade with Pakistan of handloom piecegoods and over which satisfactory agreement has to be reached with the other Dominion.

(i) Government of Pakistan have imposed duties ranging from 15 to 19 per cent on Indian handloom cloth according to a recent Press Report. Formerly, duties up to 21 per cent was being levied on cloth exceeding Rs. 1-8-0 per yard. The import duty in addition to Sales Tax at 9½ per cent affects the price of Indian handloom cloth to great disadvantages in the Pakistan market. We request that the representatives of Pakistan be urged to abolish or reduce the import duty.

(ii) We have had alarming reports from Pakistan of the imposition of 50 per cent penalty in addition to the import duty mentioned above on Indian handloom cloth which were exported from India since the concession of free exports was allowed by the Government of India. The repercussion of these huge penalties is keenly felt by one and all as the future of the Indian export trade lies in the well-being of the importer in Pakistan. If not already remitted, the Conference would do well to consider this question and agree to remit the penalties hitherto imposed.

(iii) Government of India have in order to help the handloom industry in India, have allowed FREE exports from India without any restrictions whatsoever, to all countries including Pakistan. The main feature of the Karachi Agreement of 24th June 1949 has been to allow FREE TRADE between the two Dominions with a simplified licensing system or none at all. Contrary to our expectations, we observe that applications for import licences have been called for

and some have been granted licences for the import of certain varieties of handloom cloth from India. We request that this question also may be discussed with the representatives of Pakistan and a satisfactory agreement reached so as to make it possible for the Indian exporter to import his goods into Pakistan without any embarrassment.

(iv) Since certain varieties of Indian handloom cloth, e.g., Lungies, Kasthuries, etc., are solely dependent on the Pakistan market the present concession of free exports from India may be continued even after 31st December 1949 with reciprocal arrangements with Pakistan.

We pray that the Conference may end successfully to the mutual advantage of both the countries and we trust that every endeavour will be made to resolve the problems that are now facing the handloom trade.

We remain,

Sir,

Yours faithfully,

*Members of South India Handloom Cloth
Merchants' Association, Calcutta.*

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

MINISTRY OF COMMERCE.

New Delhi, the 12th January 1950.

Subject.—Request for recognition of the Association for the purpose of supplying official publications of commercial interests.

Sir,

With reference to the correspondence resting with your letter No. C.C. 594/4-50, dated 12th December 1949 on the above subject I am directed to say that the Government of India are pleased to include the name of your Association in their mailing list for the purposes of supplying official publications of commercial interests. All concerned have been informed accordingly.

Yours faithfully,

(Signed) M. A. MULKY,

Under-Secretary to Government of India.

1st February 1949.

Dear Mr. Pai,

On the basis of the telephonic conversation I had with you this morning I have instructed my Association to issue a circular. A copy of the circular issued accordingly is enclosed for your kind perusal.

Although the O.G.L. would go a long way in relieving to some extent distress in the handloom industry and trade, I wish to inform you that a major portion of the present huge accumulation is of varieties only saleable in areas now covered by Pakistan. Therefore a declaration of a policy lifting the present ban on exports to Pakistan would alone give the relief to the fullest measure. I hope and trust that, through your good offices, a way would be found to permit shipment to Pakistan beyond the quota of cloth already fixed.

The Hon'ble Minister for Commerce Shri K. C. Neogy, in his letter No. HM/11/49, dated 10th January 1949 has stated, "What the Government of India are endeavouring to ensure is that a portion of the total cloth supply which will go from India to Pakistan will consist of handloom goods, because such an agreement would be in keeping with the past pattern of trade between the territories in question. As you will remember, however, it is a matter in which it would be desirable to have the concurrence of the Pakistan Government who are the purchasers of this cloth, and we are at present trying very hard for that." I am sure and let me also pray, that your Ministry's effort in this direction would yield the desired result which would help the handloom industry and trade to come out of its most unfortunate plight.

However I am deeply indebted to you for the information you have given me on the phone and I hope to hear better news from you in due course.

With best regards,

Yours sincerely,
(Signed) M. S. A. MAJID.

19th October 1949.

The Secretary to the Government of India,
Development Department,
Fort St. George,
Madras.

Dear Sir,

Subject.—Constitution of Provincial Handloom Committee—
Representation requested.

We understand from a speech delivered to the Malabar Chamber of Commerce at Calicut by Hon'ble Mr. Perumalswami Reddi,

Minister for Industries, that a Provincial Handloom Committee is to be constituted by the Madras Government.

Our Association is a Provincial organisation functioning for the last six years. It represents besides handloom cloth exporters, dealers and producers, a large number of yarn dealers. Most of the handloom cloth dealers, exporters and weavers' associations in the Province are affiliated with our Association.

As you are fully aware, it has rendered valuable services to the handloom trade and industry and has assisted the Government in several ways. Its representatives serve on various committees concerning textiles constituted by the Government of Madras.

It is in the fitness of things, Sir, we request you to allot two seats in the proposed Provincial Handloom Committee for our Association including one for the mofussil associations.

The latest Annual Report is enclosed for your information.

Thanking you.

Yours truly,

(Signed) M. S. A. MAJID,

President.

28th November 1949.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. Sitarama Reddi,
Minister for Labour,
Government of Madras,
Fort St. George,
Madras-9.

Dear Sir,

Subject.—Provincial Labour Advisory Board—Meeting
on 2nd December 1949.

We understand from the news published in the local Press, that a meeting of the Provincial Labour Advisory Board is to be held on December 2, at the Secretariat, to discuss the problems relating to the textile industry with particular reference to the situation in Coimbatore, and also of the handloom industry.

Our Association is a Provincial organisation functioning for the last six years. It represents besides handloom cloth exporters, dealers and producers, a large number of yarn dealers. Most of the handloom cloth dealers, exporters and weavers' association in the Province are affiliated with our Association.

As you are fully aware, it has been rendering valuable services to the handloom industry and trade and has assisted the Government in several ways. Its representatives serve on various committees concerned with the textiles constituted by the Government of Madras. Of late, our President has been appointed by the Government of India, as a member of the Handloom Sub-Committee of the All-India Cottage Industries Board.

Under these circumstances, we request you, that we should be allowed to participate in the proceedings of the meeting.

Thanking you,

Yours truly,

(Signed) M. S. A. MAJID,
President.

28th November 1949.

Hon'ble Minister for Rural Development,
Government of Madras,
Fort St. George,
Madras-9.

Dear Sir,

Subject.—Constitution of Provincial Cottage Industries Board—Representation requested.

We understand that the Government of Madras has proposed to constitute a Provincial Cottage Industries Board in the near future.

Our Association is a Provincial organisation functioning for the last six years. It represents besides handloom cloth exporters, dealers and producers, a large number of yarn dealers. Most of the handloom cloth dealers, exporters and weavers' associations in the Province are affiliated with our Associations.

As you are fully aware, it has been rendering valuable services to the handloom industry and trade and has assisted the Government in several ways. Its representatives serve on various committees with the textiles constituted by the Government of Madras. Of late, our President has been appointed by the Government of India, as a member of the Handloom Sub-Committee of the All-India Cottage Industries Board.

It is therefore in the fitness of things, that we request you to allot two seats in the proposed Provincial Cottage Industries Board.

Thanking you,

Yours truly,

(Signed) M. S. A. MAJID,
President.

30th November 1949.

The Hon'ble Minister for Public Works,
Government of Madras,
Fort St. George,
Madras-9.

Sir,

Subject.—Hardships of Indians in Ceylon—Representation re.:

We are indeed thankful to the Government for allowing a debate in the floor of the Madras Legislative Assembly regarding the hardships of Indians in Ceylon. Members who have taken part in the debate have covered almost all the hardships, hurdles and pin-pricks resulting from the recent enactments of the Government of Ceylon. While the enactments themselves are very harsh and several of their provisions offered against all finer sentiments and feelings, the way by which these enactments are administered by the officers are intolerable and against all canons of good neighbourliness. In this connection we particularly invite the attention of the Government to the difficulties of Indians under Immigration Rules in Ceylon explained by the correspondent of the *Hindu* in their issue, dated 24th November 1949 and also to their editorial, dated 28th November 1949. (*Vide* press cuttings enclosed.)

In the matter of evidence, valuable records like registration of names in voters' lists of Ceylon, certificates issued by Ceylon auditors and Income-tax officials and records available at the Ceylon Quarantine offices in India, are not accepted. Although village officials in Ceylon are empowered under the rules to issue certificates of residency, they do not issue certificates. Inordinate delay takes place, but ultimately nothing seems to move in the offices of the village officials. Apart from these difficulties there is also considerable harassment. Our nationals suffer silently several indignities.

This side of India.

Much inconvenience is also experienced by people on this side of India.

The Ceylon Government have sanctioned Immigration Officer at Tuticorin and Mandapam. We do not see why an Immigration Officer is not posted at Madras. You are aware that there is considerable passenger traffic to Ceylon from the Madras Air Port. Passengers who go by air, if they are not in a position to satisfy the officers at Ceylon Air Port they are sent back to India by the next plane. In order to avoid this nuisance Government should write to Ceylon authorities to sanction an Immigration Officer at Madras also.

We are glad to hear that Government have sanctioned additional staff to all those Collectors who are empowered to issue certificates to the dependants of Indians employed in Ceylon. Issue of

certificate by the Revenue officials has been the bottleneck and we hope by the new arrangements all the pending applications will be disposed off as early as possible.

In the matter of issue of temporary passports by the local officials there is also considerable delay. Last month Government of Madras announced that the District Collectors and the Commissioner of Police, Madras were asked to issue temporary passports for those proceedings to Ceylon on payment of Rs. 2. Only two days back the office of the Commissioner of Police received the relative forms but we are informed that they have not received the necessary instructions from the Government regarding the procedure. We would request you to kindly make the necessary arrangements for the issue of temporary and permanent passports without much delay.

Before issue of permanent passports the applicants are asked to get indemnity agreement from others. For people who own property there is not much difficulty; but there are a large number of businessmen who do not own properties and they are, therefore put to difficulty. We request that such indemnity need not be insisted.

Thanking you,

Yours truly,

(Signed) **M. S. A. MAJID,**
President.

23rd December 1949.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND SUPPLY.

Office of the Textile Commissioner,
Wittet Road, Ballard Estate,
Bombay No. 1.

Dated the 23rd December 1949.

To

All Provincial/State Governments.

Sir,

Subject.—Handloom industry—Suitable lines of production by.

In order to avoid a recurrence of accumulation of unsaleable varieties of cloth, it would be advisable for the handloom industry to concentrate on the production of such varieties of cloth as are in greater demand or are in short supply in the country. It has been reported that certain varieties of cloth, manufactured by the Indian mills are in short supply, for internal consumption. It is considered that the handloom industry could, with advantage, be advised to fill in the breach by taking to or increasing the production of these

varieties of cloth. Before, however, the handloom weavers undertake the manufacture of such varieties of cloth, they will have to ensure not only that they are able to meet requirements of the consumers in respect of texture, design and prices, but that they have necessary agency available for the marketing of their products in areas where they are in demand.

2. The varieties of mill cloth reported to be in short supply for internal consumption are detailed in Annexure 'A'. The manufacturing particulars together with the current ex-mill prices of cloth typical of such varieties manufactured by mills are given in Annexure 'B'.

3. It is requested that the various aspects of the matter may kindly be considered in consultation with the weavers' co-operative societies or other organisations of weavers and the trade and this office informed whether such information would be useful for guiding the handloom industry in your Province/State in regard to suitable lines of production. Such action as you may take in the matter may also kindly be intimated to this office.

Yours faithfully,

(Signed) **M. R. KAZIMI,**

Deputy Textile Commissioner.

19th February 1949.

To

The Import and Export Controller,
Karachi.

Dear Sir,

Our Government has permitted export of handloom piecegoods to an extent of 50 million yards, and this concession will last till the 30th June 1949. In the Press Note issued, Government has announced that this 50 million yards would be credited to the quota of cloth already fixed for export to Pakistan. It has also announced, that 50 million yards would have to be exported through normal trade channel and not on Government to Government basis.

We are given to understand, that till now, no import permit has been given to the trade in Pakistan. There is already huge accumulation of handloom cloth suitable for your market, produced against considerable firm orders from your side.

Therefore kindly let us know the procedure which your Government intend to adopt, and the arrangement made with regard to the import of 50 million yards of handloom cloth permitted for shipment.

An early reply would be much appreciated.

Thanking you,

Yours truly,

(Signed) _____

Honorary Secretary.

Encl: Circular No. 13/49.

No. 22/27-Tex. (2)/49.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND SUPPLY.

To *New Delhi, the 30th November 1949.*

1. All Provinces/States.
2. All Members of the Standing Handloom Committee.

Subject.—Standing Handloom Committee—Constitution—
Inclusion of additional members.

Sir,

I am directed to invite reference to this Ministry's letter of even number dated the 18th October 1949, on the above subject, and to say that the following two persons have been included in the list of members of the Standing Handloom Committee:—

- (1) Provincial Textile Controller, U.P. (Kanpur).
- (2) Mr. M. S. A. Majid, M.L.A. (Madras), President, Madras Provincial Handloom Cloth Merchants' Association, Madras.

Yours faithfully,

(Signed) S. A. TECKCHANDANI,
Under-Secretary to the Government of India.

To *7th January 1949.*

The Chief Controller of Exports,
New Delhi.

Sir,

Subject.—Export of handloom piecegoods—Issue of advance
quotas to established shippers to Ceylon.

It has been a practice with the Government to issue advance quotas to established shippers for a limited quantity against quotas usually assigned to them. Several of the exporters have represented to us, that they have utilised their export licences covering the half-year (July—December 1948), and that a delayed issue of their quotas for the period (January—June 1949) would affect the continuity of their business.

We therefore request, that you would be pleased to instruct the Export Trade Controller, Madras, to issue a certain percentage of the quotas against quotas for which the shippers are eligible as usual.

Thanking you,

Yours truly,

(Signed)———.

Honorary Secretary.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONTROLLER OF EXPORTS.
(COMMERCE DEPARTMENT.)

From *New Delhi, the 31st January 1949.*

The Chief Controller of Exports.

To

The Honorary Secretary,
Madras Provincial Handloom Cloth Merchants'
Association, Madras.

Subject.—Export of handloom piecegoods—Issue of advance
quotas to established shippers to Ceylon.

Sir,

With reference to your letter No. CCE. 261/2/49, dated the 7th January 1949 on the above subject, I write to say that instructions are being issued to the Export Trade Controller, Madras to distribute the January—June 1949 quota allotted for export of cotton piecegoods (both mill-made and handloom) to Ceylon immediately among the established shippers.

2. In view of the action taken as indicated above, it is not necessary to issue any advance quotas.

Yours faithfully,

(Signed) R. NATARAJAN,
Executive Officer,
for Chief Controller of Exports.

To *17th December 1948.*

The Chief Controller of Exports,
New Delhi.

Sir,

Subject.—Textiles—Handloom cloth export to Burma—
Licences issued for second half of 1947—Extension of
validity—Representation.

We submit the following few lines for your kind consideration and favourable orders.

In view of the unsettled conditions in Burma, due to Communist trouble, and owing to the strict import restrictions in Burma the exporters in this Province could not utilise their quotas pertaining to the second half of 1947. The Export Trade Controller was good enough to extend the period by one year, so as to make the licences valid. Even in that period the exporters could not utilise their quotas for the same reasons mentioned above.

Therefore we request you to instruct the Export Trade Controller, Madras to revalidate the licences for a further period of six months.

Thanking you,

Yours truly,
(Signed)———,
Honorary Secretary.

"AIR MAIL."

To
Chief Controller of Exports,
New Delhi.

17th December 1949.

Sir,

Subject.—Export of handloom piecegoods to all destinations.

Reference.—Export Trade Control Circular No. 63/49,
dated 11th February 1949.

Enclosed please find a memorandum presented to the Export Trade Controller, Madras on 11th February 1949, detailing certain practical difficulties with regard to the inspection contained in the Circular No. 63/49 issued by the Export Trade Controller, in pursuance of the export policy announced by the Government recently in a Press Note.

The difficulties mentioned therein are real, and therefore we request you to consider the representation sympathetically, and arrange to exempt coloured Lungi Kaili varieties from the operation of the inspection contained in the Export Trade Control Circular.

Thanking you,

Yours truly,
(Signed)———,
Honorary Secretary.

Encls: (i) E.T.C. Circular No. 63/49.
(ii) Copy of the Memorandum.

Memorandum submitted to the Export Trade Controller, Madras on 15th February 1949 regarding his Circular No. 63/49, dated 11th February 1949 on the export of handloom piecegoods.

Sir,

At the outset permit us to convey to the Government of India, through you, on behalf of the handloom industry and trade of the Province of Madras, our deep sense of gratitude for the policy they have announced recently in their Press Note which has liberalised the export of handloom piecegoods to all destinations including Pakistan. This policy is sure to bring relief and succour to the handloom industry which as a result of stringent export control was facing a crisis and was undergoing acute suffering.

We are here to-day to bring to your notice some practical difficulties the handloom trade and industry would have to encounter as a result of the instructions which is contained in the procedure formulated in pursuance of the policy of the Government of India.

The Circular No. 63/49, dated 11th February 1949 contains several instructions to the exporters of handloom piecegoods. We have no remark to offer on the instructions except on the one relating to "sealed samples."

It is our considered opinion that the "sealed samples" instruction would greatly handicap the movement of handloom cloth and would in effect, incapacitate the trade to liquidate the huge accumulation of handloom cloth of exportable varieties which is somewhere in the neighbourhood of 1,00,000 bales within 30th June 1949, the maximum time during which the present concession would be in operation.

The Circular enumerates some of the categories of handloom cloth that would be permitted for export under the concession. Of the varieties, Madras Hand-kerchiefs, Lungies like Sarongs, Kailies, Comboys, Rumals, Burma pieces which bear the trade names like Patthi Sakkimadi, Kasthuri, Kattari, Ammavarikuppam are notoriously handloom cloth. We can assert without any fear of contradiction, that no mill or powerloom in India produces these varieties as they are virtually the monopoly of the handloom industry.

Further before permitting shipment, Customs officials, viz., the Appraisers and Examiners have been examining these cloth ever since the control on exports was introduced in our country, that is ever since 1942. It is rather strange that why the novel procedure of sealed samples is now thought of. Perhaps it may be argued that some exporters might try to export mill cloth under the present concession. Whenever such contravention of export regulations took place in the past, goods of such exporter were confiscated by the Customs, not to speak of heavy fines ranging from Rs. 10,000 to Rs. 20,000 imposed and cancellation of export licences. If it is the desire of the Export Trade Controller that no contravention should take place, he might increase the percentage of examination of bales and increase the penalties leviable under the rules.

Coming to the question of getting sealed samples certified by Textile authorities, we have to point out certain practical difficulties. The Textile authority would mean the Provincial Textile Commissioner. How could the Provincial Textile Commissioner whose office has been considerably reduced as a result of decontrol and whose office is not only in Madras with a meagre staff undertake the task of certifying samples of cloth which will be moving from numerous points in the Province and will be exported through four ports. Besides, the present Provincial Textile Commissioner's office has not got the requisite technical staff to do the job. The staff, the

Provincial Textile Commissioner has at present is intended for mere administrative work and not for any technical purpose. Even District Collectors cannot be thought of because they have no textile experts to assist them. In the circumstances, the only competent authority who could undertake the work of certifying samples is the Principal of the Government Textile Institute. He is one man for the whole Province. Though technically he might be able to do the work, administratively he cannot. If he is forced he would be able to spare, out of his meagre staff two or three of his technical assistants that too for part-time work. Besides no textile expert could identify a handloom cloth on mere bits. He would insist on full pieces.

The ultimate result of insisting on "sealed samples" would be the posting of raw men. The trade would be exposed to all sorts of harassment with no benefit to anybody.

We, therefore, request you to follow the usual procedure which your Department has been following ever since the control on the export of handloom piecegoods was introduced. Only in this manner you would be able to help the handloom industry and trade to realise the benefit which the Government have conferred on them through the policy they have announced recently, to the fullest measure.

(Signed) M. S. A. MAJID,
President.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONTROLLER OF EXPORTS.
(MINISTRY OF COMMERCE).

New Delhi, the 20th December 1949.

From

The Chief-Controller of Exports.

To

The President,

Madras Provincial Handloom Cloth Merchants'

Association, Madras.

Gentlemen,

Subject.—Export of handloom cloth.

With reference to your letter No. G.D. 574/4-49, dated the 8th December 1949 to the Hon'ble the Commerce Minister, on the above subject, I write to say that it has since been decided that the export of handloom and powerloom piecegoods should continue to be licensed freely after 31st December 1949. Necessary orders have already been issued to the Export Control authorities at ports.

Yours faithfully,

(Signed) _____,

Enquiry Officer,
for Chief Controller of Exports.

24th October 1949.

Dear Mr. Neogy,

I hereby confirm the following telegram sent to you this day:—

"REFERENCE CEYLON TRADE DELEGATION TO INDIA STOP. YOU(ARE) AWARE(THAT) CEYLON IS THE BEST MARKET FOR MADRAS HANDLOOM PRODUCTS STOP WHILE HAVING TALKS ON EXCHANGE OF COMMODITIES WITH CEYLON YOU WOULD (BE GOOD ENOUGH TO) SAFEGUARD TO THE INTEREST OF HANDLOOM EXPORTS CEYLON STOP"

I need not here elaborate the importance of the market of Ceylon, particularly to the handloom products of South India. It was Ceylon, which came to the rescue of the South India handloom industry when, due to extension of hostilities to Far Eastern countries, the industry faced a crisis in 1942. Even now Ceylon is the only steady and best market available to the handloom products. Though I cannot say, that consumes all the exportable varieties of handloom products produced in South India, its off-take is really appreciable.

Therefore you would be pleased to safeguard the interest of handloom cloth exports to Ceylon while negotiating a trade-pact with the Ceylonese delegation who are at present at Delhi.

With best regards.

Yours sincerely,

(Signed) M. S. A. MAJID,
President.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA,

MINISTRY OF COMMERCE.

No. F. 52-TP (P) (30)/49.

New Delhi, the 12th January 1950.

From

M. A. Mulky, Esq., M.Sc. (Econ.), (London),
Under-Secretary to the Government of India.

To

The Honorary Secretary,
Madras Provincial Handloom Cloth Merchants' Association,
Madras.

Sir,

Subject.—Request for recognition of the Association for the purposes of supplying official publication of commercial interests.

With reference to the correspondence resting with your letter No. C.D. 594/4-49, dated the 12th December on the above subject I am directed to say that the Government of India are pleased to include the name of your Association in their mailing list for the purposes of supplying official publications of commercial interests. All concerned have been informed accordingly.

Yours faithfully,

(Signed) M. A. MULKY,

Under-Secretary to the Government of India.
Export Trade Control Department,
Custom House, Madras,

12th January 1950.

CIRCULAR.

Subject.—Visit of Mr. B. K. Massand, India Government
Trade Commissioner in Ceylon.

Mr. B. K. Massand, the Indian Government Trade Commissioner in Ceylon who is visiting Madras will stay here for three days from the 20th January 1950.

2. I request you to kindly let me know before the 18th instant whether the members of your Chamber/Association, who are interested in the trade with Ceylon wish to meet him. If so, the date and time of interview convenient to you may be intimated to me. This will be confirmed to you on his arrival. List of subjects for discussion, if any, may also be kindly sent. His office during his stay in Madras will be at the Custom house, Madras.

(Signed)———,

For Export Trade Controller.

1st February 1950.

Subject.—Revised procedure for issue of transport permits for movement of textiles to destinations in Assam (via) Howrah/Shalimar.

In order to ensure that those textile supplies to Assam zone which are moved via Howrah/Shalimar are expeditiously despatched to consuming centres in that zone, it has been decided to make certain changes in the present system of issue of transport permits. It should be clearly understood that it is not proposed to make any change in the present procedure for the issue of transport permits when goods are to be moved by the direct route to destinations in Assam. You are, therefore, requested to introduce the procedure outlined below with immediate effect.

2. Intending consigners should apply to you in the prescribed pro forma in triplicate as at present, indicating the destination as Howrah or Shalimar, but specifying in the body of the application that these goods are ultimately meant for despatch to and consumption in Assam zone. The first copy, which is the original transport permit, should be handed over to the applicant. The second copy should *not* be forwarded to this office as at present, but should be despatched to the Regional Deputy Director of Production, Sub-Regional Directorate of Production, Branch office of the Textile Commissioner, Eden Gardens, Calcutta-21, and the third copy should be kept on your records as office copy. At the time of issue of the original transport permit, the applicant should be instructed that after securing the endorsement of the carriers, e.g., details of the railway receipt number, he should not forward it to this office, as is being done at present, but that he or his clearing agents should produce it before the Regional Deputy Director of Production, Calcutta, along with a fresh application, in triplicate, in the prescribed form, that the second party of the movement, viz., from Calcutta to the destinations in Assam zone. The Regional Director of Production, Calcutta, will, after verifying the particulars, issue a fresh transport permit for this movement to the applicant, in exchange for the original transport permit bearing the railway receipt number and date, and covering the first part of the movement, i.e., from the despatching station to Howrah/Shalimar. This original transport permit will be retained by the Regional Deputy Director of Productions, Calcutta.

Kindly acknowledge receipt of this communication.
Office of the Director of Controlled

Yours faithfully,

Commodities,

(Signed) A. S. L. IYER,

Mount Road, Madras.

Director (Transport).

16th February 1950.

To

The Director of Controlled Commodities,
Mount Road,
Madras-2.

Sir,

Subject.—Textiles—Purchase and handloom cloth for the requirements of Central, Provincial and other Governments.

Reference.—Your letter No. R.C. 1235, 23/49/DI, dated 26th October 1949, and quoting T.C., Bombay letter No. P.C.I./89 (64), dated 15th October 1949.

A copy of the letter from the Textile Commissioner, Bombay, enclosing a list of cotton textile items to be manufactured by the handloom industry was circulated to all our members and also to all our affiliated associations requesting them to furnish us with full particulars required by the Textile Commissioner, Bombay. From the replies which we have received, we find the Commonwealth Trust, Ltd., Calicut, have already submitted samples, etc., covering some of the items indicated in the list of specifications direct to the Textile Commissioner, Bombay. A copy of that letter was also sent to you for your information. Others have replied that some of the items shown in the list could be manufactured by the handloom industry, but as at present they are not manufactured. According to the specifications indicated they have not submitted us the required samples.

Recently the Director of Purchase, Government of India and a member of the Defence Staff have toured the Madras Province visiting some of the important centres, where handloom products are manufactured. From the tour undertaken by them they would have seen for themselves various types of handloom cloth manufactured in this Province. Several of the items indicated in the list could be easily manufactured by the weaving establishments in Madras, but we find from the itinerary conducted by the officers attached to the Textile Commissioner, Bombay and Defence Department that they have not covered any of the centres on the West Coast. However, the letter of the Commonwealth Trust, Ltd., Calicut, could have indicated to you and to the Director of Purchase a rough idea of the varieties of cloth manufactured in the weaving establishments of the West Coast.

Although we are not in a position to submit to you samples of varieties shown in the list or a fair idea of their prices, we may say, that when tenders are called for the supply of the items shown in the list attached to the letter of the Director of Purchase, a good number of the manufacturers of the handloom textiles would come forward to participate in the supply of those varieties. This was what happened during the war period when the Department of Supply, Government of India wanted supplies of cloth.

Yours truly,

(Signed) N. V. R. SOURIRAJAN,

Honorary Secretary.

8th November 1949.

Hon'ble Dr. Syamprasad Mukherjee,
Minister for Industries and Supplies,
Government of India,
New Delhi.

IT IS MOST UNFORTUNATE (THAT) HANDLOOM INDUSTRY AND TRADE OUTSIDE (THE) COOPERATIVE ORGANISATIONS ARE NOT GIVEN REPRESENTATIONS IN SOME (OF THE) VITAL COMMITTEES CONSTITUTED TO GIVE PROTECTION AND HELP TO (THE) HANDLOOM TRADE (AND) INDUSTRY STOP IT IS SO REGARDING APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEE BY GOVERNMENT TO CONSIDER (THE) QUESTION OF RESERVING CERTAIN LINES OF PRODUCTION STOP TWO MEMBERS TAKEN FROM MADRAS REPRESENT ONLY (THE) COOPERATIVE SOCIETIES STOP IN THIS CONNECTION WE WOULD LIKE TO IMPRESS UPON GOVERNMENT (THAT) COOPERATIVE SOCIETIES REPRESENT NOT EVEN ONE FOURTH OF (THE) HANDLOOM TRADE (AND) INDUSTRY OF (THIS) PROVINCE STOP DUE TO PRESENT CRISIS (THE) SUFFERINGS OF THOSE WHO DO NOT COME WITHIN (THE FOLD OF) COOPERATIVE ORGANISATIONS ARE MUCH MORE ACUTE THAN THOSE WHO BELONG (TO THE) COOPERATIVE SOCIETIES STOP IT IS (THEREFORE) OUR REQUEST (THAT) GOVERNMENT SHOULD NOT DISCRIMINATE AGAINST (THE) NORMAL TRADE AND INDUSTRY IN ANY OF THEIR UNDERTAKINGS AND (THAT) JUSTICE (IS) DONE TO (THE) INDUSTRY IN ANY OF THEIR UNDERTAKINGS AND (THAT) JUSTICE (IS) DONE TO (THE) INDUSTRY AND TRADE IRRESPECTIVE OF (THE) FACT WHETHER THEY BELONG (TO THE) COOPERATIVE SOCIETIES OR NOT.

MAJID,
'LOOMCLOTH'.

12th November 1949.

The Hon'ble Minister for Industry and Civil Supplies,
Government of India,
New Delhi.

Dear Sir,

Subject.—Handloom Textiles Committees—Representation re.

I have sent under separate cover a post copy of the telegram which I have sent to you regarding the interest of the handloom trade and industry not represented by the co-operative societies. In several of our communications to the Government of India, with regard to the subject, we have pointed out the importance of the interests concerned in the economy of our Province and also of our country. Co-operative societies of weavers have been functioning in this Province even since 1935. Although these organisations have been in this Province for the last 15 years, they have not become as popular as to bring within their folds all the handloom weavers of this Province. It is pointed out that lakh and odd looms are working for the handloom organisations but we know for certain, that there are only about 80,000 active looms working for the co-operative societies. In other words, weavers' co-operative societies represent about one-fifth of the handloom industry of this Province. In spite of the continued subvention and in spite of several facilities extended by the Government to these organisations in the shape of cheap raw materials, provision of export quotas, these organisations have not exported handloom products during the basic period fixed by the Government of India, they have not become as popular as they ought to.

When we write these things, let it not be understood to mean that we are against weavers co-operative institutions. We only wish that these co-operative organisations flourish in this Province. Several of the members of my Association are even doing propaganda among the weavers to become members of the co-operative societies in areas where co-operative societies exist, and to organise co-operative societies in areas where they do not. If in spite of all these efforts a very large percentage of handloom weavers remain outside the fold of co-operative societies, it is not the fault of any body. However it is the duty of the Government to protect the interests of not only the weavers who are members of the co-operative societies, but also of those who are not members of these organisations. This principle should be applied to the handloom trade also.

Therefore we have been urging time and again upon the authorities both local and Central the necessity of extending Government help and assistance equally to handloom trade and industry represented by the co-operative institutions and those who are not represented by them.

Our Association is one of the provincial organisations representing a very large percentage of normal handloom industry and trade of this Province. Its utility is recognised by the local Government and also by the Government of India in their Ministry of Commerce. Whenever the authorities constitute committees and call conferences regarding handloom industry and trade they have always given representation to our Association.

Therefore we were very much grieved when no representation was given to our Association on the Board of Industries which the Government of India constituted after abolishing of All-India Handloom Board. On this Board representation was given only to those who were interested in the co-operative societies. In this manner, the interest of the normal handloom industry and trade is given the go-by.

At present the handloom industry and trade is facing a crisis due to several causes, the most important of them being complete suspension of export of handloom piecegoods to areas covered by Pakistan. With a view to help the handloom industry and trade to tide over the schemes formulated on the basis of resolutions of the Handloom Sub-Committee of the Cottage Industries Board and of the resolutions of the Textile Advisory Committee. At a meeting of the Association held on 4th January 1949 we have passed resolutions welcoming the several proposals of the Government. One of the proposals of the Government was to call a meeting of the representatives of the textile interests at Bombay on the 10th and 11th of this month, with a view to consider the questions of reserving certain lines of production, thereby giving some protection to the handloom industry, which has been severely affected by competition from textile mills. To this Committee, Government have invited only those representatives from Madras, who are interested only in the co-operative societies but no representation was given to our Association.

We hope and trust that Government would take into consideration our foregoing representation and would be pleased to give us representation, whenever committees are constituted to consider handloom trade and industry.

Thanking you,

Yours sincerely,

(Signed) M. S. A. MAJID,
President.

1st December 1949.

To

The Madras Provincial Handloom Cloth Merchants'
Association, Madras

Dear Sirs,

This is to acknowledge your letter No. G.L. 447/12-49, dated 21st November 1949. At present there is a demand of Indian textiles of certain types in Australia, but I am afraid that prices of handloom cloth will be higher than those that will be acceptable to Australia or New Zealand. As far as we know Messrs. Wales & Mackinlay Pty., Ltd., 35-37, Elliott street, Auckland, New Zealand are among those few importers in Australia or New Zealand who require handloom textiles. Kindly contact them directly. However, I am appending below a list of textile importers whom you should contact directly sending them samples of at least two (2) feet square.

Yours faithfully,

(Signed) ISHWAR SAHAY,
for India Government Trade Commissioner
in Australia,

Cotton textiles:—

Messrs. W. E. Bird & Co., Ltd., 135, York street, Sydney.

Fisma & Co., Ltd., 185, Pitt street, Sydney.

Columbia Trading Company, 214, Pitt street, Sydney.

C. C. Rowson, Manufacturers' Pty., Ltd., 60-62, York street, Sydney.

Ashton Distributors Pty., Ltd., 31, Mary street, Brisbane, Queensland.

Wales & Mackinlay Pty., Ltd., 35-37, Elliott street, Auckland.

Messrs. Keddling, 73, Moonya Road, Murrambeena, S.E.-1, Melbourne.

Messrs. R. Dundas Smith & Sons, 34, Margaret street, Sydney.
C. A. Leuing & Co., 717, Spencer street, West Melbourne.

B. K. Textile & General Importers, Leith House, 127, York street, Sydney.

25th November 1949.

To

Dr. T. G. Menon,
Indian Government Trade Commissioner,
Chaffoo Building,
Fort Colombo.

Dear Sir,

Subject.—Press news regarding restriction to import Indian products with a compulsion to purchase local products—clarifications sought for.

We understand from the news-item published in the *Veerakesari*, a Ceylon daily, that the Government of Ceylon has promulgated an ordinance as to compel importers of foreign products to purchase certain percentage of local Ceylon products, with a view to protect their local industry. To materialise this object a committee has been formed to fix the percentage for purchase of local products by the importers in Ceylon.

As such, we would like you to clarify the position as regards the imports of Indian handloom cloth in Ceylon. Moreover we shall be much obliged, if you would be good enough to send a copy of the full text of the ordinance, if it is available.

Thanking you,

Yours truly,

(Signed)———,

Honorary Secretary.

7th December 1949.

To

Honorary Secretary,
Madras Provincial Handloom Cloth Merchants' Association,
P.O. No. 1598,
Madras.

Dear Sir,

Reference your letter No. TCF-506/49, dated 25th November 1949, regarding Industrial Products Act in Ceylon. I enclose a copy of the Act as desired by you.

Under the provisions of this Act, an Industrial Board has to be constituted and in consultation with this Board, the Minister for Industries, Industrial Research and Fisheries, should declare specific commodities as "Industrial Products" for the purpose of this Act. In consultation with the Board, he should also notify the ratio of the quantity of the local products which the importer must purchase in order to obtain a licence to import a specific quantity of the regu-

lated product. So far neither the Board has met nor has any commodity been declared as a regulated product or any ratio prescribed.

Yours faithfully,

(Signed)———,

Indian Government Trade Commissioner.

To

Dr. T. G. Menon,
Indian Government Trade Commissioner,
Gaffoor Building,
Fort, Colomba.

28th December 1949.

Sir,

Subject.—Import licence for Indian-made handloom silk lungies.

Reference.—Our Secretary's visit to your office on
21st December 1949.

We want to remind you, that our Secretary Mr. N. V. R. Sourirajan, during his sojourn in Colombo, visited you and discussed about the import licence for Indian-made handloom silk lungies. You are said to have told him, that due to surplus stock of the goods, the Ceylon Government had suspended issuing import licence for imported silk and promised to contact the concerned authorities of the Ceylon Government and do the needful.

On enquiry, our Secretary came to know that there is a great demand in Ceylon for the Indian-made handloom silk lungies. As such, we would like to know how for the matter stands. If you had not yet contacted the concerned authorities, we request you to do the needful at an early date, so that the accumulated stock of the Indian-made handloom silk lungies may be liquidated.

Thanking you,

Yours truly,

(Signed)———,

Honorary Secretary.

To

Honorary Secretary,
Madras Provincial Handloom Cloth Merchants' Association,
Madras.

5th January 1950.

Dear Sir,

Reference your letter No. TC. F. 601/64-49, dated 28th December 1949. I have taken up the matter with the Import Control authorities and a further communication will follow as soon as I received a reply from them.

Yours faithfully,

(Signed)———,

Indian Government Trade Commissioner.

To

23rd January 1950.

Honorary Secretary,
Madras Provincial Handloom Cloth Merchants' Association,
Madras.

Dear Sir,

Continuation of my letter of even number, dated 5th instant. (Import of all silk goods including handloom silk lungies) in Ceylon has been brought under licence from all sources with effect from 27th October 1949. I am informed by the Controller of Imports that orders placed before 27th October are at present being licensed and as the order outstanding are large, no new licences will be issued till about the middle of this year.

Yours faithfully,

(Signed) C. A. NAIR.

for Indian Government Trade Commissioner.

To

2nd March 1950.

Honorary Secretary,
Madras Provincial Handloom Cloth Merchants' Association,
Madras.

Dear Sir,

Reference your memorandum presented to me in person at Madras on the 21st January 1950. I deal below seriatim with the various points raised therein:—

Industrial Products Act: Your attention is invited to my letter No. TR. 25/49, dated 7th December 1949, with which my office has already sent you a copy of the Industrial Products Act. The Ceylon Government have since declared certain commodities as regulated products. But the ratio of the quantity of the local product which the importer must purchase in order to obtain a licence to import a specific quantity of the regulated product has not yet been prescribed. The appropriate time to make any representation, if at all, would therefore be after the announcement of this ratio.

Silk goods: Ceylon Government have imposed restrictions on the import of silk goods, primarily because they consider silk goods as a luxury item. In view of the desirability of conserving foreign exchange, it is very doubtful whether Ceylon Government will be willing import of silk goods freely as desired by you.

Leave to shop assistant and remittances: These points have already been taken up appropriately by the High Commissioner.

Yours faithfully,

(Signed) B. K. MASSAND,

Indian Government Trade Commissioner.

30th November 1949.

The Director of Controlled Commodities,
Mount Road,
Madras-2.

Sir,

Subject.—Textiles—Purchase of handloom cloth for the requirements of Central, Provincial and other Governments—Examining the possibilities.

Reference.—Your letter No. RC. 123523/49/DI., dated 26th October 1949.

We have sent circulars to the members of our Association, as well as to the affiliated associations, inviting their remarks on the cotton textile items and specifications that could be manufactured by the handloom industry. We have not yet received any reply from them. On hearing from them we would furnish you with the necessary particulars called for and offer our remarks at an early date.

Thanking you,

Yours truly,

(Signed) _____,

Honorary Secretary.

26th July 1950.

To

The Secretary to the Government of India,
Ministry of Commerce,
New Delhi.

Sir,

TEXTILE DELEGATION TO AUSTRALIA.

I beg to confirm my telegram of to-day's date as follows:—

“UNDERSTAND GOVERNMENT SPONSORING TEXTILE DELEGATION TO AUSTRALIA AND OTHER PLACES IN EAST STOP HANDLOOM INDUSTRY IN SOUTH INDIA IS ONE OF THE BIGGEST COTTAGE INDUSTRIES AND LARGE QUANTITIES ARE EXPORTED TO THOSE MARKETS STOP ASSOCIATION FEELS THAT EXPORTS CAN BE FURTHER DEVELOPED TO THESE MARKETS STOP MISTER M. A. CHIDAMBARAM CHETTIAR VICEPRESIDENT SOUTHERN INDIA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE HAS VAST INTEREST IN HANDLOOM TRADE AND WE STRONGLY RECOMMEND HIS NAME TO BE INCLUDED IN THE DELEGATION TO REPRESENT HANDLOOM INDUSTRY”.

“PROVINCIAL HANDLOOM
MERCHANTS ASSOCIATION”, MADRAS.

South India is the seat of the handloom industry in India and very many large number of weavers and their dependents look to the fortunes of this industry for their existence and maintenance. After the war due to competition experienced from the mill industry the demand for handloom goods both for consumption and for export have slackened so that very many weavers are thrown out of employment. It is not easy for the handloom industry to compete with the well-organised mill industry of the country so that the industry has to look for export market. It is therefore, very timely that Government have thought it fit to sponsor a textile delegation to visit Australia and other eastern markets.

Mr. M. A. Chidambaram Chettiar, Vice-President of the Southern India Chamber of Commerce, Madras, has vast interest in the handloom trade and we understand that his name has been recommended by that Chamber to be included in the delegation. The Association feels that interest of South India handloom industry will be adequately safeguarded if Mr. Chidambaram Chettiar is also included in the delegation. The Association, therefore requests the Government to be good enough to include his name also in the proposed Textile Delegation to Australia.

Yours faithfully,

(Signed) N. V. R. SOURIRAJAN,

Honorary Secretary.

16th November 1950.

To

The Secretary,
Ministry of Commerce,
Government of India,
New Delhi.

Sir,

Subject.—Export of coarse and medium cloth to soft-currency areas by exporters of handloom piecegoods—Certain disabilities of exporters—Representation re:

The members of our Association sincerely appreciate the opportunity the Government have been pleased to give them to export mill textiles on the basis of export of handloom piecegoods to overseas destinations and they are, indeed, grateful to the Government for the opportunity extended.

We have received several representations from our members detailing the disabilities resulting from the imposition of certain conditions governing the export of mill piecegoods. We are placing those disabilities before you for your most earnest consideration and favourable orders.

PRODUCTION OF CURRENT INCOME-TAX VERIFICATION CERTIFICATES.

Under the conditions imposed it becomes incumbent on the exporters to produce current income-tax verification certificates for converting quota allotments into final licences. You are aware that some time back all the exporters were asked to submit income-tax verification certificates. Accordingly all the exporters have been filing their certificates annually with the local Export Trade Controller, who, on receiving the certificates, has assigned registration numbers to each exporter. Even in the beginning of this year such certificates have been filled by the exporters, and they are exporting their handloom piecegoods without filling current income-tax verification certificates. Now under the conditions governing the issue of mill piecegoods quotas they are asked to produce current certificates issued by Incometax Departments. There are considerable difficulties in obtaining these certificates at present by the exporters. In the first place, when the exporters request the department to issue the certificates, the Department takes their own time to issue them. This is natural because the Department will have to go through not only the records of the firms concerned but also the records of their partners and the records relating to their world income. If the Department entertains any suspicion with regard to any one of the partners, then the issue of certificates are withheld till they are fully satisfied with the explanations given by the parties concerned, or till the final disposal of any appeal filed by the affected parties. Again when district officials are not able to come to any decision with regard to points of law or procedure they refer the matter to higher authorities. In other words red-tape begins to operate resulting in inordinate delay. In the circumstances it is not possible for a large body of exporters to produce the current income-tax verification certificates and they will not be able to convert the quota licences into final licences. On this matter we have already made a reference to the Central Board of Revenue and their orders are awaited. In the meantime we request you to be good enough to permit the handloom exporters to whom you have been good enough to allot mill cloth export quotas to get their quota licences converted into final licences on the basis of income-tax verification certificate registration numbers already given to them by Export Trade Controller, Madras. If this permission is not granted we are afraid several quota licences issued will lapse.

EXTENSION OF TERM FOR CONVERTING QUOTA LICENCES INTO FINAL LICENCES.

In the circular issued by the Export Trade Controller, he has definitely stated that all the goods covered by the quotas allotted should be exported before 31st December 1950. When the export date has been so definitely fixed we really do not understand the

difficulty felt by the Export Trade Controller, Madras, in extending the validity of quota licences. We have made representations in this regard to the Export Trade Controller. He has told us that he would take your orders and give us a final reply. With a view to get early orders we have also made representation to the Chief Controller of Exports, New Delhi (Vide No. C.C.E. 238/2-50, dated 3rd November 1950 copy enclosed).

The verification of records of exports in the case of several exporters are still proceeding and that means it would take some time more before the Export Trade Controller, could issue quota licences to them. Further, as most of our exporters are almost new to this line of mill cloth exports they will take some time before they could contact overseas buyers and finalise relative formalities. There is also delay in the matter of contacting the mills for the supply of goods. Therefore, it is reasonable if we request you to give the Export Trade Controller, Madras the fullest discretion with regard to extension of validity of quota licences.

OPENING OF LETTERS OF CREDIT.

Another condition imposed is the insistence on the exporters to get letters of credit opened before the issue of final licences. Several of the exporters, in this State are having their own branches in overseas countries like Ceylon, Singapore, Malaya, etc. They are at present exporting the goods to their branches in accordance with the Exchange Control Regulations, i.e., sending all the shipping documents through Scheduled Banks (against G.R. Forms) for purposes of collection. In this manner when monies are realised for the goods exported, insistence on the opening of letter of credit is not essential at least in the case of exporters who have their branches in overseas destinations.

Letters of credit are opened by buyers only when they have fullest confidence in the exporters on this side. As several of our exporters are new to this line of export it will take some time before confidence could be established on either side. We trust you would appreciate our points and arrange to waive this condition of opening of letters of credit.

MINIMUM BASIC EXPORTS REQUIREMENTS.

The opportunity of exporting mill textiles is given only to those exporters of handloom piecegoods who have a minimum annual basic export of 25,000 yards for the years 1948 or 1949. You are aware that the basic years selected are to a large extent unfavourable to the exporters of handloom piecegoods. We say unfavourable for the reason that during 1948 owing to less demand from destinations other than Pakistan most of exports were directed to East and West

Pakistan. As exports to Pakistan are not now taken into account, several of our exporters are unable to show the minimum basic performance during 1948 and therefore they are denied the allotment of mill export quotas. The year 1949 was also not a favourable year because the overseas markets were flooded with foreign textiles goods and therefore, there was less exports during this year.

The exporters who are affected by those unfavourable conditions are these who were exporting on a modest scale. We would, therefore request you to consider the cases of those exporters who are not able to show the minimum basic quantity, but show a quantity some where in the neighbourhood of the minimum fixed. In this connection we invite your kind attention to the fact that even people who have shown an export of 1,000 to 2,000 yards for a year were given export quotas under Export Control Regulations administered during 1944—45.

1950 BASIC EXPORT.

In the basic year 1950, the period selected is only for six months, i.e., January—June 1950. Under the formula adopted for this period the minimum basic exports works out to 33,000 yards for six months. This is a great hardship to those who have exported only during this period. Therefore, we would request you to kindly revise the formula so as to see that the minimum is reduced to a reasonable level. The minimum fixed for 1948, and 1949 was 25,000 yards.

EXPORTERS WHO HAVE NOT SUBMITTED BASIC EXPORT STATEMENT IN TIME.

It has been brought to our notice that there are few classes of established shippers of handloom piecegoods, who have failed to submit their statement of exports within the time fixed by the Export Trade Controller. From the representations we have received in this connection, we find that the failure of these firms to submit their statements of exports in time was due to unavoidable circumstances. We are making separate representations in this connection for your favourable consideration.

Yours truly,

(Signed) M. S. A. RAHIM,

Honorary Secretary.

7th March 1951.

To

Hon'ble Shri Harekrushna Mehatab,
Minister for Industry and Commerce,
Government of India,
New Delhi.

Dear Sir,

We confirm having sent the following express telegram to you on 2nd March 1951 and request you to do the needful in the matter.

REFERENCE BUDGET PROPOSAL EXPORT DUTY ON COTTON PIECEGOODS STOP MADRAS CUSTOMS INSISTING 10% ADVALOREM EXPORT DUTY ON HANDLOOM PIECEGOODS EXPORTS STOP WE FEEL THIS IS DONE UNDER MISREPRESENTATION OF THE PROPOSAL STOP DUE TO SCARCITY OF YARN PRICES OF HANDLOOM PIECES OF HANDLOOM PIECEGOODS HAVE REACHED UNPARALLEL LEVELS STOP AS IT IS OUR GOODS ARE UNPOPULAR IN OVERSEAS MARKETS STOP IN ADDITION OF 10% ON PRICES BY WAY OF DUTY WILL DO GREAT DAMAGE ON HANDLOOM EXPORTS STOP NO EXPORT DUTY ON HANDLOOM CLOTH IN 1949 STOP WE TRUST GOVERNMENT DO NOT CONTEMPLATE INCLUSION OF HANDLOOM PIECEGOODS IN THE LIST OF COTTON PIECEGOODS ON WHICH THIS DUTY IS IMPOSED STOP PRAY ISSUE URGENT INSTRUCTIONS TO MADRAS CUSTOMS TO STOP COLLECTION OF 10% DUTY ON EXPORT OF HANDLOOM PIECEGOODS STOP".

'LOOMCLOTH'

MADRAS

28th March 1951.

To

The Chief Controller of Exports,
New Delhi.

Dear Sir,

Subject.—Cotton piecegoods—Coarse and medium cloth—
Export to soft currency areas—July-December 1950 quota—
Extension of validity—Requested.

Most of the exporters have not completed shipment against the export licences issued against July-December 1950 quota. The validity of final licences expires on the 31st March 1951. The mills

with which the exporters have entered into arrangements for the supply of goods for exports have not supplied the goods in full within the stipulated period owing to the Ministry of Industries order restricting the supply for exports up to 40 per cent of their production. Major portion of the contracted goods are yet to be supplied by the mills. In the circumstances the exporters were unable to export the goods before 31st March 1951.

Further we are given to understand from the Press News and Textile Commissioner, Bombay Notice, dated 24th March 1951 that for the month of April, May and June the mills are asked to supply 90 per cent of their production for local consumption and we fear that with the remaining 10 per cent the mills would not be in a position to supply the goods to exporters in April and May. Hence we request you to extend the validity of all export licences up to the end of June 1951.

Thanking you,

Yours truly,

(Signed) N. V. R. SOURIRAJAN,

Honorary Secretary.

3rd April 1951.

From

The Chief Controller of Exports.

To

The Secretary,

Madras Provincial Handloom Cloth Merchants' Association,
Post Box No. 1598,
Madras-1.

Subject.—Extension of period of validity of licences for export of coarse and medium cloth against July/December quotas.

Sir,

With reference to your letter No. 369-2/51, dated the 28th March 1951, on the above subject, I write to say that necessary instructions have already been issued to the authorities at ports to grant suitable extensions in respect of licences issued on or after 1st April 1950 provided the shippers concerned have not been able to complete shipments within the period of existing validity on account of circumstances beyond their control.

Yours faithfully,

(Signed) DALJIT SINGH,

Assistant Controller,

for Chief Controller of Exports.

5th August 1950.

To

The Director of Controlled Commodities,
Khaleel Mansions,
Mount Road,
Madras-2.

Sir,

Subject.—Handloom Industry Trade Delegation to Overseas delegate.

Ref.—D.C.C.'s Letter No. Rc. No. 89275/50-DL, dated 19th July 1950.

A special meeting of the Executive Committee of the Association was called on 31st July 1950, at 4.30 p.m. at the office of the Association to consider the nomination of a delegate of the Association for inclusion in the Trade Delegation proposed in your letter under reference.

The meeting was held under the Chairmanship of our President. The following resolution was passed unanimously:—

"This Committee welcomes the idea of the Government to sponsor a delegation consisting of handloom trade interests to Indonesia and Far Eastern Countries at the request of the Madras Handloom Committee to explore the feasibility of establishing on a permanent basis markets for handloom goods of this State and resolves to suggest Mr. M. S. A. Majid, President of the Association, as a delegate for inclusion in the proposed delegation. It further resolves to request the Government to bear the expenses of the Delegation in view of the fact that the handloom trade has contributed in recent years lakhs of rupees to Government by way of 3 per cent handloom export cess, export duty at the rate of 4 annas per yard on export of handloom goods to Overseas Countries, sales-tax, licence fees, export stamping fees, etc."

The Committee has directed us to forward the following points for your consideration. These points are to be read along with the resolution.

The Committee was happy to find the interest the authorities are asking in the matter of export of handloom products to Overseas Countries. It has always been the contention of our Association that the prosperity of the handloom industry particularly of our State is due to large extent, to export of its products, and therefore, it has always urged upon the authorities, both Central and local, to remove all restrictions on export of handloom goods to all destinations.

Although no restriction now exists on export of handloom piecegoods, these goods during recent years seem to have lost much of their ground in Overseas Countries. This is due to several causes. What those causes are we need not go into detail inasmuch as they are very well known to you. Sufficient for us to say that all the export markets are still ours if sufficient propaganda is done for our products in those markets through trade delegation, exhibition, press publicity and constant touch with important importing firms to know and understand the changing designs and tastes in those areas. From this point of view the Association welcomes the idea of the trade delegation contained in your letter.

With regard to the expenses of the Delegation the Committee was surprised to note the point mentioned in your letter, viz., whether it would be possible for our Association to bear the expenses of our delegate.

You are aware that Government of India have been sponsoring trade delegations on behalf of several trades like Hides and Skins, Mill Textile, etc., at their own expenses. We really do not know why the expenses of the handloom trade delegation should alone be made to be borne by the handloom trade. The handloom trade has a special claim on the Government if not for any other reason at least for the reason that it has been contributing enormous sums of money, especially during recent years, to the revenue of the Central and Provincial Governments. Although we may not be able to get at the exact amount contributed by the trade we can at least indicate the channels through which such contributions were drawn and are being drawn.

3% ADVALOREM CESS.

This cess was in force on the export of handloom goods for two official years, viz., 1945—46 and 1946—47. During those years Madras has been exporting about 12,000 bales per annum. Even working on the basis of Rs. 1,500 per bale the ad valorem cess for these two years would have amounted to about 10 lakhs of rupees.

EXPORT DUTY OF AS. 4 PER SQ. YD.

For 6 months during 1947 an export duty on handloom cloth at the rate of As. 4 per sq. yd. was collected. As a result of agitation carried on by our Association and through good offices of Sri R. K. Shanmugam Chettiar this duty was abandoned. On a modest computation the duty collected on this account would be in the neighbourhood of Rs. 22 lakhs.

SALES TAX ON RETAIL SALE OF HANDLOOM CLOTH.

Sales tax is collected on the sale of handloom cloth at one point, viz., at retail point at the rate of 3 ps. in the rupees. About 360

million yards are consumed in the Province. The average price of handloom cloth can safely be worked at a rate of Re. 1 per yard. This tax on handloom cloth has been in operation for the last years. During this period handloom cloth retail trade would have yielded a revenue of about 112 lakhs of rupees.

LICENCE FEES.

Wholesale dealers of handloom cloth are paying licence fees at a rate of Rs. 100 for a transaction of Rs. 1,00,000. Our modest computation on this account is about Rs. 8 lakhs.

STAMPING FEES ON HANDLOOM CLOTH EXPORTED TO CEYLON.

For the years 1946—47, and 1947—48 there was a price control on goods exported to Ceylon. For purpose of control Provincial Textile Commissioner introduced a stamping system. Fees were collected for stamping. For one year alone the stamping fees collected amounted to Rs. 1,20,000. After meeting the expenses of the stamping department Provincial Textile Commissioner had a saving of about Rs. 45,000 for a year. The amount thus saved was credited to the Industries accounts of the Government.

SALES TAX ON YARNS.

On an average Madras is getting 24,000 bales of yarn every month (2,88,000 bales a year). The average cost of one bale is Rs. 800 and the total comes to 2,304 lakhs of rupees. Sales tax at the rate of $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent collected comes to Rs. 11.5 lakhs.

GRANT BY CENTRAL GOVERNMENT.

The Government of India has granted Rs. 2,00,000 (two lakhs) as utilisation grant to our State under the recommendation of the All-India Handloom Sub-Committee. This amount is unspent till now.

In light of what we have just stated you would be pleased to use your good offices with the Government and arrange to see that the expenses of the trade delegation is borne by the Government.

If you have any further remarks to offer on the proposition you would be pleased to forward the same to us.

Thanking you,

Yours truly,

(Signed) M. S. A. RAHIM,
Honorary Secretary.

COPY OF DIRECTOR OF CONTROLLED COMMODITIES'S.

R.C. No. 23642/50, dated 16th May 1950.

Subject.—Reservation of fields of production for the Handloom Industry.

It has been decided to enforce, with effect from 1st June 1950, the reservation only in respect of items 2 to 8 and 10 of Annexure 'A' to the Textile Commissioner's circular letter No. HB/4-50, dated 20th February 1950, already communicated to you. A copy of the Press Note, dated 8th May 1950 issued by the Government of India on the subject is enclosed for your information.

The Textile Commissioner, Bombay, has already drawn the attention of all mills and powerloom factories to the above instructions. A copy of the Notification published in the *Gazette of India* on the subject is enclosed for your information and guidance. I request you to see that the production of these varieties on handlooms is stepped up. In the matter of supply of the counts and quantities of yarn required for the above purpose preferential treatment may be given if necessary to dependable organisations, undertaking the production of the above varieties. If required counts and quantities are not available in your district, you may send a special indent to me. As a monthly report on the progress made in the directions indicated above has to be submitted to the Textile Commissioner, Bombay and to the Government in the first week of every month, I request you to send me a report on the 4th of every month, for the coming six months. The first report should reach this office on 4th July 1950.

It is also necessary for you to exercise necessary control to ensure that powerloom factories do not encroach on the fields of production reserved for the handloom industry. For this purpose, the Control staff may be instructed to check the production of the powerloom factories working in your district; any violation of these instructions should be reported to the Textile Commissioner, Bombay promptly, with a copy to me. In the case of powerloom factories contravening the instructions of the Textile Commissioner, Bombay, all supplies of yarn should be stopped as a first stop.

(Signed)———

For Director of Controlled Commodities.

COPY OF THE NOTIFICATION, TEXTILE COMMISSIONER, BOMBAY, DATED 18TH MARCH 1950.

In exercise of the powers conferred on me by Clause 20 of the Cotton Textiles (Control) Order, 1948, I hereby issue the following directions:—

1. (i) These directions shall come into force on the 1st June 1950.
- (ii) These directions shall be complied with by all producers, that is to say, both producers, who have a spinning plant and those who have not.
- (iii) If a producer satisfies the Textile Commissioner or such officer as the Textile Commissioner may appoint in this behalf that there are sufficient reasons why such producer should be exempted from compliance with any or all of these directions or that any or all of these directions should be modified in their application to him, the Textile Commissioner or the officer so appointed by him may, by an order in writing, exempt such producer from compliance with any or all of these directions or modify any or all of these directions in their application to such producer.
- (iv) These directions shall not apply—
 - (a) to cloth manufactured for export and marked with export markings; and
 - (b) to cloth which is produced on a powerloom in Government institution and which is sold as Government property.
2. *Dhoties*: No producer shall produce a dhoti with borders exceeding $\frac{1}{4}$ " in width or use zari or muga or art silk yarn in a dhoti border.
3. *Lungis and Gamchas*: No producer shall produce any Lungi, Sarong or Gamcha with a check pattern.
4. *Chaddars, bed-sheets, bed-covers and counterpanes*:
 - (i) No producer shall produce any checked or striped chaddar.
 - (ii) No producer shall produce any bed-sheet with coloured woven borders lengthwise or breadthwise.

- (iii) No producer shall produce any bed-cover.
- (iv) No producer shall produce any counterpane other than one having over-all dobby or jackquard designs.

Explanation: In this direction—

- (a) "Chadder" means any piece of cloth which is normally called by that name and which is used as in West for covering the body like a shawl.
 - (b) "Bed-sheet" means any piece of grey or bleached cloth which may be used for spreading over a bed.
 - (c) "Bed cover" means any outer covering of a bed which is a counterpane as defined below and which has a decorative or coloured effect.
 - (d) "counter-pane" means any outer covering of a bed woven in raised figures.
5. *Gauze, bandage and jacket cloth:* No producer shall produce any gauze cloth or bandage cloth or jacket cloth.
 6. *Table cloth and napkins:* No producer shall produce any table cloth or napkin other than one of damask bleached quality.
 7. *Dusters:* No producer shall produce a duster or duster cloth or wiper cloth or glass cloth.
 8. *Coarse cloth of plain weave:* No producer shall produce cloth of plain weave with warp or weft counts of 8s and below.

(Signed) T. P. BARAT,
Textile Commissioner.

(True copy)

Copy of the Press Note, No. TCP-11, dated 8th May 1950, Textile Commissioner, Bombay.

Immediately following the meeting of the Textile Advisory Committee and the Conference between the Hon'ble Minister for Industry and Supply and the Civil Supplies Ministers of the States in the month of January, the Government of India announced their decision of reserve for the handloom industry certain limited fields of production, with a view to assisting the industry in its present difficult position.

2. Pursuant to this, the Textile Commissioner to the Government of India gave notice of the decision, which is to be brought

into force with effect from June 1950, to all textile mills and powerloom factories in India. Accordingly, a notification will be appearing in the *Gazette of India*, enforcing from the 1st June 1950, the intention of the Government prohibiting the textile mills and powerlooms from manufacturing certain varieties of textiles, so that the handloom industry can exploit such varieties with advantage. These varieties are dhoties with border exceeding $\frac{1}{4}$ " and dhoties with borders having vari or muga or artificial silk yarn; checked lungies, gamchas, and chaddars; bed-covers and certain varieties of bed-sheets, counter-panes, table-cloth, and napkins; gauze, bandage and jaconet cloth; dusters and coarse cloth of plain weave. The State Governments have been advised to boost up the production of the varieties referred to above by the handloom in thier areas in ordre to avoid any vacuum being created and prices soaring up due to short supplies in these varieties. It may be mentioned that the above action has been taken by the Government of India as an experimntal measure in the first instance for a period of six months only.

3. The Government of India had also decided to reserve the manufacture of coloured and check sarees and honey-comb towels for the handloom industry, but orders prohibiting the manufacture of such items by mills and powerloom factories will issue as soon as the Textile Commissioner is satisfied that sufficient progress in their manufacture on handlooms has been made to fill up th' vacuum which will be caused by the proposed reservation.

(Signed) A. S. E. IYER,

Director (Publicity).

(True copy)

(Signed)———,

For Collector of Madras.

Copy of the letter No. HB-4/50, dated 19th June 1950 from the Textile Commissioner, Bombay to all State Governments.

Subject.—Reservation of fields of production for the Handloom Industry.

I have the honour to invite attention to this office circular letter No. HB/4/50, dated 22nd April 1950 intimating the enforcement of reservation of all varieties reserved for the handloom industry except sarees and honey-comb towels, the reservation of which was deferred pending satisfactory progress towards increased production of these fabrics on handlooms.

It has now been decided to enforce with effect from 1st July 1950 the reservation of sarees of certain varieties, and towels and towelling cloth of honey-comb weave also. Accordingly, mills

and powerloom factories will be prohibited from manufacturing these varieties in addition to those already reserved in our Notification No. 9 (9) Tex. 1/49, dated 15th April 1950 from 1st July 1950. An advance copy of the relevant Notification in this regard incorporating these decisions has been forwarded to all the mills and powerloom factories with our circular letter No. TCS-1/20, dated 15th June 1950. A copy of which has already been endorsed to you.

3. It has been represented that small powerloom factories working on cottage industries basis would be hard-hit by the reservation as it would not be economical for them to change over to the production of other varieties. With a view to safeguarding the interests of such small units it has been decided that such of those powerloom establishments as do not come under the purview of the Factories Act, 1948, be exempted from the operation of these restrictions and an amendment to that effect has been incorporated in the said Notification.

4. In order to ensure that maximum advantage accrues to the handloom industry by such reservation of field of production and also to avoid any serious shortages of the reserved sorts it will be necessary for you to take the following steps: —

- (i) To accelerate production of these varieties so that consumers not only of your State but of other States as well may secure their requirements. The general shortage of yarn need not stand in the way of increased production of these varieties as the available yarn could be utilised by the handloom industry in producing these varieties in preference to others. As already pointed out in paragraph 3 of this office circular referred to above, the services of weavers' co-operative societies and other dependable organisations may be utilised for increasing the production of the reserved sorts by giving them preferential treatment, if necessary, in the supply of suitable counts of yarn.
- (ii) To prevent the well-established powerloom factories from encroaching upon the fields of production reserved for the handloom industry, it is essential for you to ensure that necessary machinery is set up to enforce this reservation against such of the powerloom factories as are coming under the scope of the Factories Act; as otherwise the reservation would be rendered ineffective and the objectives underlying it will not be achieved. Apart from utilising whatever machinery is available, a periodical check-up of these factories would be necessary particularly at the time when yarn supplies are made to them, in accordance with the internal yarn distribution scheme in your State.

5. As the success or otherwise of the protection accorded to the handloom industry depends upon the steps taken by you in the directions indicated above, it is hoped that all possible measure would be taken by the State Government in this regard. As it would be necessary to watch the progress made by the handloom industry in regard to the production of these varieties and their general supply position, it would be appreciated if a monthly report on the working of the scheme of reservation is furnished to this office by the first week of every month. The first report, viz., for the month of July 1950, may kindly be forwarded so as to reach us on the first week of August 1950.

(Signed) T. P. BARAT,
Textile Commissioner.

(True copy)

Copy of the Endt. No. 23641/50/D.1., dated 24th June 1950,
Director of Controlled Commodities, Madras.

Copy communicated to all Collectors and the Registrar of Co-operative Societies, Madras, for necessary action.

(Signed) M. S. SIVARAMAN,
Director of Controlled Commodities.

(True copy)

Office of the Director of Controlled Commodities,
Mount Road, Madras,
Dated 18th November 1950.

From

M. S. Sivaraman, Esq., I.C.S.,
Director of Controlled Commodities,

To

All the Handloom Cloth Merchants' Associations
and
All Chambers of Commerce in the State.

Sirs,

Subject.—Textiles—Handloom industry—Transport of handloom cloth from one zone to another.

Reference.—My letter Re. No. 136854/50 DI, dated 13th October 1950 and letter from the Chief Traffic Manager (Movement Branch), dated 17th October 1950.

With a view to help the handloom industry, the Government of India in their letter No. 23/22/Tex.(2)/49, dated 13th August 1950 have allowed certain concessional rates for the transport of handloom cloth by railway; further all restrictions on its transport to any place within Indian Union have been removed so that they can be transported freely to consuming centres and disposed of with the least delay. On representation from some of the merchants, the railway authorities of both the M. & S.M. Railway and S.I. Railway were addressed in the matter in my reference cited above.

The Chief Traffic Manager (Movement), Trichinopoly in his reference cited above has informed that the difficulty has been caused due to some misapprehension and the station staff has been instructed in the matter.

(Signed) M. S. SIVARAMAN,
Director of Controlled Commodities.

Forwarded.

(By order)

(Signed) S. SRINIVASAN,
Superintendent.

Copy of letter No. Cot/II/50617/50, dated nil from the Directorate-General of Industries and Supplies, Delhi, to the Director of Industries of States.

Subject.—India's future trade agreements.

I have the honour to enclose herewith a questionnaire for export of cottage industries products which may be suggested for inclusion in India's future trade agreements with foreign countries.

The information in the order asked for, in respect of each exportable and importable item of Indian cottage industries products in your State may please be given separately in the above proforma.

The following categories of products appear to interest foreigners most:—

- (i) Silk embroideries (hand-made).
- (ii) Wollen embroideries.
- (iii) Gold and silver brocade and jari goods.

- (iv) Papier marche articles.
- (v) Wood carvings.
- (vi) Ivory manufactures.
- (vii) Fancy brassware.
- (viii) Handloom products, etc.

A list of exportable cottage industries products prepared by this department is also enclosed. You may however give information in respect of such articles, either included or not included in this list only in the export of which your State is interested.

The above information is required by the Government of India, Ministry of Commerce for trade agreement purposes.

An early reply will be much appreciated.

(True copy)

QUESTIONNAIRE I.

Information regarding an item of export which is suggested for inclusion in India's future Trade Agreement.

EXPORTS.

(Please strike out item not required)

1. Name of item.
2. Uses to which it is put.
3. What was the extent of India's exports during :—

(i) 1937-38.	Quantity	Value
(ii) 1938-39.		
(iii) 1947-48.		
(iv) 1948-49.		
4. What is the total production of the item in your State :

	Quantity	Value
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5. What is the extent of local demand ?
6. What is the exportable surplus of this item in your State ?

7. Can you supply detailed specification of item in question ?

8. (If so, please enclose the same, further, if the article can be graded, please also enclose specifications and indicate exportable surplus for each grade)

9. Which are the name and the countries which are India's competitors in the field ?

(i) Prices.

(ii) Illustrations and Specifications.

(iii) Delivery dates.

(If so, please attach copies)

10. What are the sources of supply of this article ?

11. What is the name of the recognised Chamber of Commerce and Industry which can put the foreign purchaser in touch with the leading exporters of article in question.

12. What guarantee can the exporter give that the articles supplied will be strictly in accordance with the specifications or grades.

Signature of person asking the suggestion.

Name in Block Letters.

Full address : _____

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

Ministry of Industry & Supply.

Directorate General of Industries & Supplies

(Cottage Industries directorate)

Central Cottage Industries Emporium, Queensway, New Delhi.

List of High Class Indian cottage Industry products suitable for foreign markets.

SARIES & DHOTIES.

1. Patola Saries	From Patan near Baraoda
2. Bandhi Saries	„ Jaipur & Jodhpur
3. Batik Saries	„ Santiniketan
4. Tissres Saries	„ Benares
5. Dacca type Saries	„ West Bengal
6. Embroidered Saries	„ Kashmir
7. Chanderi Sari mercerised cotton (Wollen)	„ Maheshwari
8. Sambhalpuri Sari Borders and pallos woven in patola style	„ Orissa
9. Murshidabad silk prints saries	„ West Bengal
10. Jaipur Printed Saries on mill made mull	„ Jaipur
11. Santipur fine counts saries dhoties and chaddars.	„ West Bengal
12. Uppada fine counts saries	„ Andhra (Madras)
13. Uppa silk (light) Saries	„ „
14. Ondiputhur silk saries	„ South India
15. Khadi printed and woven saries (Madras Govt. production centres)	„ Avanashi
16. Cotton shirting and suitings	„ Bikaner, Surat
17. Quilt covers	„ Jaipur & U.P.
18. Printed cloth, for blouse etc	„ Jaipur, Madras
19. Dress materials, silkshirtings	„ Surat
20. Pure silk	„ Bengal, Orissa
21. Art silk	„ East Punjab, Surat
22. Pure silk Shirtings	„ Surat & Orissa
23. Endi Silk, Blouse pieces	„ Assam
24. Various woven and printed designs on art silk	„ Bombay, Surat
25. Pure silk with gold and silver work	„ Bombay, Benares
26. SCARVES	
27. Silk	„ Jodhpur

SAREES & DHOTIES

27. Silk woven with gold and silver sari pallaos From Benarees
28. Cotton „ Hyderabad
29. Silk woven gold „ Uppada, Hyderabad and U.P.
30. Sari borders „ U.P. & Baroda (Patola)
31. Coating „ Mandi and Himachal Pradesh Bikaner
32. Blankets „ E. Punjab
33. Dress material „ Benares
34. Table cover & Bed spreads „
35. Shoes & Purses „
36. Blouse „
37. Furnishing „
38. Ackhan & Coats „
39. Printed „
40. Woven designs „
41. Plain coloured „
42. Woven design „
43. Plain „
44. Woven design „
45. Printed „
46. Plain „
47. Various designs from E. Punjab „
48. Cotton carpet „
49. Cotton Asan „
50. Pillow cover „
51. Luncheon set & tray sets „
52. Statuettes of various gods and goddesses „
53. Small animals „
54. Table decorations such as figures, power boxes, cruet sets flower vases, caskets, cig. Cases, paper cutters, serviette rings etc., etc., „
55. Necklace, eartops, bangles, broaches „
56. Chess sets „
57. Caskets and cig. boxes in very and tortoise shell, wood carvings „
58. Animals, book ends, caskets, trays, cig. boxes, brackets „

SAREES & DHOTIES.

59. Sandal Wood figures, small boxes small carved dishes, cig-cases, toys Lacquered articles From Mysore
60. Bowl „ Baroda, & Bombay
61. Flower Vases etc „
62. Marble Hindu Gods and goddesses „
63. Powder boxes, trinket boxes, Ashtrays, plates and lamps „
64. Powder vases, dhoop dani, angoor, dans, power boxes dinner gongs, cig. boxes and ash trays „
65. Tea trays and pin trays „
66. Table lamps „
67. Surahi and Flask „
68. Flower vases „
69. Ash Trays and Cig. Cases „
70. Power Boxes, and small trinket boxes „
71. Plates „
72. Pandan, Hukks, and Ugaldan „
73. Buttons and Broaches „
74. Trinket boxes and soap boxes „
75. Scent bottles, plates, pandan „
76. Ash tray and cig. cases, plain silver „
77. Tea set „
78. Glasses and plates „
79. Ice cream set „
80. Powder boxes „
81. Cig. boxes and soap boxes and powder boxes „
82. Tilak dani and surmedani „
83. Coffee spoons. „
84. Silver & Copper plates & Trinkets boxes with work. Bell Metal „
85. Kuja „
86. Lamp „
87. Plates and Tumblers „
88. Coffee filters „
89. Knivess „
90. Nut cutters „
91. Necklace, rings, ear-rings, and tips. broaches etc. etc. „

SAREES & DHOTIES.

92. Blouses Embroidered,*	From Delhi, Bombay & Cutch
93. Blouses Batiek	„ U.P., Hyderabad
94. Cotton and Silken frocks, children's suits	„ Delhi & U.P.
95. Table cloth cotton	„ Delhi, Bombay, Punjab, and Trivandrum
96. Silk. Embroidered goods	„ Kashmir
97. Table mats and luncheon sets and duches sets	„ U.P. E. Punjab, & Trivandrum
98. Bloster, Cushion Covers and Pillow covers	„ Cutch, Delhi, & Punjab
99. Shawl & Rappers wollen wohies	„ Kashmir
„ Silken	Pradesh
„ Laces	Bengal, Assam
100. Sari laces, Luncheon sets pillow covers etc.	
„ Towel & Hankies	„ Travandrum and E. Punjab
101. Towels and Hankies, Honey-Comb	„ U. P. & W. Bengal
102. Hanies, Ladies & Gents	„ Delhi, U. P. Bengal, Bombay.
103. Puches embroidered and Mirror work	„ Delhi, Cutch, Bombay.
„ Bags	„ Delhi, Cutch, Bombay
104. Hanging bags	„ Trivandrum, Delhi and Baroda.
105. Hemp bags	„ Bombay
106. Shopping bags	„ Delhi
„ Toys	„ Mysore, Trivandrum
107. Wooden	„ Gwalior and Delhi
108. Skins	„ Gwalior and Bombay
109. Cloth	„ Bombay, Delhi, Baroda and East Punjab
110. Clay	„ U. P. Santiniketan.
111. Tarcotto	„ U. P.
112. Dolls.	„ Gwalior, Bengal and Bombay.
113. Lace Bangles, Shoes	„ Gwalior
114. Chappals	„ Delhi
115. Slippers	„ Bengal
116. Desi Jooti, Esence	„ Jaipur & Jodhpur.
117. Agur Batti	„ Mysore
118. Dhoop powder, Pine goods	„ Mysore
119. Blotters, file covers, fans small purses, hanky case, wall mats, dinner sets, Pottery	„ Trivandrum
120. Plates decorative	„ Bengal Santiniketan
121. Plates for use	„ E. Punjab
122. Powders boxes, Galipets, and Pinable	„ Santiniketan
123. Ash trays	„ „ and Vellore
124. Dhoopdani & Wall brakes	„ Vellore
125. Lamp stand	„ Khurja, E. Punjab.
126. Sugar Pots	From Mysore

127. Tea pots	„ Bengal & U. P.
„ Leather bags	„ Bengal Bombay and Baroda
128. Hand bags. (Batik embossed and embroidered)	„ Madras and Bengal
129. Reptile skin	„ Madras and Bengal
130. Crocodile Wallets	„ Santiniketan
131. School bags	„ Bengal, U. P. (Agra)
132. Last minute bags	
„ Leather cases	„ Punjab & Bengal
133. Suit cases	„ Bengal & Bombay
134. Toilet cases	„ Bombay, Bengal
135. File cases	
136. Cigarette and Cigar cases	„ Bombay & Bengal
„ Cushion covers	„ Bengal
137. Book covers	„ Bombay & Bengal
138. Photo frames	„ U. P. & Cochin
139. Doctor cases	
„ Mats	„ Bengal & Cochin
140. Floor mats	„ Cochin
141. Table mats	„ Madras (Tinnevely)
142. Pattamadai mats	„ Madras
143. Baskets	
„ Stationery	
144. Writing material	
145. Books	„ Delhi
146. Writing pads and envelops	
147. Pencils, pastels crayons, black board, chalks and water colours	„ „
148. File cases, file covers, file boxes and blotting pads and painting material	
„ Furniture	„ Baroda
149. Lacqured sofa sets	„ Bengal
150. Leather morahs	„ Baroda
151. Foot stools (Brass and lacquered)	
152. Cane chairs, table waste paper basket	„ Travancore
153. Carved wooden table	„ Mysore, E. Punjab, Kashmir
154. Decorative table	„ Baroda
155. Children furniture	„ Delhi & Travancore
156. Furnishing material in running length Books	„ Bengal & Gwalior
157. Books on cottage Industries	„ Bombay & Madras
158. Books on painting	„ Madras
159. Books on furniture designs	„ Madras
160. Books of Government Publications	„ Delhi
161. Books of Government Publication Delhi	

(True copy)

L. Dis. 18022/56/DI.

Office of the
Director of Controlled Commodities,
Mount Road, Madras,

6th September 1950.

Copy communicated to the Business Manager, Madras Handloom Weavers' Provincial Co-operative Society, Ltd., and the Madras Handloom Cloth Merchants' Association for furnishing the required information to the Director of Industries and Commerce, direct.

(Signed) M. S. SIVARAMAN,

Director of Controlled Commodities.

(Signed) _____,

Superintendent.

26th September 1950.

To

The Secretary to the Government of India,
Ministry of Industry and Supply,
New Delhi.

Dear Sir,

Subject.—Request for recognition.

The above is a provincial organisation functioning for the last six years. It represents besides handloom cloth exporters, dealers, producers and a large number of yarn dealers. Most of the handloom cloth dealers, exporters and weavers' associations in the Province are affiliated with our Association.

It is rendering valuable services to the handloom trade and industry and assisting the Government in several ways. Its representatives serve on various Committees concerning textiles, constituted by the Government of Madras. Recently our President Mr. M. S. A. Majid, M.L.A., has been appointed by the Government of India, as a member of the Standing Handloom Committee of the All-India Cottage Industries Board.

We shall be much obliged, if you would be good enough to give an official recognition to our Association. We are sending herewith a copy of the Memorandum and Rules and Regulations of the Association and a copy of the latest Annual Report along with a list of members for your reference.

For your information, we would like to inform you that the Ministry of Commerce in their communique No. F. (52-TP) (P) (30)/49, dated 12th January 1950, have accorded their recognition to our Association. We have been receiving their official publications of

commercial interests also regularly. Likewise we shall feel thankful to receive all circulars published by your Department also in future.

Thanking you,

Yours truly,

(Signed) N. V. R. SOURIRAJAN,

Honorary Secretary.

1st December 1950.

To

Hon'ble Shri Harekrushna Mehatab,
Minister for Industry and Supply,
New Delhi.

Copy to:

(i) Suplind', New Delhi.

(ii) Majid, s/o S. K. Ahmed Meeran, 13-A, Ferozshah Road,
New Delhi.

UNDERSTAND THAT GOVERNMENT HAS SET UP TEXTILE DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE STOP HANDLOOM INDUSTRY IS PART AND PARCEL OF THE TEXTILE INDUSTRY OF THE COUNTRY AND ITS DEVELOPMENT DEPENDS ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF TEXTILE MILL INDUSTRY IN THE MATTER OF SUPPLYING AND DISTRIBUTING YARN TO THE HANDLOOM INDUSTRY STOP A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE HANDLOOM INDUSTRY MUST BE GIVEN A SEAT ON THE COMMITTEE IN VIEW OF ITS IMPORTANCE IN THE COUNTRY STOP MADRAS HANDLOOM INDUSTRY IS THE LARGEST IN THE WHOLE COUNTRY AND THE MADRAS PROVINCIAL HANDLOOM CLOTH MERCHANTS' ASSOCIATION IS THE ONLY AUTHORITATIVE AND RECOGNIZED ORGANISATION IN THE STATE OF MADRAS REPRESENTING THE HANDLOOM INDUSTRY OF THE STATE STOP REQUEST A SEAT MAY BE ASSIGNED ON THE COMMITTEE FOR THE ASSOCIATION.

'LOOMCLOTH'.

To

The Hon'ble Shri Sri Prakasa,
Minister for Commerce,
New Delhi.

2nd November 1950.

Sir,

Subject.—Export Advisory Council—Reconstitution—
Representation to our Association.

Reference.—Our telegram, dated 15th October 1950.

We hereby confirm the following telegram:—

“REFERENCE EXPORT ADVISORY COUNCIL REORGANISATION STOP MADRAS BEING CHIEF STATE (FROM WHERE) LARGE QUANTITIES HANDLOOM PRODUCTS ARE EXPORTED TO ALL PARTS OF WORLD STOP RECOGNISING THIS FACT COMMERCE MINISTRY ALWAYS GAVE A SEAT TO HANDLOOM EXPORT TRADE ON COUNCIL STOP SINCE ABOLITION OF HANDLOOM BOARD THIS SEAT WAS ABOLISHED AND GIVEN TO REPRESENTATIVES OF HANDLOOM STANDING COMMITTEE PARTICULARLY TO PERSONS REPRESENTING INTEREST OF HANDLOOM WEAVERS COOPERATIVE SOCIETIES STOP BULK OF INTEREST OF HANDLOOM EXPORT TRADE DOES NOT COME WITHIN COOPERATIVE FOLD STOP THEREFORE REQUEST SEPARATE SEAT FOR THIS INTEREST STOP OUR MADRAS PROVINCIAL HANDLOOM CLOTH MERCHANTS' ASSOCIATION IS THE ONLY REPRESENTATIVE AND AUTHORITATIVE ORGANISATION REPRESENTING EXPORTERS INTEREST STOP WE PRAY THAT A SEAT MAY BE GIVEN TO OUR ASSOCIATION STOP PREVIOUSLY OUR PRESIDENT M. S. A. MAJID, M. L. A., REPRESENTED EXPORT INTEREST OF THE COUNCIL.

‘LOOMCLOTH’ MADRAS.

While doing so we beg to submit the following representation for your most earnest consideration.

You are aware that the State of Madras where the handloom industry is the most wide spread and comparatively speaking the most prosperous in the whole country. It is only from this State that large quantities of handloom products are exported to all parts of the world, viz., Burma, Malaya, Indonesia, Indo-China, Ceylon, Middle Eastern Countries, Africa, Australia, U.K. and U.S.A. In view of

this fact when the Export Advisory Council was originally constituted the then Commerce Ministry nominated a representative of the handloom trade of this State only in the whole country on the Export Advisory Council. When this Council was reconstituted a seat was allotted to the All-India Handloom Board which was then functioning. Realising the importance of the Madras handloom trade, the All-India Handloom Board elected a member representing the Madras handloom trade. This practice of giving representation to the trade was continued only for two years of the Export Advisory Council. When the All-India Handloom Board was abolished and the All-India Cottage Industries Board was constituted in its place this practice of giving representation to the handloom trade was given up. Instead it was passed on to a representative of the handloom industry of the Standing Handloom Sub-Committee of the All-India Cottage Industries Board.

Though the Standing Handloom Sub-Committee of the All-India Cottage Industries Board was supposed to represent the handloom industry as a whole in reality it was constituted mainly with members representing the weavers' co-operative societies. The interest of the handloom trade was not at all represented in that Committee. Our Association, therefore, made representation to the Ministry of Industry that trade should also be represented. The reasonableness of our representation was ultimately conceded by the Union Government and our President was nominated to this handloom Sub-Committee. Before he could attend one single meeting of the Committee it was reconstituted consequent on the reconstitution of the All-India Cottage Industries Board. In the reorganisation the interest of the handloom trade was neglected, and at present in the reconstituted All-India Cottage Industries Board, or its Handloom Sub-Committee there is no member belonging to the handloom trade, but members representing the interest of the co-operative societies are provided seats. It is an admitted fact that co-operative societies of this State represent only one-fourth of the Madras handloom industry. On this matter we have already made representation to the Union and State Governments and are awaiting their decision.

Export Advisory Committee, as you have rightly declared in your inaugural address on the 28th October 1950, is a body mainly intended to look after the interests of export trade in India. Therefore, it is only just and fair that a seat is assigned to the Export Trade interest of this State. Even though a seat may be given to the Handloom Sub-Committee of the All-India Cottage Industries Board, it will only be a seat given to the handloom industry and not to the trade.

It may not be out of place if we here point out that the handloom products exported by co-operative societies are very meagre when compared to the exports made by the members of our Association.

Our Association, originally styled as Export Market Price Advisory Committee and functioning for the last six years under its present name is the most representative and authoritative handloom trade organisation in the whole State of Madras. Both the Union and State Governments have recognised this fact and whenever handloom trade interest was considered by authorities they have always given due consideration to the views of our Association. Even for the Indo-Pakistan Handloom Trade Conference held at Calcutta during August 1948, the Government of India were pleased to invite our President to participate in the Conference as a delegate of the Government of India in addition to an invitation extended to the representative of the Madras co-operative societies.

From these facts it is evident that the authorities themselves have recognised handloom trade as a separate entity apart from handloom industry as represented by the co-operative organisation. Therefore it is legitimate that a seat should be given to our Association in a body wherein you are anxious to accommodate all export interest, and for which you have been pleased to expand the Export Advisory Council in its recent reorganisation. We hope that this representation of ours would receive your best consideration and that you would be pleased to assign a seat on the Council for our Association.

Thanking you,

Yours truly,

(Signed) M. S. A. MAJID,

Copy of letter No. PCI-89 (64), dated 28th December 1949 from Textile Commissioner, Bombay to the Director of Controlled Commodities, Madras.

Subject.—Purchase of handloom cloth for the requirements of Central, Provincial and other Government—Examining the possibility of.

Reference.—This office circular letter No. PCI-89 (64), dated

15th October 1949.

In view of the various representations made to the Government of India regarding the accumulation of heavy stocks of handloom cloth of different varieties in the Madras Province and the United State of Travancore and Cochin, it has been decided to depute an officer from the Ministry of Industry and Supply, Office of the Textile Commissioner, Bombay and another from the Ministry of Defence, to visit the principal centres of handloom production in those areas with a view to see whether any of the varieties held in stock by the

handloom weavers could be purchased against Government requirements, provided the material is suitable in quality for the purpose for which it is required. Shri A. R. R. Deshpande, Director of Purchase and Lt.-Col. J. H. Taylor, the Chief Superintendent (Development) Textiles and Clothing, will accordingly be visiting the handloom centres in the South during the second week of January 1950 and their tentative tour programme is attached herewith. Will you please, therefore, contact them immediately on arrival and extend all facilities so as to enable them to examine the stocks with a view to explore possibilities of purchasing them against Government requirements? It may be very helpful if you could arrange to make available to the visiting officers a set of samples representing the accumulated stocks for their examination. The decision to depute these officers to examine the actual stocks of handloom cloth accumulated in the South has been taken, as you are aware, so as to see what immediate relief could be given to the handloom industry under the existing circumstances.

Regarding the long-term policy of placing contracts with the handloom industry for as many items of Government requirements of cotton textiles materials as possible, you are aware that steps have already been taken by this office in that direction. Your attention is invited to this office circular letter No. PC-89 (64), dated 15th October 1949 and subsequent reminder of even number, dated 23rd December 1949. Many provinces have been examining the specifications of the various items of cotton textiles mentioned in this office circular letter and have intimated that the samples are under manufacture. The samples as and when received would be tested by the Inspectorate on the basis of which Test Report, the acceptability or otherwise of the materials would be decided upon.

Yours faithfully,

(Signed) A. R. R. DESHPANDE,

Director (Purchase).

13th December 1950.

To

The Textile Commissioner,
Wittet Road, Ballard Estate,
Bombay.

Dear Sir,

Subject.—Textile Development Committee.

In confirming the following telegram despatched on 1st December 1950 we would like to reiterate our request for the inclu

sion of a representative of handloom industry and trade on the above Committee recently set-up by the Government.

“UNDERSTAND THAT GOVERNMENT HAS SET UP A COMMITTEE TO ASSIST IN THE WORKING OF ITS PRESENT COTTON TEXTILE AND COTTON CONTROL STOP WORKING OF THE TEXTILE CONTROL DEPENDS TO A LARGE EXTENT ON PRODUCTION PRICES AND MARKETING OF HANDLOOM TEXTILES STOP A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE HANDLOOM INDUSTRY MUST BE GIVEN A SEAT ON THE COMMITTEE IN VIEW OF ITS IMPORTANCE IN THE COUNTRY STOP MADRAS HANDLOOM INDUSTRY IS THE LARGEST IN THE COUNTRY STOP MADRAS PROVINCIAL HANDLOOM CLOTH MERCHANTS' ASSOCIATION IS THE ONLY AUTHORITATIVE AND RECOGNISED ORGANISATION REPRESENTING THE MADRAS HANDLOOM INDUSTRY STOP REQUEST A SEAT MAY BE ASSIGNED ON THE COMMITTEE FOR THE ASSOCIATION”.

‘LOOMCLOTH’ MADRAS.

You are perfectly aware of the representative character of our Association, and the interest it evinces in the cause of handloom cloth producers, weavers, exporters, dealers and yarn dealers. Almost all the Associations connected with this industry are affiliated with our Association. As one of the recognised bodies both by the Central and local Governments, our Association is always consulted and is given representation on committees and conferences convened for the purpose of looking after the interest of handloom industry and trade.

As the fate and fortune of the handloom industry and trade, is deeply involved in the decisions of the Committee constituted by the Government it is only in the fitness of things if we once again press the claim of our Association for a seat in the Committee.

We do trust that the Government will consider the facts and will do the needful in the matter.

Thanking you,

Yours truly,

(Signed) M. S. A. RAHIM,
Honorary Secretary.

To

22nd September 1950.

The Collector of Customs,
Custom House,
Madras-1.

Dear Sir,

Reference.—Soft Currency Area—Cloth export to—
Income-tax Verification Certificate.

On behalf of the members of our Association, we would like to acquaint you with the following few factors relating to the above for your consideration and necessary action:

Exporters of cloth to soft currency areas who have submitted their applications with their respective Income-tax Verification Certificates have received them back with the remark that they do not conform to the form prescribed in Public Notice No. 9, ITC. (PN)/50, dated 17th August 1950.

In this connection we would like to point out that the Government of India in 1949 prescribed a certain form for adherence by the exporters in respect of their exportable goods. During the first quarter of this year another form without much alteration was introduced in cancellation of the previous one. And for some inexplicable reason a third form was introduced cancelling the two previous forms. Though this does not differ from the previous one the exporters are in possession of Income-tax Verification Certificates according to the second form prescribed early in the year. Here a mention may be made of the fact that the forms of the second category are valid up to the close of 1950. Inasmuch as the exporters had had to face many difficulties in this connection, insistence on getting the certificates according to the third form will lead to more confusion and unnecessary hardships to the exporters. We are of the unanimous opinion after careful consideration, that on the expiration of the validity of the second form, the exporters may be asked to apply conforming to your latest form. Besides, firm/s, constituted as they are by partners, have not only to prepare forms on behalf of the firm but also for the different partners connected with it. This has a direct bearing in that some of the partners are assessed at different places. This in sequel requires certificates from the places where they are assessed before sending them to the Income-tax authorities assessing the firms along with the firm's application. Then finally the Department takes up the application and if satisfied keeps the partner's papers on the record before issuing the firm's verification certificate.

In view of the various difficulties cited above, we request you to allow the applications of those who have already filed the second category of Income-tax Verification Certificate.

Thanking you,

Yours truly,

(Signed) N. V. R. SOURIRAJAN,
Honorary Secretary.

Copy of letter, dated the 30th March 1951 from the Collector of Customs, Madras to the Principal, Textile Institute, Madras.

Subject.—Handloom piecegoods—Exemption from export duty—Procedure regarding certification.

With reference to the certificates issued by you for consignments of handloom cloth exported from this port ex S.S. *Rajula* and S.S. *Karmala* it may please be stated whether they were issued after actual inspection of complete consignments before they were packed in the bales, or on the basis of samples only after the goods had been packed into bales.

2. To minimise possibilities of any abuse in the matter of the certificates issued by you I would suggest that they may be issued in duplicate in future on the reverse on the invoices covering the goods. This will mean that the parties should produce the bales and also the relevant invoices to you. A copy of your certificate with a serial number may be maintained by you for your office record. This procedure is analogous to the certification of origin by suppliers abroad in respect of goods imported and liable to preferential duty.

3. In this connection I invite your attention to the conversation you had with me on the 27th instant during which it was suggested to you as a further safeguard that along with your certificate, cut samples of the goods certified by you may be sent to this office. This would also enable an expeditious test check with the goods to be made at the docks by the Customs Officers. Please consider if this is feasible and let me have your reply to this letter at an early date.

(Signed) R. K. VAISH,

13th March 1951.

To

Hon'ble Shri C. D. Deshmukh,
Minister for Finance,
Government of India,
New Delhi.

Dear Sir,

We confirm having sent the following express telegram to you on 2nd March 1951 and request you to do the needful in the matter:—

“REFERENCE BUDGET PROPOSAL EXPORT DUTY ON COTTON PIECEGOODS STOP MADRAS CUSTOMS INSISTING 10% ADVALOREM EXPORT DUTY ON HAND-LOOM PIECEGOODS EXPORT STOP WE FEEL THIS IS

DONE UNDER MISREPRESENTATION OF THE PROPOSAL STOP DUE TO SCARCITY OF YARN PRICES OF HAND-LOOM PIECEGOODS HAVE REACHED UNPARALLEL LEVELS STOP AS IT IS OUR GOODS ARE UNPOPULAR IN OVERSEAS MARKETS STOP AN ADDITION OF 10% ON PRICES BY WAY OF DUTY WILL DO GREAT DAMAGE ON HAND-LOOM EXPORTS STOP WE TRUST GOVERNMENT DO NOT CONTEMPLATE INCLUSION OF HANDLOOM PIECEGOODS IN THE LIST OF COTTON PIECEGOODS ON WHICH THIS DUTY IS IMPOSED STOP PRAY ISSUE URGENT INSTRUCTIONS TO MADRAS CUSTOMS TO STOP COLLECTION OF 10% DUTY ON EXPORT OF HANDLOOM PIECEGOODS STOP.”

‘LOOMCLOTH’ MADRAS.

Yours truly,

(Signed) N. V. R. SOURIRAJAN,

Honorary Secretary.

13th March 1951.

NEW DELHI.

To

MAJID,
LOOMCLOTH,
MADRAS

50(3) CUS1/51 YOUR TELEGRAM MARCH EIGHTH REGARDING HANDLOOM CLOTH STOP CUSTOMS AUTHORITIES INSTRUCTED EXEMPT HANDLOOM CLOTH FROM EXPORT DUTY.

‘FINANCE’ NEW DELHI.

26th October 1950.

Dear Mr. Govinda Nair,

To represent certain grievances of the income-tax asseesseees I was in Delhi to meet you. As you were on tour then I did not have the honour of meeting you. However I had the pleasure of meeting Mr. Pyara Lall Uppal. He told me that the matter represented

in the memorandum submitted by my Association was under consideration of Central Board of Revenue and that a final decision would be announced after getting the views of the Commissioner of Income-tax, Madras. Mr. Pyara Lall told me, further, that I might meet the Commissioner when I returned to Madras. By the time I returned to Madras I found that some of the Chambers have already presented to you their memorandum. Some of the important members, of the Chamber told me that in you they have found a very sympathetic Officer and through your good offices they hoped to get much relief and redress for some of the present grievances of the trade.

The main point of representation of my Association and the object to my visit to Delhi was with reference to the non-issue of Income-tax Certificate to assessee against whom action under Section 28 (1) (c) was just started. Even in the memorandum which we presented to the Commissioner we mentioned this point as the first point for discussion. A copy of the memorandum presented to the Commissioner and the replies given by him are enclosed for your kind perusal.

I need not once again expatiate on the point I just referred. Non-issue of certificates merely on the ground that an action has been taken under Section 28 will dislodge normal trade and put them to considerable hardship and loss. I, therefore, request you to view the question sympathetically and arrange to issue favourable orders.

While in Delhi I presented to Mr. Pyara Lall Uppal three individual cases, viz., Messrs. T. S. M. O. Mohamed Osman, Messrs. L. K. M. S. Mohideen Kutty Pillay and Messrs. K. S. Aboosali & Bros. They are on the list of regular assessee. I hope and trust that you would also be pleased to consider the representation and pass favourable orders.

With best regards,

Yours sincerely,

(Signed) M. S. A. MAJID;

President.

To

K. Govinda Nair, Esq.,

Member, Central Board of Revenue,

New Delhi.

Statement by M. S. Abdul Rahim, Secretary, Madras Provincial
Handloom Cloth Merchants' Association.

The Madras Government in a Press Note issued on 8th February 1951 have contradicted the report published in the *Mail* on the 6th January under the caption 'No yarn issued for three months'—'Plight of weavers in Melapalayam', and, have stated that the allegation in the report is highly exaggerated by saying that due to inadequate stock in December the yarn in 20s which the majority of the weavers in that area required was not supplied but instead 2s. and 60s were supplied. I recently visited Melapalayam and studied the yarn position on the basis of yarn supplied to that area since October 1950 from the records available with the weavers and with the weavers' organisations. I found from the study that since October 1950 every weaver in that area has received half a bundle (5 lbs.) of 20s or 26s yarn sometime during January, and now I find that they are going to get another half a bundle of yarn during the current month. It means that for the last 5 months they were able to get only one bundle (10 lbs.) of 20s or 26s yarn. This works out to 2 lbs. of yarn per month. It is needless for me to impress upon the authorities concerned the great hardship the weavers in Melapalayam are undergoing due to the short supply. For a comparative study I have also examined the yarn issue cards of weavers working under the co-operative societies in that area. From the cards I find that they have been getting $2\frac{1}{4}$ bundles ($22\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.) of yarn per month regularly since October. At a time when there is an acute scarcity of yarn in the State, I do not understand why our Government should discriminate one class of weavers against another. After all the weavers, working under the co-operative societies in the State, are, as the authorities claim about one-third the total number of weavers in the State. If Government wants to help the co-operative societies they should not go to the extent of helping these organisations to such an extent as to allow the weavers working in the co-operative societies to draw supply at the rate of $22\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. per month, while the weavers outside the co-operative societies are to get only 2 lbs. per month. By this policy of discrimination the Government have almost thrown a vast body of handloom weavers to the wolves. I would therefore urge upon the Government to immediately abandon this policy, and arrange to see that all the weavers

whether they belong to the co-operative societies are not are enabled to get equal supply of yarn out of the inadequate supply available.

2. Government have stated in this Press Note that they have supplied 2s and 6os to the weavers in Melapalayam who require only 2os yarn. This statement of the Government creates the impression that 2s and 6os have been supplied to all the looms in that area. I have made enquiries in regard to this matter also. There are about 7,500 looms in this area. Of these about 200 and odd are carpet weaving looms (2s). Thirty-five looms are engaged in the weaving of 6os and 4os and the rest are all looms requiring 2os or 26s yarn. Government have supplied 6os yarn only to this 35 looms and the supply of 2s have been made only to carpet looms. Therefore, it is wrong on the part of the Government to issue vague statement which creates false impression in the minds of the public.

3. Although the Yarn Advisory Committee has been constituted in Melapalayam the functions of distribution are not yet entrusted to them. I find the local Textile Control Officer is in charge of issuing yarn token slips to the weavers as he pleases. Under the informal rationing scheme only the Yarn Advisory Committee should have the power of distribution as they are the only people who are fully conversant with local conditions. In view of this arrangement of issuing yarn tokens by the Textile Control Officer, I find the distribution is not done as quickly, as the yarn bales are received in the area by the yarn dealers. I have inspected 3 or 4 yarn dealers' godowns in Melapalayam and found that they were having 3 or 4 bales each lying with them. When I asked them why they were still keeping the bales, they told me that they were keeping the bales for the last 2 or 3 months pending instructions from the Textile Control Officer.

APPENDIX

APPENDIX A **MADRAS PROVINCIAL HANDLOOM CLOTH MERCHANTS' ASSOCIATION**

Income and Expenditure Account for the Period from 1st January 1949, to 31st March, 1950

	Rs.	A. P.		Rs.	A. P.
To Salaries	...	3,650 0 0	By Subscriptions	...	3,340 0 0
" Rent	...	695 8 0	" Sale of Forms	...	46 1 0
" Printing and Stationery	...	2,062 4 6	" Interest	...	90 1 0
" Postage and Telegrams	...	826 12 6	" Advertisement in Annual Report	...	1,708 2 6
" Conveyance and Travelling	...	16 1 6	" Miscellaneous Receipts	...	7 0 0
" Telephone	...	750 5 0	" Balance being Excess of Expenditure	...	5,265 11 6
" Bank Charges	...	22 2 0	over Income	...	
" Audit Fees	...	100 0 0			
" Newspapers and Periodicals	...	85 7 0			
" Deputation Expenses	...	496 0 0			
" Reception	...	1 270 12 0			
" Repairs	...	39 15 3			
" Miscellaneous Expenses	...	148 12 3			
" Depreciation written off	...	293 0 0			
TOTAL Rs.	10,457 0 0		TOTAL Rs.	10,457 0 0	

PURUSHOTTAM BUILDINGS,
MOUNT ROAD, MADRAS
13th July, 1950

Examined and Found Correct.

SWAMI & VASAN

Chartered Accountants.

MADRAS PROVINCIAL HANDLOOM CLOTH MERCHANTS' ASSOCIATION

BALANCE SHEET AS ON 31ST MARCH, 1950.

Members' Fund:									
As per last Balance Sheet	32030	14	1						
Less Excess of Expenditure over Income during the year	5265	11	6	26,765	2	7			
Sundry Creditors				103	0	0			
Furniture:	Cost as per last Balance Sheet	691	13	9					
Less Depreciation		164	13	9					527 0 0
Gestetner:	As per last Balance Sheet	717	1	6					
Less Depreciation		450	1	6					287 0 0
Typewriter:	Cost as per last Balance Sheet	686	13	0					
Less Depreciation		412	13	0					274 0 0
Cycle:	Cost as per last Balance Sheet	141	3	3					
Less Depreciation		111	3	3					30 0 0
Electric Fittings:	Cost as per last Balance sheet	121	10	0					
Less Depreciation		48	10	0					73 0 0
Outstanding Subscriptions									1,200 0 0
Staff Advance									60 0 0
Suspense									70 0 0
Cash at Bank	24274	11	4						
Cash on Hand	72	7	3						24,347 2 7
TOTAL Rs.	26,868 2 7								
TOTAL Rs.	26,868 2 7								

We have obtained all the information and explanations we have required. In our opinion, the above Balance Sheet and Profit & Loss account have been properly drawn up and the Balance Sheet shows a true and correct view of the state of affairs of the Association according to the best of our information and explanations given to us as shown by the Books of the Association.

PURUSHOTTAM BUILDINGS
MOUNT ROAD, MADRAS.

Dated 13th July, 1950

SWAMI & VASAN

Chartered Accountants.

M. S. A. MAJID

President.

M. S. A. RAHIM

N. V. R. SOURIRAJAN

Secretaries.

MADRAS PROVINCIAL HANDLOOM CLOTH MERCHANTS' ASSOCIATION

Income and Expenditure Account for the Year Ended 31st March, 1951

	Rs.	A. P.		Rs.	A. P.
To Salaries ..	2584	3 6	By Subscriptions Received during the year	Rs. 4,783	
" Rent ..	997	0 3	Less outstanding at the end of the previous year	Rs. 1,200	
" Printing and Stationery ..	572	15 0		<u>Rs. 3,583</u>	
" Postage and Telegrams ..	758	13 9	Add outstanding at the end of this year	Rs. 1,030	
" Conveyance and Travelling ..	22	4 0			
" Telephone ..	403	6 0			
" Bank Charges ..	17	2 0			
" Audit Fees ..	125	0 0	Sale of Forms	... 4,613	0 0
" Newspapers and Periodicals ..	192	6 0	Interest	... 29	4 0
i; Repairs ..	126	14 9	Balace being Excess of Expenditure over Income	... 329	4 6
" Miscellaneous Expenses ..	144	4 0			
" Depreciation written off ..	265	0 0			
TOTAL Rs.	6,159	5 3	TOTAL Rs.	6,159	5 3

**PURUSHOTTAM BUILDINGS,
MOUNT ROAD, MADRAS**
Dated, 19th April, 1951.

Examined and Found Correct
SWAMI & VASAN
Chartered Accountants.

MADRAS PROVINCIAL HANDLOOM CLOTH MERCHANTS' ASSOCIATION
BALANCE SHEET AS ON 31st MARCH, 1951

Members' Fund :	
As per last Balance Sheet	26,765 2 7
Less Excess of Expenditure over Income during the year	1,187 12 9 25,577 5 10
Sundry Creditors	175 0 0
Furniture : Cost as per last Balance Sheet	691 13 9
Less Depreciation	206 13 9
	485 0 0
Gesteiner : As per last Balance Sheet	717 1 6
Less Depreciation	538 1 6
	179 0 0
Typeewriter : Cost as per last Balance Sheet	686 13 0
Less Depreciation	515 13 0
	171 0 0
Cycle : Cost as per last Balance Sheet	141 3 3
Less Depreciation	111 3 3
	30 0 0
Electric Fittings : Cost as per last Balance Sheet	121 10 0
Less Depreciation	60 10 0
	61 0 0
Outstanding Subscriptions	1,030 0 0
Loan to Peer Mohamed	100 0 0
Interest Accrued	290 0 6
Fixed Deposit with Indian Bank Ltd., Cash on hand	20,000 0 0
Cash at Eastern Bank	9 15 3
	3,396 6 1
Total Rs.	25,752 5 10

We have obtained all the information and explanations we have required. In our opinion, the above Balance Sheet and Income & Expenditure account have been properly drawn up and the Balance Sheet shows a true and correct view of the state of affairs of the Association according to the best of our information and explanations given to us and as shown by the Books of the Association.

PURUSHOTTAM BUILDINGS,
MOUNT ROAD, MADRAS
Dated. 19th. April 1951

SWAMI & VASAN
Chartered Accountants

M. S. A. MAJID
President.

M. S. A. RAHIM
N. V. R. SOURIRAJAN
Secretaries

APPENDIX B

**Memorandum Presented to B. K. MASSAND, Esq.,
Government of India Trade Commissioner in Ceylon on
Saturday the 21st January 1950.**

INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTS ACT.

Sir,

You are aware that Ceylon is one of the largest consumer of Handloom Products mostly of South India and she has been buying considerable quantities of these products for more than half a century and even during the war years when exports were practically suspended to all overseas destinations. Even to-day the offtake of handloom products by Ceylon is really appreciable. For this the handloom trade and industry of South India are indeed grateful to that country and we wish that this flow of trade is maintained uninterrupted by any action by the Government of Ceylon on the one side and that of our Government on the other. We are happy to note that in the recent trade talks between India and Ceylon and even in the trade agreement it was maintained that close economic relations existing between the two countries should be consolidated and expanded. But the recent promulgation of the Industrial Products Act seem to militate against the Indo-Ceylon Trade Pact embodied in the Press Note, dated 8th December 1949 issued by the Ministry of Commerce, Government of India.

In pursuance of the Industrial Products Act, Government of Ceylon have constituted an Industrial Board, with the purpose of declaring specific commodities as industrial products for the purposes of this Act. In consultation with the Board the Minister for Industries should notify the ratio of the quantity of the local products which the importer must purchase in order to obtain a licence to import a specific quantity of the regulated product. The Board has met recently and has resolved to call for statement of imports from our importers for the period beginning from 1st April 1949 to 31st December 1949. The importers of Handloom Products, who are mostly Indian Nationals, have received circulars enclosing Import Statement Forms from the Chairman of the Industrial Board asking them to give the figures of import against specified handloom varieties like Sarongs, Banians, Dhoties, Sarees, Towels, Suitings, etc.

After receiving all the statements from the importers the Board may advise the Minister of Industries to notify the ratio of the quantity of local handloom products which every importer should purchase as against imports from India. The large portion of the handloom products is costly and is unsaleable. Therefore the import trade would be very much affected in as much as a good portion of the capital would be locked up in the unsaleable Ceylon products.

As per Indo-Ceylon Trade Agreement, Ceylon must allow free imports of cotton piecegoods (mill-made and handloom) as at present.

(85)

The activities of the Industrial Board is sure to prejudice this agreement. We therefore request the Trade Commissioner to use his good offices to see that free import of handloom piecegoods as at present is in no way impeded or jeopardised.

SILK IMPORT.

It is a well known fact that India has been sending an appreciable quantity of silk manufactures like Benares Sarees, Suret Sarees, Lungies, etc., to Ceylon. Recently Government of Ceylon have imposed a ban on the importation of this type of textiles from India. We are given to understand that this ban was imposed in view of a glut of silk products in the Ceylon market. The glut is only with regard to artificial silk products. There is practically no stock of pure Indian silk manufactures. The Trade Commissioner may kindly bring this fact to the notice of the Government of Ceylon and arrange for the free import of at least pure Indian silk products.

LEAVE TO SHOP ASSISTANTS.

Considerable hardship is felt by Indian nationals working as Assistants, Managers, Cooks, etc., in Indian Firms in Ceylon with regard to issue of visa by the Ceylon Emigration Officer in Colombo. After working for several years, those people come to India on leave for three or four months. But the visa issued by the Emigration Officer insist that these people must return to Ceylon within periods fixed by the Emigration Officers. It is our desire that the period indicated should be correlated to the period of leave granted by the employers.

With regard to proprietors of Firms and employers who are Indian Nationals the date of their return to the Island should not be indicated.

REMITTANCES.

At present the employees of Indian Firms who happen to be Indian Nationals are permitted to remit only a small percentage of their earnings in Ceylon, to their families and relatives in India. You are aware that the salaries of these employers are fixed with every thing found for them. Therefore a very large portion of their salaries remain as savings with the employers. Therefore at least 75 per cent of their earnings may be allowed to be sent to India as remittances.

We hope that you would be pleased to take the necessary action on all the points raised by us at your earliest convenience.

Thanking you,

Yours truly,

*President and Members
of the Madras Provincial Handloom Cloth
Merchants' Association.*

Memorandum presented to L. R. S. Singh, Esq., I.C.S.,
Indian Government Trade Commissioner, in Pakistan on
Thursday, the 2nd June 1949,

Sir,

We cordially welcome you to our Association, and thank you for giving us an opportunity to place before you, for your earnest consideration, problems affecting the handloom cloth exporters of this Province to Pakistan.

As you may be aware the handloom industry of this Province is an ancient one, and in its importance, it is next to agriculture. While this industry languished in other Provinces, it thrived in this Province due to export markets it had outside this country, as well as within India. But now this industry suffers for want of encouragement and support from the authorities, who guide the trade policy. We however feel grateful to the Government of India for their revised policy, with regard to the export of handloom cloth to Pakistan. Now our difficulties arise mainly owing to the strict import policy pursued by the Government of Pakistan.

It may be helpful to you to know that during the pre-partition period, we were exporting 4,000 bales every month to areas now covered by Pakistan out of about 6,250 bales of handloom cloth of exportable varieties produced in this Province. Particularly East Bengal was our largest consumer, and the goods that were exported to Amritsar and Lahore, were distributed throughout Western Pakistan. Even after the partition till 31st of July 1948, the Government of Pakistan was freely importing Indian handloom textiles. When exports to Pakistan were taken over by the Government of India, issue of export licences were suspended temporarily during March 1948, as a result of which handloom cloth manufactured specially to suit Pakistan came to be accumulated.

The handloom industry and trade of this Province represented to the Government of India the hardship entailed on the industry by suspending the export, and the Government has been pleased to change the policy. Free exports were allowed to all countries, including Pakistan for a period of three months ending with July 1948.

During this free period in 1948, more than 40,000 bales of handloom cloth were exported to Pakistan alone. From the above figures, it would be seen how important the Pakistan market has been for the handloom industry of our Province. Again from 1st August 1948, when the export of handloom cloth was not allowed to Pakistan, there was steady accumulation of handloom Lungies,

and Sarongs which reached the unprecedented figure of 1,25,000 bales in December 1948.

After continued agitation, the Government of India has been pleased to declare a free export period till the end of June 1949 to all countries including Pakistan, but fixed the quantitative restriction up to a maximum of 50 million yards to Pakistan. At first, this 50 million yards was declared as part of Pakistan's annual quota of cloth. This policy was announced on an unilateral basis, and the Pakistan Government have not issued any import licences, for the import of handloom cloth from India, to the traders in Pakistan. Therefore there could be no exports from this country, as a result of which the accumulated stocks could not be liquidated, because the cloth produced was exclusively intended for Pakistan market. This matter was again taken to the notice of the Government of India who have been pleased to declare that the export of this 50 million yards would not be included in the annual quota of cloth agreed to be supplied to Pakistan.

It was then thought that the Government of Pakistan would appreciate the Government of India's announcement, and would issue freely import licences to the importers of handloom cloth in Pakistan. But we were disappointed and the Government of Pakistan still continues to pursue the policy of placing restriction on importers from India. In this connection we bring to your notice, that most of the importers of handloom cloth in Pakistan are Indian nationals who have established branches in Karachi, Chittagong and other important centres. Therefore it works a great hardship on Indian nationals in Pakistan if the Government of Pakistan do not liberalise their policy in regard to import of handloom cloth.

We most earnestly request you to persuade the Government of Pakistan to permit the import of this 50 million yards allowed by the Government of India. We appreciate the announcement of the Government of India declaring the free period, from 1st July 1949 to 31st December 1949. We shall be very grateful if you would press upon the Government of Pakistan to issue import licences immediately to importers, so that we may complete the export of 50 million yards before the end of December 1949.

Owing to the ignorance of the policy of the Government of Pakistan some of the exporters in Madras have exported about 800 bales of handloom cloth to Eastern Pakistan during last month, but the goods have not been allowed to be cleared out. We understand that the Customs authorities at Chittagong are contemplating to levy import duties and impose other penalties, on the goods exported from Madras. Such of those as have exported handloom cloth, were not aware of the fact, that there was restriction in regard to imports

at the other end. In this connection, we bring to your notice, that the same goods could be imported in Pakistan if they were exported first to free ports, like Singapore, and from there re-exported again to Pakistan. This gives us the impression that Pakistan Government are trying to follow a discriminatory policy with reference to India. It is said that restriction placed on the import of Indian Handloom Lungies is with a view to promote the local handloom industry in Pakistan and if it is so, we shall have no grievance; but we would like to ask how lungies manufactured by mills in countries like Honkong, United Kingdom and U.S.A., are allowed to be imported freely, though they are costlier than the Indian handloom lungies. We should therefore strongly urge, that the Government of India should see its way to bring pressure to bear on the Government of Pakistan to open their market for our handloom goods.

The policy of sales-tax pursued by the Government of Pakistan is highly unfair, inasmuch as $1\frac{1}{2}$ annas in a rupee is levied on the invoice value. This amount is collected only from the importers which works a serious hardship to the traders in that country, who are mostly Indian Nationals. We therefore request you kindly to represent this aspect and request the Government of Pakistan to exempt handloom cloth from the operation of sales-tax.

Import licences when issued by Pakistan Government should make no discrimination between India and Pakistan nationals. Import quotas of Pakistan should be in conformity with, and correlated to the Indian export quotas. Otherwise serious hardships ensue to the exporters of India.

We shall be grateful to you, if you would kindly secure for us a list of Firms in Pakistan which are allowed to import handloom and mill cloth from India, so that it may facilitate exporters from this country to contact importers.

In future whenever Government of India enter into any agreement with Pakistan with regard to export of cloth from this country, it must be specifically mentioned, that cotton cloth includes handloom cloth as well, in the quota of cloth to be exported to Pakistan. There must also be specific mention of the percentage of handloom cloth to be exported against the total quota. Because there was no mention in the Karachi Agreement about the handloom cloth, we fear, that this trouble regarding import licences has arisen, and we request you not to overlook our request in any future arrangement that the Government of India may make with Pakistan in this regard.

May we suggest to you, that the Government of India may send a "Goodwill Mission" consisting of Officials and non-Officials

representing the Handloom Trade and Industry in Madras to Pakistan to study the position of the trade and clear up any possible misunderstanding that may exist. Trade has always been in all ages a very civilising influence, cementing the bonds of friendship and promoting harmonious relation between different countries. The missionaries of trade may succeed in promoting good-will between India and Pakistan where other methods fail.

In conclusion, we tender you our heartfelt thanks and sincere gratitude for the interest you have evinced in our welfare, and for the courtesy you have shown to us during your visit to this City. We trust that you will endeavour your best to see that our grievances are redressed at an early date.

Yours truly,

*President and Members
of the Madras Provincial Handloom Cloth
Merchants' Association.*

Memorandum Submitted to Hon'ble Shri HAREK-RUSHNA MEHTAB, Minister for Commerce and Industry, Government of India, on Sunday the 7th January 1951 During his Visit to Madras.

We avail this opportunity of not only welcoming you to our City and also to convey our thanks and appreciation to the Government of India for combining the portfolios of Commerce and Industry in one single Ministry. It is our considered opinion that the handling of these two subjects by one Ministry is always conducive for the proper development of the industry and also for the proper administration of trade and commerce. As long as these two subjects were in the hands of a single Minister there was considerable harmony and realism. When they came to be separated in the wake of war emergency, unrealistic approaches to several problems came to set in. We need not here go into the long history of how the trade and commerce of this country were affected when these two subjects were independently administered. This unhappy position was particularly so in the case of handloom industry and trade. We are now happy that these two subjects have been brought under one Ministry and that you are presiding over it with your deep sympathy and vast and rich expedience.

CRISIS IN HANDLOOM INDUSTRY.

You are fully aware of the great crisis that has overtaken the handloom industry of the country in general and of our State in particular. Of the cottage industries of the country the handloom industry is the most important and widespread and has a history as old as India itself. You could readily understand the importance of the handloom industry in the economy of the country in general and of the Madras State in particular, if we could point out to you that the people employed in all the major industries of this State are not more than two lakhs whereas the people employed in the handloom industry alone is more than 6 lakhs. A handloom weaver supports not only himself but also his entire family. From this point of view the people involved in this industry is several times more than the figure we have just mentioned. Another important fact that is often overlooked by the administration with reference to handloom industry of the State of Madras is that the weaver is a full-time worker and not a part-time worker as is often the case with weavers of other States. The handloom industry, while supporting a large mass of handloom weavers, is also the source of sustenance and strength to several industries like Spinning, Dyes and Chemicals, Dyeing, Printing, Cotton growing, winding and sizing and handicrafts like carpentry. From these one can easily judge the importance of the handloom industry to the economy of this country. Therefore, if for any reasons this industry is overlooked or neglected not only this industry will perish leaving behind suffering and starvation among handloom weavers but would affect to a considerable extent the very economic fabric of the country. We are glad to observe that, of late, the Government is taking greater interest in the handloom industry and have come forward to protect the industry.

The present crisis in the handloom industry is due to inadequate supply of yarn. This inadequacy is no doubt, due, to some extent, to unhappy post-war conditions. It is also due to unrealistic approach by the authorities. Here we wish to place before you some of the recent happenings in the administration of yarn production and distribution. Prior to 1948 the yarn consumed by the weaving section of the composit mills was comparatively very low. Since 1948 the position has changed. In 1948 while average monthly production of yarn was about 3.02 lakhs of bales, the yarn consumed by weaving section of the composit mills was about 2.14 lakhs. In 1950 the yarn out of a total production of 2.14 lakhs of bales the weaving section consumed 1.88 bales. In other words while the yarn consumed by the weaving section was 85 per cent of the total production in 1948, it is now 93 per cent of the total production. The second reason for the inadequate supply of yarn to the handloom industry is the sudden increase in the export of yarn to overseas countries. Till very recently the export of yarn was very little. But since 1950 the monthly exports came to 14.64 thousand

bales and in September it reached a figure of about 19.4 thousand bales. Apart from this reason, no proper steps was considered or taken to supply adequate cotton to spinning mills. The steps that are now being taken could have been taken long ago to import foreign cotton. Natural causes also added to the difficulties. The failures of monsoons have considerably affected the production of electricity and the consequent reduction in the supply of electric power to the spinning mills. Further, more and more powerloom factories came to be established and yarn is supplied to them, comparatively speaking, in larger quantities than supplied to handloom industry.

Because of these reasons the position of the handloom industry has become very precarious. But in spite of these reasons, the industry could have obtained better supply of yarn if only priority was given to this industry under the All-India Yarn Distribution Scheme.

The free yarn made available in 1948 for handlooms and powerlooms was more than 86,000 bales per month but in July, August and September of 1950 they were only 53,600, 45,200 and 39,160 bales respectively. From this meagre quantity of free yarn Madras was able to get only 18,675 bales in August, 16,332 in September, 12,232 in October and November and 10,039 bales in December. For a State which requires atleast 29,000 bales of yarn per month so as to keep the looms working for atleast ten days in a month, this supply of about 10,000 bales is most inadequate and naturally the handloom weavers are facing to-day starvation and suffering.

Situation is not entirely out of control, if only immediate steps to revise the existing policy with regard to yarn production and distribution in the country are taken. Our suggestions, for resolving the present crisis are as follows:—

- (1) Yarn supply to the weaving section of composit mills should be restricted to 1947 level.
- (2) Till yarn production reaches the level of assuring adequate supply of yarn to the handloom industry in the country, complete ban on all exports of yarn to overseas countries should be imposed.
- (3) Steps should be continuously taken to import large quantities of cotton from foreign countries atleast for such time when our country would be in a position to meet the cotton requirements of our spinning mills.
- (4) While allotting cotton to mills, extra supply of cotton should be made particularly to spinning mills.
- (5) There should be atleast three shifts in the spinning mills to step up production.

(6) No more permission should be given for installation of powerlooms and for the opening of weaving sections in the spinning mills.

(7) Import of foreign yarn should be brought under O.G.L. system.

(8) Every encouragement should be given to install spinning mills.

(9) Investigation should be made into the allegation that the yarn that is being exported from this country are being imported as foreign yarn either into our country or in French India.

(10) We would suggest the removal of price control on yarn and if the authorities are not in a position to accept our suggestion they must impose price control not only on yarn locally manufactured but also on imported foreign yarn.

YARN ALLOCATION TO MADRAS STATE.

At present the Textile Commissioner (Government of India), Bombay, is allotting yarn to Madras State for handlooms, powerlooms at 26 per cent out of the free yarn available. This percentage is based upon the figures given in the Fact Finding Committee Report of 1941. We have always pointed out that there is considerable error in the statistics given in the report. We assert, without any fear or contradiction, that there are more than 5 lakhs of handlooms in this State. On this basis Madras alone should get at least 40 per cent of the free yarn. In the matter of handloom industry Madras stands first in the whole country. Comparatively speaking our Industry is the most widespread and flourishing, and it is the only State from which large quantities of handloom products are exported to overseas countries. Besides, as it has already been pointed out, ours is the only State where the handloom weavers are full-time workers. In view of all these facts Government must immediately revise the percentage of allocation made to this State. If the figures given by us are challenged by the authorities we would only request them to make immediate arrangements to take the census of the looms. Due to meagre supply, the only market in which the weavers could get yarn is the blackmarket and the blackmarket rate of yarn is nearly two times the control rate. Besides, the wages of weavers have gone up considerably. Consequently the cost of production of handloom products has become very high while their quality have also gone down very much. This has considerably affected our local sales and export trade. If this position is allowed to continue for a longtime, the handloom products will become still more unpopular in the country and abroad.

With regard to the order issued by the Government reserving varieties of cloth for handloom industry, we wish to point out that it has not materially helped the handloom industry. In its place

we commend the resolution of the State Handloom Committee passed recently, namely:

"The Committee is very strongly of the view that the reservation now made for the handloom industry is totally inadequate being only 36 million yards out of a total mill production of 4,000 million yards and recommends that the field of reservation for the handloom industry which is now producing 1,600 million yards should be extended appreciably by prohibiting mill and powerlooms from weaving cloth of particular widths.

The Committee resolved that any reservation made in particular varieties of cloth for production on handloom will not be beneficial for the industry in practice and that the reservation of cloth of particular widths only will help the industry. It has, therefore, resolved to address the State Government to request the Government of India to prohibit the mills and powerlooms from weaving cloth of widths ranging above 40 inches upto 48 inches inclusive."

REPRESENTATION FOR OUR ASSOCIATION ON THE STANDING HANDLOOM COMMITTEE OF THE ALL-INDIA COTTAGE INDUSTRIES BOARD.

You are aware that the handloom industry of the Madras State is the most important in the whole country and therefore Government would be doing justice by this industry if they increase the Madras representation from 2 to atleast 4 with a view to accommodate the important interest overlooked. By this action the Government would remove the great dissatisfaction now prevailing in this State.

When the Standing Handloom Committee was originally constituted the Madras representation was confined only to Andhra area and co-operative societies. On a representation made by us pointing out the great injustice done to the interests of handloom trade and industry by confining the representations only to the co-operative societies or to Andhra area, the Hon'ble Minister for Industry and Supply was pleased to appoint our President, Mr. M. S. A. Majid, M.L.A., as a member of the Standing Handloom Committee of the All-India Cottage Industries Board in December 1949. Before our President could attend even one meeting of the Committee it was reconstituted and once again the interests, on whose behalf we speak with authority, were overlooked.

We, therefore, once again make this representation in the confident hope that the Government would be pleased to reconsider

their decision and provide a seat for our Association on the Committee. The Government is a Government for all interests concerned and as such they should not discriminate one class of handloom interests as against another class. The Committee as constituted at present, represents largely the interests of the weavers' co-operative societies only. We have, on several occasions, pointed out that the interests of the handloom industry outside the co-operative organisation is really formidable and that it deserves the utmost sympathy and consideration at the hands of the Government.

We now come to the Commerce side of your portfolio.

PRODUCTION OF CURRENT INCOME-TAX VERIFICATION CERTIFICATES.

Under the conditions imposed it becomes incumbent on the exporters to produce Current Income-tax Verification Certificates for making export application. Considerable difficulties are felt in obtaining the certificates at present by the exporters. In the first place when the exporters request the department to issue the certificates the department takes their own time to issue them. This is natural because the department will have to go through not only the records of the firms concerned but also of the records of their partners and the records relating to their world income. At present the issue of Income-tax Verification Certificates are being withheld if the department entertains any suspicion with regard to any one of the partners or to any one of the items of amounts. Even in murder cases the benefit of doubt is given to the accused but the Income-tax Department treats regular assessee even worse than common felons. Mere suspicion by the authorities of any one of the partners blocks the firm's business. Further, if any one of the partners of a firm is in arrears of tax, the Income-tax Verification Certificates are not issued to the firm. For the sake of one the whole firm is penalised. If any partner of a firm is not in a position to pay the tax due, due to non-availability of liquid cash, the certificates are not issued to the firm until the tax amount of all partners are collected. By withholding the certificates the department deprives the arrear partner of earning in the business and paying the tax. Certificates are not issued if an item of amount is considered as a concealment of income of a firm even though appeals may lie before competent authorities.

The Government should consider the practical difficulties of the exporters in obtaining certificates from the Income-tax authorities and should be pleased to pass early orders empowering the export authorities at the ports to issue exemption certificates to such hard cases and thus keep the wheels of trade and commerce moving.

OPENING OF LETTERS OF CREDIT.

Another condition imposed is the insistence on the exporters to get Letters of Credit opened before the issue of final licences. Several of our exporters, in this State, are having their own branches in overseas countries like Ceylon, Singapore, Malaya, etc. They are at present exporting the goods to their branches in accordance with the Exchange Control Regulations in sending all the shipping documents through Scheduled Banks (against G.R. Forms) for purposes of collections. In this manner, when monies are realised for the goods exported, insistence on the opening of letter of credit is not essential atleast in the case of exporters who have their branches in overseas destination.

FAILURE TO SUBMIT STATEMENTS WITHIN TIME.

Exporters are the last people to miss a valuable opportunity of export provided by the Government. If certain exporters miss the opportunity it is obvious, that it is due to causes over which they did not have any control. We, therefore, request that the Government be pleased to condone the delay in the submission of export statements by some exporters within the time and pass orders so that the export authorities may register them and issue export quotas to them. If it is not possible to include their names in the list of exporters to whom quotas were given for the half year July to December 1950, their names may be included in the list to be prepared for the half-year January-June 1951.

EXPORT TO INDONESIA.

In view of the barter arrangements made by the Government with Indonesia the exporters in this country are not able to export their handloom goods directly to Indonesia, whereas those exporters in Far Eastern countries who get our handloom products are exporting them to Indonesia. This practice makes our products more costlier and unpopular to the consumers in Indonesia. If opportunities are given to Indian exporters to export handloom products directly we would be in a position to promote direct export trade with that country. Therefore, Government should make immediate arrangements for private exporters in the country to export handloom goods to Indonesia direct.

EXPORTS TO BURMA.

Since 1947, the Government of Burma have imposed certain restrictions on the import of handloom piecegoods from India. Under this import policy the Government of Burma have issued import licence, for handloom cloth to their nationals only. The interest of Indian nationals who have become established importers

of Burma was greatly overlooked. The Indian importers were allowed about 10 per cent of the total import quota. Further, the import permits issued were not correlated to the export quotas assigned by the Government of India and thus the export quota so assigned became ineffective. Almost, all the handloom cloth importers in Burma were Indians till Burma attained independence. The Government of Burma called for applications from all the traders irrespective of nationality, for the import of handloom lungies from India, for the first and second half-years of 1948 and 1949, and no licences were issued since the first half-year of 1948. On 26th July 1949, the Ministry of Commerce, Government of Burma, issued a notification banning import of handloom lungies from India on the plea of protecting the local handloom industry in Burma. At the time of imposition of this ban on the import of handloom lungies into Burma, Madras exporters had large stocks of lungi varieties made especially for Burmese market.

The total ban on the import of the Indian handloom lungies into Burma without any previous notice came as a set-back to the South Indian handloom industry and trade and inflicted untold hardship, and loss. The above fact will be appreciated fully when one realises that coloured cotton lungies, solely intended for the Burma public, are of peculiar specifications and as such they are saleable only in Burma and not elsewhere. These Burma type of lungies are of special short width (42" to 45") with special small check designs without border or heading unlike in all other cases of normal lungies exported to other countries. The lungies produced for that market are still held as dead stock by the exporters. Most of the Madras exporting firms have their branches in Burma and in the hope of getting import licences they have been still maintaining their branch firms in Burma at a heavy establishment expenditure. As regards the local handloom industry of Burma we can boldly say that it is at its infant stage, and produced only a very small quantity of coarse count lungies. Handloom industry of Burma cannot survive as it has to depend on other countries for its requirements of raw materials. Further the production of the local handloom industry is not even five per cent of the total requirements. Government of Burma have been allowing import of cotton textiles other than Indian from foreign countries. Government of Burma has given tariff protection to their local handloom industry by way of import duty on foreign textiles.

In view of the importance of the industry to the Province the Association trust that the Government of India will persuade the Government of Burma to issue permits to established Indian traders for the import of handloom lungies into that country without any discrimination being shown to Indian nationals or nationals of other countries. Burma, which depends for many essential articles on India should comply and it is up to the Commerce Ministry to

persuade the Burma Government in this regard. The Government of India have contributed much to the economic prosperity of Burma and have also aided that country under the Commonwealth Aid Scheme. In fairness to our long established connections with Burma and the help that our Government is giving, Government of Burma should be persuaded to allow import of atleast a small quantity of handloom lungies of this Province which are badly needed in Burma.

DELEGATION.

While the Government of India are sponsoring several delegations on behalf of other trades in the country till now no delegation has been sent on behalf of the Handloom Cloth Trade of this country. We are happy to find the interests the authorities are taking in the matter of export of handloom products to overseas countries. It has always been the proud claim of our Association that the prosperity of the handloom industry of Madras is due to a large extent to the export of its products to overseas countries.

Although no restriction now exists on export of handloom piece-goods, these goods in recent years seem to have lost much of their ground in overseas countries due to several factors. In our opinion, all the export markets in the Far and Middle Eastern countries are still ours if sufficient propaganda is done for our products in those countries. To a certain extent this can be done through the Indian Trade Commissioners and Embassies abroad. To explore the feasibility of improving the Export Trade and to study the special needs of each country Trade Delegations should be sponsored to Far and Middle Eastern countries. On a representation made to the Government, the Government stated that they were prepared to send delegations and make all other arrangements but the expenses of such a delegations was to be borne by the handloom trade. Handloom trade has a special claim on the Government if not for any reason at least for the reason that it has been contributing enormous sums of money to the revenues of Central and Provincial Governments. We wish to point out that in 1945-46 and 1946-47 an advalorem cess of 3 per cent was collected on export of handloom piecegoods with a definite pronouncement by the then Finance Minister that it would be utilised for the upliftment of handloom export trade. Further during 1947 an export duty of 4 annas per square yard was collected on the export of handloom piecegoods and the amount so collected has not been utilised. Apart from direct contributions made by the industry to the coffers of the Central Government, several of the industries that depend on handloom industry, like spinning, dyes and chemicals, cloth printing, etc., make substantial contribution. We, therefore, urge upon the Hon'ble Minister, to sponsor a Trade Delegation on behalf of our industry, as early as possible.

REPRESENTATION ON EXPORT ADVISORY COUNCIL.

You are aware that it is only from the State of Madras that large quantities of handloom products are exported, to all parts of the world, viz., Burma, Malaya, Indonesia, Indo-China, Ceylon, Middle Eastern countries, Africa, Australia, U.K., and U.S.A. In view of this fact when the Export Advisory Council was originally constituted the then Commerce Ministry nominated a representative of the handloom trade of this State only in the whole country on the Export Advisory Council. When this Council was reconstituted a seat was allotted to the All-India Handloom Board which was then functioning. Realising the importance of the Madras Handloom Trade, the All-India Handloom Board elected a member representing the Madras Handloom Trade. This practice of giving representation to the trade was continued only for two terms of the Export Advisory Council. When the All-India Handloom Board was established and the All-India Cottage Industries Board was constituted in its place this practice of giving representation to the handloom trade was given up. Instead it was passed on to a representative of the handloom industry of the Standing Handloom Committee of the All-India Cottage Industries Board.

Though the Standing Handloom Sub-Committee of the All-India Cottage Industries Board was supposed to represent the handloom industry as a whole, in reality it was constituted mainly with members representing the weavers' co-operative societies. The interest of the handloom trade was not at all represented in that Committee. Our Association, therefore, made representation to the Ministry of Industry that trade should also be represented. The reasonableness of our representation was ultimately conceded by the Union Government and our President was nominated to this Handloom Sub-Committee. Before he could attend one single meeting of the Committee, the Committee was reconstituted consequent on the reconstitution of the All-India Cottage Industries Board. In the reorganisation the interest of the handloom trade was neglected, and at present in the reconstituted All-India Cottage Industries Board, or its Handloom Sub-Committee there is no member belonging to the handloom trade, but members representing the interest of the co-operative societies are provided seats. It is an admitted fact that co-operative societies of this State represent only one-fourth of the Madras Handloom Industry. On this matter we have already made representation to the Union and State Governments and are awaiting their decision.

Export Advisory Committee, as you have rightly declared in your inaugural address on the 28th October 1950, is a body mainly intended to look after the interests of export trade of India. Therefore, it is only just and fair that a seat is assigned to the export trade interest of this State. Even though a seat may be given to the Hand-

loom Sub-Committee of the All-India Cottage Industries Board, it will only be a seat given to the handloom industry and not to the trade.

It may not be out of place if we here point out that the handloom products exported by the co-operative societies are very meagre when compared to the exports made by the members of our Association.

Our Association, originally styled as Export Market Price Advisory Committee and functioning for the last 6 years under its present name is the most representative and authoritative handloom trade organisation in the whole State of Madras. Both the Union and State Governments have recognised this fact, and whenever handloom trade interest was considered by authorities they have always given due consideration to the views of our Association. Even for the Indo-Pakistan Handloom Trade Conference held at Calcutta during August 1948, the Government of India were pleased to invite our President to participate in the Conference as a delegate of the Government of India in addition to an invitation extended to the representative of the Madras Co-operative Societies.

From these facts it is evident that the authorities themselves have recognised handloom trade as a separate entity apart from handloom industry as represented by the co-operative organisation. Therefore it is legitimate that a seat should be given to our Association in a body wherein you are anxious to accommodate all interests and the Export Advisory Council in its recent reorganisation. We hope that this representation of ours would receive your best consideration and that you would be pleased to assign a seat on the Council for our Association.

MADRAS PORT COMMITTEE.

Time and again we have brought to the notice of the Government that in view of the importance of the Association in respect of export of handloom piecegoods, which is one of the major exports of this Province, representation should be given to our Association on the Madras Port Committee. Until now the Government have not been pleased to give the representation. However, we confidently hope that the Government would in due course revise their decision and provide a seat for the Association on the Committee.

Thanking you,

Yours truly,

*President and Members of the Madras
Provincial Handloom Cloth Merchants' Association.*

MEMORANDUM SUBMITTED TO HON'BLE SHRI HARE-
KRUSHNA MEHTAB, MINISTER FOR COMMERCE
AND INDUSTRY, GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, ON
FRIDAY THE 12TH JANUARY 1951.

We avail this opportunity of not only welcoming you to our City and also to convey our thanks and appreciation to the Government of India for combining the portfolios of Commerce and Industry in one Ministry. It is our considered opinion that the handling of these two subjects by one Ministry is always conducive for the proper development of the industry and also for the proper administration of trade and commerce. As long as these two subjects were in the hands of a single Minister there was considerably harmony and realism. When they came to be separated in the wake of war emergency, unrealistic approaches to several vital problems came to set in. We need not here go into the long history of how the trade and commerce of this country were affected when these two subjects were independently administered. This unhappy position was particularly so in the case of handloom industry and trade. We are now happy that these two subjects have been brought under one Ministry and that you are presiding over it with your deep sympathy and vast and rich experience.

PRODUCTION OF CURRENT INCOME-TAX
VERIFICATION CERTIFICATES.

Under the conditions imposed it becomes incumbent on the exporters to produce Current Income-tax Verification Certificates for making export application. Considerable difficulties are felt in obtaining the certificates at present by the exporters. In the first place when the exporters request the department to issue the certificates the department takes their own time to issue them. This is natural because the department will have to go through not only the records of the firms concerned but also of the records of their partners and the records relating to their world income. At present the issue of Income-tax Verification Certificates are being withheld if the department entertains any suspicion with regard to any one of the partners or to any one of the items of amount. Even in murder cases the benefit of doubt is given to the accused but the Income-tax Department treats regular assesses even worse than common felons. Mere suspicion by the authorities of any one of the partners blocks the firm's business. Further, if any one of the partners of a firm is in arrears of tax, the Income-tax Verification Certificates are not issued to the firm. For the sake of one the whole firm is penalised. If any partner of a firm is not in a position to pay the tax due, due to non-availability of liquid cash, the certificates are not issued to the firm until the tax amount of all partners are collected. By withholding the certificates the department deprives the arrear partner of earning in the business and paying the tax.

Certificates are not issued if an item of amount is considered as a concealment of income by a firm even though appeals may lie before competent authorities.

The Government should consider the practical difficulties of the exporters in obtaining certificates from the Income-tax authorities and should be pleased to pass early orders empowering the Export authorities at the ports to issue exemption certificates to such hard cases and thus keep the wheels of trade and commerce moving.

OPENING OF LETTERS OF CREDIT.

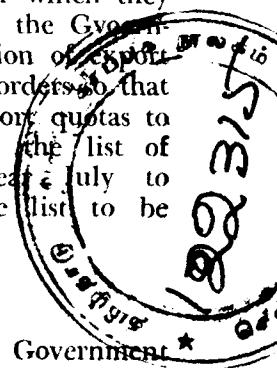
Another condition imposed is the insistence on the exporters to get Letters of Credit opened before the issue of final licences. Several of our exporters, in this State, are having their own branches in overseas countries like Ceylon, Singapore, Malaya, etc. They are at present exporting the goods to their branches in accordance with the Exchange Control Regulations in sending all the shipping documents through Scheduled Banks (against G.R. Forms) for purposes of collections. In this manner, when monies are realised for the goods exported, insistence on the opening of letter of credit is not essential atleast in the case of exporters who have their branches in overseas destinations.

FAILURE TO SUBMIT STATEMENTS WITHIN TIME.

Exporters are the last people to miss a valuable opportunity of export provided by the Government. If certain exporters miss the opportunity it is obvious, that it is due to causes over which they did not have any control. We, therefore, request that the Government be pleased to condone the delay in the submission of export statements by some exporters within the time and pass orders so that the export authorities may register them and issue export quotas to them. If it is not possible to include their names in the list of exporters to whom quotas were given for the half-year July to December 1950, their names may be included in the list to be prepared for the half-year January—June 1951.

EXPORT TO INDONESIA.

In view of the barter arrangements made by the Government with Indonesia the exporters in this country are not able to export their handloom goods directly to Indonesia, whereas those importers in Far Eastern countries who get our handloom products are exporting them to Indonesia. This practice makes our products more costlier and unpopular to the consumers in Indonesia. If opportunities are given to Indian exporters to export handloom products directly we would be in a position to promote direct export trade with that country. Therefore, Government should make immediate arrangements for private exporters in the country to export handloom goods to Indonesia direct.



EXPORT TO BURMA.

Since 1947, the Government of Burma have imposed certain restrictions on the import of handloom piecegoods from India. Under this import policy the Government of Burma have issued import licence, for handloom cloth to their nationals only. The interest of Indian nationals who have become established importers of Burma was greatly overlooked. The Indian importers were allowed about 10 per cent of the total import quota. Further, the import permits issued were not correlated to the export quotas so assigned by the Government of India and thus the export quota so assigned became ineffective. Almost, all the handloom cloth importers in Burma were Indians till Burma attained independence. The Government of Burma called for applications from all the traders irrespective of nationality, for the import of handloom lungies from India, for the first and second half-years of 1948 and 1949, and no licences were issued since the first half-year of 1948. On 26th July 1949, the Ministry of Commerce, Government of Burma, issued a notification banning import of handloom lungies from India on the plea of protecting the local handloom industry in Burma. At the time of imposition of this ban on the import of handloom lungies into Burma, Madras exporters had large stocks of lungi varieties made especially for Burmese market.

The total ban on the import of the Indian handloom lungies into Burma without any previous notice came as a set back to the South Indian handloom industry and trade and inflicted untold hardship and loss. The above fact will be appreciated fully when one realises that coloured cotton lungies, solely intended for the Burma public, are of peculiar specifications and as such they are saleable only in Burma and not elsewhere. These Burma type of lungies are of special short width (42 inches to 45 inches) with special small check designs without border or heading unlike in all other cases of normal lungies exported to other countries. The lungies produced for that market are still held as dead stock by the exporters. Most of the Madras exporting firms have their branches in Burma and in the hope of getting import licences they have been still maintaining their branch firms in Burma at a heavy establishment expenditure. As regards the local handloom industry of Burma we can boldly say that it is at its infant state, and produced only a very small quantity of coarse count lungies. Handloom industry of Burma cannot survive as it has to depend on other countries for its requirements of raw materials. Further the production of the local handloom industry is not even five per cent of the total requirements. Government of Burma have been allowing import of cotton textiles other than Indian from foreign countries. Government of Burma has given tariff protection to their local handloom industry by way of import duty on foreign textiles.

In view of the importance of the industry to the Province the Association trust that the Government of India will persuade the Government of Burma to issue permits to established Indian traders for the import of handloom lungies into that country without any discrimination being shown to Indian nationals or nationals of other countries. Burma, which depends for many essential articles on India should comply and it is up to the Commerce Ministry to persuade the Burma Government in this regard. The Government of India have contributed much to the economic prosperity of Burma and have also aided that country under the Commonwealth Aid Scheme. In fairness to our long-established connections with Burma and the help that our Government is giving, Government of Burma should be persuaded to allow import of atleast a small quantity of handloom lungies of this Province which are badly needed in Burma.

DELEGATION.

While the Government of India are sponsoring several delegations on behalf of other trades in the country till now no delegation has been sent on behalf of the Handloom Cloth Trade of this country. We are happy to find the interests the authorities are taking in the matter of export of handloom products to overseas countries. It has always been the proud claim of our Association that the prosperity of the handloom industry of Madras is due to a large extent to the export of its products to overseas countries.

Although no restriction now exists on export of handloom piecegoods these goods in recent year seem to have lost much of their ground in overseas countries due to several factors. In our opinion, all the export markets in the Far and Middle Eastern countries are still ours if sufficient propaganda is done for our products in those countries. To a certain extent this can be done through the Indian Trade Commissioners and Embassies abroad. To explore the feasibility of improving the export trade and to study the special needs of each country Trade Delegations should be sponsored to Far and Middle Eastern countries. On a representation made to the Government, the Government stated that they were prepared to send delegations and make all other arrangements but the expenses of such a delegation was to be borne by the handloom trade. Handloom trade has a special claim on the Government if not for any reason atleast for the reason that it has been contributing enormous sums of money to the revenues of Central and Provincial Governments. We wish to point out that in 1945-46 and 1946-47 an advalorem cess of 3% was collected on export of handloom piecegoods with a definite pronouncement by the then Finance Minister that it would be utilised for the upliftment of handloom export trade. Further during 1947 an export duty of 4 annas per square yard was collected on the export of handloom piecegoods and the amount so collected

has not been utilised. Apart from direct contributions made by the industries to the coffers of the Central Government, several of the industries that depend on handloom industry, like spinning, dyes and chemicals, cloth printing, etc., make substantial contribution. We, therefore, urge upon the Hon'ble Minister, to sponsor a Trade Delegation on behalf of our industry, as early as possible.

REPRESENTATION ON EXPORT ADVISORY COUNCIL.

You are aware that it is only from the State of Madras that large quantities of handloom products are exported, to all parts of the world, viz., Burma, Malaya, Indonesia, Indo-China, Ceylon, Middle Eastern countries, Africa, Australia, U.K. and U.S.A. In view of this fact when the Export Advisory Council was originally constituted the then Commerce Ministry nominated a representative of the handloom trade of this State only in the whole country on the Export Advisory Council. When this Council was reconstituted a seat was allotted to the All-India Handloom Board which was then functioning. Realising the importance of the Madras Handloom Trade, the All-India Handloom Board elected a member representing the Madras handloom trade. This practice of giving representation to the trade was continued only for two terms of the Export Advisory Council. When the All-India Handloom Board was abolished and the All-India Cottage Industries Board was constituted in its place this practice of giving representation to the handloom trade was given up. Instead it was passed on to a representative of the handloom industry of the Standing Handloom Committee of the All-India Cottage Industries Board.

Though the Standing Handloom Sub-Committee of the All-India Cottage Industries Board was supposed to represent the handloom industry as a whole, in reality it was constituted mainly with members representing the weavers' co-operative societies. The interest of the handloom trade was not at all represented in that Committee. Our Association, therefore, made representation to the Ministry of Industry that trade should also be represented. The reasonableness of our representation was ultimately conceded by the Union Government and our President was nominated to this Handloom Sub-Committee. Before he could attend one single meeting of the Committee, the Committee was reconstituted consequent on the reconstitution of the All-India Cottage Industries Board. In the reorganisation the interest of the handloom trade was neglected, and at present in the reconstituted All-India Cottage Industries Board, or its Handloom Sub-Committee there is no member belonging to the handloom trade, but members representing the interest of the co-operative societies are provided seats. It is an admitted fact that co-operative societies of this State represent only one-fourth of the Madras Handloom Industry. On this matter we have already made representation to the Union and State Governments and are awaiting their decision.

Export Advisory Committee, as you have rightly declared in your inaugural address on the 28th October 1950, is a body mainly intended to look after the interests of export trade of India. Therefore, it is only just and fair that a seat is assigned to the export trade interest of this State. Even though a seat may be given to the Handloom Sub-Committee of the All-India Cottage Industries Board, it will only be a seat given to the handloom industry and not to the trade.

It may not be out of place if we here point out that the handloom products exported by the co-operative societies are very meagre when compared to the exports made by the members of our Association.

Our Association, originally styled as Export Market Pirce Advisory Committee and functioning for the last six years under its present name is the most representative and authoritative handloom trade organisation in the whole State of Madras. Both the Union and State Governments have recognised this fact, and whenever handloom trade interest was considered by authorities they have always given due consideration to the views of our Association. Even for the Indo-Pakistan Handloom Trade Conference held at Calcutta during August 1949, the Government of India were pleased to invite our President to participate in the Conference as a delegate of the Government of India in addition to an invitation extended to the representative of the Madras co-operative societies.

From these facts it is evident that the authorities themselves have recognised handloom trade as a separate entity apart from handloom industry as represented by the co-operative organisation. Therefore, it is legitimate that a seat should be given to our Association in a body wherein you are anxious to accommodate all the Export Advisory Council in its recent reorganisation. We hope that this representation of ours would receive your best consideration and that you would be pleased to assign a seat on the Council for our Association.

MADRAS PORT COMMITTEE.

Time and again we have brought to the notice of the Government that in view of the importance of the Association in respect of export handloom piecegoods, which is one of the major exports of this Province, representation should be given to our Association on the Madras Port Committee. Until now the Government have not been pleased to give the representation. However, we confidently hope that the Government would in due course revise their decision and provide a seat for the Association on the Committee.

Thanking you,

Yours truly,

*President and Members
of the Madras Provincial Handloom Cloth
Merchants' Association.*

APPENDIX C

TRADE AGREEMENT BETWEEN INDIA AND PAKISTAN.

DATED 24TH JUNE 1949.

Whereas the Government of India and the Government of Pakistan are desirous of continuing arrangements regarding the supply by each country of the requirements of the other, they have agreed as follows:—

ARTICLE I.

The Government of India agree to permit the importation from Pakistan and exportation to Pakistan and the Government of Pakistan agree to permit the exportation to and importation from India, of the commodities and goods specified in Schedules A and B at least up to the limits for each class of goods mentioned therein during the period of this agreement on the terms and conditions of this agreement.

ARTICLE II.

With regard to such commodities and goods specified in the said Schedules as are, or may be, subject to export or import licences, the two Governments agree to grant, upon receipt of applications duly made, export or import licences at least up to the quantitative or monetary limits specified in Schedules A and B in respect of such commodities and goods in accordance with the law of the country and regulations and administrative practices of the Government granting the licences.

ARTICLE III.

During the currency of this agreement, the two Governments may, by mutual agreement, alter, extend or supplement the schedules to this agreement.

ARTICLE IV.

Articles I and II of this agreement are without prejudice to the right of traders of either country entering into business transactions in respect of goods and commodities not forming part of this agreement subject, to and in conformity with, the laws and regulations of either country for the time being in force.

ARTICLE V.

The two Governments agree to render all reasonable assistance in facilitating the export and import of goods and commodities

included in Schedules 'A' and 'B' and to consult each other in respect of any matter arising from or in connection with, the exchange of commodities and goods between the two countries during the currency of and in accordance with, this agreement.

ARTICLE VI.

Neither party shall re-export to any other country any scheduled commodity obtained by either country from the other in the form in which it was imported. Change of packing does not constitute change of form for the purpose of this Article.

ARTICLE VII.

Subject to seasonal considerations and delivery requirements indicated in Schedules 'A' and 'B' each country shall spread its purchases as uniformly and conveniently as possible.

ARTICLE VIII.

The two Governments agree to promote the contracts between the trade interests of the two countries and undertake to give every reasonable facility for the import and export of commodities, and in particular to facilitate the use of the routes and methods of transportation which are most economical and convenient.

ARTICLE IX.

This agreement, subject to ratification by the two Governments, shall remain in force for a period of twelve months from the 1st July 1949 to the 30th June 1950, except where otherwise specified in the Schedules.

ARTICLE X.

In order to implement the agreement in a smooth and orderly way the two Governments will exchange monthly progress reports and arrange meetings every other month between representatives of the two countries.

Done and signed in duplicate, in English either copy being authentic, in Karachi on this twenty-fourth day of June 1949.

(Signed) C. C. DESAI,

for the Government of India.

(Signed) MOHAMMED ALI,

for the Government of Pakistan.

9th March 1951.

Trade Agreement between India and Pakistan, dated 26-2-'51.

Being desirous of promoting trade between the two countries the Government of India and the Government of Pakistan have entered into the following agreement:—

ARTICLE I.

(i) The period of this agreement shall be from the 26th February 1951 to 30th June 1952.

(ii) The two Governments agree to permit the exportation to and the importation from the other country of the commodities and goods specified in Schedule I which is attached to this agreement, up to the quantity or value mentioned against each item, during the periods indicated in columns 2 and 3 of Schedule I.

(iii) In respect of such commodities and goods as are, or may be, subject to export or import licences, the two Governments agree to grant upon application duly made, export or import licences up to the quantitative or monetary limits specified in Schedule I, in accordance with the laws and regulations and administrative practices of the Government granting the licence.

(iv) In respect of those commodities in which the export trade is the monopoly of the Government in either country, the terms of the agreement will be deemed to have been fulfilled if the supplies have been made at agreed points within/or without the country and such quantities of the commodities mentioned in column 2 of Schedule I as cannot be supplied before the 30th June 1951, shall be carried forward to the period 30th June 1952.

(v) In respect of foodgrain the quantities, period and terms of supply will be as in Schedule III to this agreement.

(vi) In respect of raw cotton, the Government of Pakistan have at present no destination quotas and India is therefore, free to buy any quantity. If, however, destination quotas are introduced during the period of the agreement, the Government of Pakistan agree to give India a quota of 400,000 bales in the cotton season 1951-52.

ARTICLE II.

The two Governments agree that there shall be no import and/or export trade control restrictions on the movement between the two countries in respect of the commodities mentioned in Schedule II to this Agreement and subject to the conditions specified therein.

ARTICLE III.

In respect of the commodities mentioned in Schedule I to this agreement the two Governments agree that except where prices are separately negotiated, neither Government will impose any discriminatory supplement or surcharge or any other addition to the export prices of those commodities.

ARTICLE IV.

The commodities and goods described in Schedules I and II refer only to those that are produced, processed or manufactured in India or Pakistan as the case may be.

ARTICLE V.

The Government of India and the Government of Pakistan agree not to permit the re-export of any of the commodities imported under Schedule I.

ARTICLE VI.

Notwithstanding anything contained in Articles I and II the two Governments agree that export and import facilities granted by each country to the other shall be no less favourable than those applied to any other country in sterling soft currency area. Current and future import and export licences in respect of sterling and soft currency area countries shall be valid for India and Pakistan, as the case may be.

ARTICLE VII.

In order to facilitate the implementation of this agreement the two Governments agree to hold periodical consultation with each other in respect of any matter arising from or in connection with the supply of commodities or goods between the two countries during the currency of and in accordance with this agreement, and, the Schedules to this agreement.

ARTICLE VIII.

This agreement shall come into force on the 26th February 1951.

Signed on behalf of the
Government of India.

(Signed) N R. PILLAI,

*Leader of the Indian Trade
Delegation.*

Signed on behalf of the
Government of Pakistan.

(Signed) M. IKRAMULLAH,

*Leader of the Pakistan Trade
Delegation.*

SCHEDULE I.

1. FROM INDIA TO PAKISTAN

	up to end of June 1951.	From 1st July 195 to 30th June 1952.
Handloom cotton		
Cloth		15,000 bales
Lungis, towels and (furnishing fabrics, etc.)		(including 10,000 bales of lungis)
Millmade Cotton Cloth :		
Coarse	Nil	40,000 bales
Medium	Nil	20,000 bales
Fine	Nil	15,000 bales
Cotton Yarn :		
1½ to 1's	Nil	2,000 bales
10 to 15's	Nil	2,000 bales
16 to 20's	Nil	11,000 bales

From East Pakistan Only :

Handloom cloth

FROM INDIA TO EAST PAKISTAN ONLY

Handloom cloth of the following varieties :—Sarongs, Kailies, Visakuthu, Burma Lungies, Kasturia, Kakaries, 3 x 1, Ammavari-kuppams, Bambans, Jublees, Saronges.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

MINISTRY OF COMMERCE.

Export Trade Control Policy.

Public Notice.

Subject.—Exports to Pakistan under Indo-Pakistan Trade Agreement.

In continuation of this office Public Notice No. 82, dated the 8th August 1950, on the above subject, a copy of Press Note, dated the 12th August 1950, issued by the Ministry of Commerce, Government of India, New Delhi, is reproduced below for general information.

PRESS NOTE.

The representatives of the Governments of India and Pakistan reviewed the working of the Indo-Pakistan Trade Agreement of April 1950 at meetings held at Karachi, on the 8th, 9th and 10th August.

It was agreed that the arrangements made for the movement of goods under Article 4 of the Agreement were on the whole satisfactory, as the Pakistan State Bank had authorised the opening of letters of credit for the bulk of the quantities of the Indian commodities involved. As regards the free movement of goods under Article 7, it was agreed that the present arrangements should continue till the 30th September 1950 and that the lists of articles, as amended from time to time before the review meeting, should continue to be operative. In respect of gram, however, which is an article in the free list from Pakistan to India, the following arrangements were agreed by the representatives of the two Governments.

(1) There will be no restriction on the export of gram loaded in wagons booked for Mcleodganj and Wagah up to and including the 10th August 1950.

(2) In addition to (1) above, and in addition to the quantities entered for shipment and lying in the dock area in Karachi on the 8th August 1950, the Government of Pakistan will allow the further export on an O.G.L. basis, subject to identity of crop, of all 1949 gram plus 2,500 tons of 1950 gram, the last two categories together amounting to a minimum of 20,000 tons.

In view of the shortness of time for the movement of goods before the conclusion of the present Agreement on the 30th September 1950, it was agreed that no material alteration should be made in the lists of commodities under Article 7. It was, however decided to add (i) printed books, journals, magazines and periodicals and (ii) vegetable seeds for free movement from both India and Pakistan.

The progress of the release of goods detained in either country at the time of the cessation of normal trading was also reviewed and was found to be satisfactory wherever the identity of goods has been established by appropriate evidence. It was agreed that the necessary evidence in respect of the remaining goods should be furnished as soon as possible to facilitate the completion of the release of these goods.

J. S. BEDI,

For Export Trade Controller

Office of the Export Trade Controller,
" Bhandari House ", Court Road,
Amritsar, the 25th August 1950.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

MINISTRY OF COMMERCE.

Export Trade Control Policy.
Public Notice.

Subject.—Exports to Pakistan under Indo-Pakistan Trade Agreement.

"The following Press Note, dated 1st August 1950, issued by the Ministry of Commerce, Government of India, New Delhi, on the above subject, is reproduced below for the information of the trade.

PRESS NOTE.

The Government of India and Pakistan in their desire to implement the supply of goods for the delivery of which they have agreed to use their good offices under the Agreement reached last April have now agreed that under clause 12 thereof it shall continue to apply up to September 30, 1950, in respect of such goods and commodities specified in clauses 2, 3 and 4 of the Agreement as will not have been completely delivered by July 31.

The representatives of the two Governments propose to meet as soon as possible to review the operation of the Agreement. At that meeting they will consider changes in lists of commodities which are allowed free movement on either side to the extent that traders in either country are able to finance exchange of goods without any assistance from either Government under clause 7 of the Agreement. Both the Governments have agreed that until then the existing arrangements for such commodities will also continue."

(Signed)- *Export Trade Controller.*

Office of the Export Trade Controller,

"Bhandari House", Court Road,

Amritsar, the 8th August 1950.

CIRCULAR No. 82/51.

TO ALL MEMBERS:

Extracts taken from Circular No. 66/51, dated 14th March 1951 received from the Export Trade Controller, Madras, are given below for your information.

M. S. A. RAHIM,

N. V. R. SOURIRAJAN,

Honorary Secretaries.

Subject.—Exports to Pakistan under the Indo-Pakistan Trade Agreement.

It is hereby notified for the information of the trade that printed copies of the new Indo-Pakistan Trade Agreement are available in this office for sale at the rate of eight annas per copy.

2. It would be observed that in respect of commodities included in Schedule I to the Agreement specified commodities up to specified quantities will be allowed export from India to Pakistan up to the end of June 1951 and the balance of the commodities will be allowed export during the 12 months commencing from 1st July 1951.

3. The export of the commodities which are to be exported up to the end of June 1951 will be regulated as follows:—

Handloom piecegoods.—The varieties mentioned item (iii) of Schedule II, namely, Sarongs, Kailies, Visakuthu, Burma Lungies, Kasturia, Kakaries, Pattanies, 3×1 Gingams, Ammavarikuppams Bambans, Jublees and Sarongs, will be allowed export to East Pakistan without licensing restrictions. As regards export of other varieties of handloom piecegoods to East Pakistan and export of all varieties of handloom piecegoods to West Pakistan will be the subject of a separate public notice in due course.

4. All licensing in cases of Schedule I items will be done only on the basis of production of irrevocable Letters of Credit.

5. The export of the commodities included in Schedule II of the agreement will be allowed freely without any licensing or payment restrictions.

6. With regard to commodities which are not covered by the Agreement, their position regarding export to Pakistan will be the same as that obtaining for other soft currency countries.

7. This supersedes all previous notices governing exports to Pakistan.

Appendix D.

ஆண்டு விழா நிகழ்ச்சி

— (★) —

1949-ம் ஆண்டு ஜூலைமீ 16-ம் தேதி மாலை 5.30 மணிக்கு
ராஜாஜி மண்டபத்தில் சென்னை முதலமைச்சர்
கனம் பி. எஸ். குமாரசாமி ராஜா அவர்களின்
மகாத்மா காந்தியின் திருஉருவப் படத்
தி ற ப் பு வி ழ ா.

— (★) —

ஜனாப் எம். எஸ். அப்துல் மஜீத்

அவர்களின்

தலைமை யுரை

— (★) —

கனம் பொருந்திய அமைச்சரவர்களே,
அன்புள்ள சகோதர சகோதரிகளே—

இன்றையதினம் முதல் நமது சங்கத்தின் ஆண்டு விழா சிறப்
பாக நடந்துகொண்டிருக்கிறது. அந்த ஆண்டு விழாவில் தற்
சமயம் நடைபெற விருக்கும் நிகழ்ச்சி மிகவும் குதூகலமான
நிகழ்ச்சி. அந் நிகழ்ச்சியை நடத்திவைப்பதற்காக இவ் விடத்திற்கு
விஜயம் செய்திருக்கிறார்கள் நமது மாகாணத்தின் கண்யமிக்க
அதிகார பீடத்தில் அமர்ந்திருக்கும் தலைமை அமைச்சர் ஸ்ரீமான்
பி. எஸ். குமாரசாமி ராஜா. அவர்களின் உயரிய எண்ணங்கள்,
அவர்களின் பரந்த நோக்கங்கள், அவர்களின் ஆழ்ந்த அறிவு,
ஆற்றல், அனுபவ ஞானம் இவைகள் எங்களுக்கு இன்று வழி
காட்டியாக ஆகப்போகிறது. அவர்கள் எங்களின் நிகழ்ச்சியில்
கலந்துகொள்ள சம்மதித்ததானது எங்களுக்கு அவர்கள் செய்த
ஒரு கண்யமும், பெருமையுமாகும். நான் அவர்களை சந்தித்து
இந்த ஆண்டு விழா நிகழ்ச்சியில் நம் நாட்டின் தந்தை மகாத்மா
காந்தியவர்களின் உருவப் படத்தைத் திறக்கும் விழாவை தாங்கள்
நடத்திவைக்க வேண்டுமென்று வேண்டிய சமயம் அவர்கள் மனம்
கோணுது உற்சாகத்துடன் ஏற்றுக்கொண்டார்கள். நான் அவர்
களை விசாரித்தேன், “என்றைய தினம் உங்களுக்கு வசதியாக
இருக்கும்” என்று. அவர்கள் என்னிடத்தில் கேட்டார்கள் “உங்
களுக்கு எந்த தினம் வசதியாயிருக்கும்” என்று. அதிலிருந்து அவர்
கள் நம் நாட்டின் தந்தை மகாத்மாவின் பால் கொண்டிருக்கும்

நல்ல முறையில் இருக்கவேண்டுமானால் இந்தத் தொழிலும், வியாபாரமும், நன்றியிருந்தால்தான் முடியும். இந்த நாட்டில் எத்தனையோ பிரச்சனைகள் இருக்கின்றன. அதிலே இந்த நெசவாளர்களின் பிரச்சனையும் ஒன்றாக ஆக்கக்கூடாது என்பது எங்கள் சங்கத்தின் நோக்கமாயிருக்கிறது. அதற்காகத்தான் நாங்கள் இந்த சங்கத்தை 6 வருஷகாலமாக வேலை செய்து வருகிறோம். இது வரையிலும் இங்கிருக்கும் அதிகாரிகளுக்கும், பத்திய சர்க்காரிலிருக்கும் அதிகாரிகளுக்கும் எங்கள் தொழிலிலும், வியாபாரத்திலும் இருக்கும் கஷ்டங்களை காலாகாலங்களில் எடுத்துக் காட்டினோம். இந்த நாட்டில் கைத்தறித் தொழில் வளர்ந்து ஒங்கியது வாஸ்தவம்தான். சமீப காலத்தில் மற்ற மாகாணங்களில் இந்தத் தொழில் கூடிணித்து அழிந்த சமயத்தில் மதராஸ் மாகாணத்தில் மாத்திரம் சிறந்தோங்கி யிருந்ததன் காரணமென்ன? இந்தத் தொழிலில் அக்கரை காட்டும் அதிகாரிகளை இந்த விஷயம் பற்றி விசாரிக்கும்படி நாங்கள் கேட்டுக் கொள்ள விரும்புகிறோம். அந்நிய மாகாணங்களில் இருக்கிறோம் கைத்தறித் தொழில் சீரூலிந்து போனதற்கு காரணம் அவர்களுக்கு தாங்கள் நெய்த சரக்குகளை அந்நிய நாடுகளுக்கு அனுப்பமுடியாததே காரணம். ஆனால், மதராஸ் மாகாணத்தில் தயாரித்திருந்த துணிகளை இங்கிருக்கும் வியாபாரிகள் பர்மா, சிலோன், மலேயா ஸ்டேட்ஸ், டச்சு ஸ்டட் இண்டஸ், ஏடன், ஆப்ரிக்கா போன்ற பிரதேசங்களுக்கு அள்ளிச் சென்று அங்கிருக்கும் மக்களுக்கு அதை அவர்கள் உபயோகிக்க கொடுத்ததால்தான் இந்த மாகாணத்திலிருக்கும் இந்தக் கைத்தறித் தொழில் வளர்ச்சி யடைந்ததற்கும், இந்த மாகாணத்தில் இந்த வியாபாரம் வளர்ச்சி யடைந்ததற்கும் காரணம். ஆகவே அதிகாரிகள் இந்தத் தொழிலை காப்பாற்ற வேண்டுமாயின் இந்தத் தொழிலுக்கு இருக்கும் ஏற்றுமதிக் குறைகளைப் பண்படுத்தவேண்டும். அதற்கு வேண்டிய முயற்சிகளைச் செய்ய வேண்டும். அநேக பண்டங்களுக்கு யுத்தகாலத்தில் பஞ்சம் ஏற்பட்டது. அதற்கு அதிகாரிகள் சட்டதிட்டம் ஏற்படுத்தினார்கள். அதுபோல் கைத்தறி ஐவுளிக்கும் சட்டதிட்டம் ஏற்படுத்தினார்கள். அந்த சமயத்திலும் கூச்சலிட்டோம். இதற்கு சட்டதிட்டங்கள் இடாதீர்கள் என்று சொன்னோம். நம் நாட்டின் பொருளாதாரப் பணியானது நன்றியிருக்க வேண்டுமானால், இந்நாட்டின் பொருளாதாரம் வளர வேண்டுமானால், இந்நாட்டின் ஏற்றுமதி வியாபாரம் நன்றியிருக்க வேண்டும். அந்நிய தேசங்களின் விஷயங்களை பரிசோதித்துப் பாருங்கள். Export driveல் எவ்வளவு அக்கரை காட்டுகிறார்கள். எக்ஸ்போர்ட்டுக்குத் தயாராகும் சாமான்கள் உள்ளூரிலிருப்பவர்களுக்கு கூட கிடைப்பதில்லை. அமெரிக்கா போன்ற இடங்களில் உற்பத்தி செய்யப்பட்டு எக்ஸ்போர்ட் செய்யப்படுகிறது கார்கள் போன்ற சாமான்கள். இவைகளை அந்த தேச மக்களுக்கே வேண்டிய அளவுக்கு கொடுத்தல்லை. அந்நாட்டில் உற்பத்தியாகும் சரக்குகளை இந்தியாபோன்ற தேவையுள்ள நாடுகளுக்கு அனுப்பிக் கொண்டே யிருக்கிறார்கள். நாழும் அவர்களைப் போல் அதிக செல்வமுடைய நாடாக வேண்டுமாயின் இந்நாட்டில் தயாராகும் பண்டங்களை இந்நாட்டிலிருக்கும்

அதிகாரிகள் எக்ஸ்போர்ட் செய்வதற்கு வேண்டிய வசதிகள் செய்து தரவேண்டியவர்களா யிருக்கிறார்கள். நாம் இச் சங்கத்தை ஆரம்பித்த காலத்தில் மத்திய சர்க்காரிலிருக்கும் அதிகாரிகளுக்கும், இம்மாகாண அதிகாரிகளுக்கும் தெரிவித்தோம். கவனிக்கவில்லை. கட்டுப்பாடுகளினால் தொழிலை நசுக்கினார்களே. அதனால் ஏற்பட்ட நிலைமை என்ன? இந்த நாட்டில், இந்த மாகாணத்தில், உற்பத்தியாகும் கைத்தறி ஜவுளிகள் நான் ஆரம்பத்தில் சொன்னதுபோல் பர்மா, சிலோன், மலேயா, ஆப்ரிக்கா, ஏடன், போன்ற பிரதேசங்களுக்குப் போய்க் கொண்டிருந்தன. எந்த சமயத்தில் அந்நிய நாடுகளுக்கு அனுப்பக் கூடாதென்று சொன்னார்களோ அந்த நாள் முதல் இங்கிலாந்தும், அமெரிக்காவும், ஸ்விட்சர்லாண்டும் போன்ற நாடுகள் நம் நாட்டில் உற்பத்தியாகும் துணிகள் போல் தயாரித்து அந்த மார்க்கெட்டுகளை அவர்கள் சூறையாடினார்கள். கொள்ளை கொண்டார்கள். அவர்கள் மார்க்கெட்டுகளைக் கைப்பற்றிய பின்பு நம் நாட்டிலிருக்கும் அதிகாரிகள் கட்டுப்பாடுகளை நாங்கள் தளர்த்திவிட்டோம் நீங்கள் வேண்டுமானால் உங்கள் சரக்குகள் போகுமிடங்களில் வியாபாரம் செய்யுங்கள் என்றார்கள். அது போல் செய்தும் பார்த்தார்கள் வியாபாரிகள். நாகரீகமடைந்த, முன்னேற்றமடைந்த, அந்த நாடுகள் அந்த மார்க்கெட்டுகளைக் கைப்பற்றிய பின்பு நம் வியாபாரிகள் கைத்தறி சரக்குகளை அந்த நாடுகளுக்கு எடுத்துச் சென்றால் அந்தச் சரக்குகளை வாங்குவோர் யாருமில்லை. விலை அதிகம் என்கிறார்கள். இந்தச் சீலையின் தன்மை போதாது என்கிறார்கள். இந்தச் சீலையில் இழைகள் குறைவாயிருக்கிறது என்கிறார். இவ்விதமாக இந்நாட்டின் கைத்தறி ஜவுளி ஏற்றுமதியானது தடை செய்யப்பட்டது. அதனால் இந்த வியாபாரம் கடினத்தை அடைந்தது. அதனால் இதைக் கைத்தறித் தொழிலும் கடினத்தை அடைந்தது. அதனால் லக்ஷக்கணக்கான பாட்டாளி மக்கள் பல இன்னல்களுக்கும், கஷ்டங்களுக்கும் ஆளாகிறார்கள். மதுவிலக்கு சட்டத்தினால் சில மரமேறிகள் கஷ்டப்பட்டால் அதற்கு சமாதானம் சொல்லலாம். பழமையான காலமுதல் இந்தத் தொழிலை ஜீவனமாகக் கொண்டவர்களுக்கு என்ன வழி? அந்த ஜவுளிகளை விற்கிறவர்களின் கதி என்ன? பிரதம மந்திரியவர்களைக் கேட்கப் பிரியப்படுகிறேன். மாகாண அதிகாரிகளைக் கேட்கப் பிரியப்படுகிறேன். இந்த வர்த்தகமானது நல்ல முறையில் வளர வேண்டுமானால் நாட்டிலுள்ள அதிகாரிகள் அதைக் காப்பாற்ற வேண்டிய முயற்சி செய்ய வேண்டும். நான் ஏற்கனவே சொன்னதுபோல் இந்த நாட்டில் இருக்கும் குடிசைத் தொழில்களில் கைத்தறித் தொழிலானது மிகவும் சிறப்புடையதாயிருக்கிறது. It is a prince among the cottage Industries of the country. நானும் சட்ட சபையிலும் அப்பொழுதப்பொழுது சொல்லியிருக்கிறேன். பல சந்தர்ப்பங்களில் உங்களிடமும் சொல்லி வந்திருக்கிறேன். அதை அவர்கள் உணர்ந்து இந்தப் பயிருக்கு வேண்டிய தண்ணீராகிய வசதிகளை அவர்கள் செய்து கொடுக்க வில்லையானால், இந்த நேரம் விளையும் பயிர் அழிந்து

போய்விடும். அதனால் அநேக பாட்டாளி மக்கள் வருத்தப்பட்டுக் கொண்டிருப்பார்கள். பண்டங்களுக்கு ஏற்பட்ட பஞ்சத்தினால் கட்டுப்பாடுகளை ஏற்படுத்தினார்கள். அதன் பலனாக நாட்டில் பண்டங்கள் பதுங்கச் செய்யப்படுகிறது. நான் தைரியமாய்ச் சொல்லுவேன். இந்த நாட்டில் இருக்கும் செல்வந்தர்கள் இந்நேரத்தில் நிலைமையை உணராமலிருக்கிறார்கள். நாம் சுதந்திர மக்களாயிருக்கிறோம். இந்நாட்டில் இருக்கும் ஒவ்வொரு மக்களும் இந்நாட்டில் பிறந்தவர்களாயிருந்தால், இந்நாட்டினிடம் தேசாபிமானமிருந்தால் அவன் இந்த நாட்டுக்கு குறைவாக இருக்கும் பண்டங்களை பதுக்க மாட்டான். அப்படிப் பதுக்குவானால் அது அவன் நாட்டுக்குச் செய்யும் துரோகம் என்றே சொல்லுவேன். கட்டுப்பாடுகளை ஏற்படுத்தினால் பண்டங்கள் பதுங்கிக் கொண்டே போகிறது. எப்படி யென்றால், இங்கிலீஷில் சொல்லுவார்கள், இது ஒரு Vicious Circle. நம் நாட்டில் மகாத்மா காந்தி சொன்னார்கள். இந்த கண்ட்ரோல்களையும் கட்டுப்பாடுகளையும் தளர்த்துங்கள். நம் மக்கள் உண்மையான மக்களா, இல்லையா என்பதை நான் தெரிந்து கொள்ளுகிறேன். இந்த நாட்டை சூறையாட இருக்கிறார்களா? கொள்ளை கொள்ள இருக்கிறார்களா? அப்படி ஒருக்காலும் இருக்க மாட்டார்கள். இந்த நாட்டின் மக்கள் உண்மையான மக்கள். உண்மையாகவே நடந்து கொள்வார்கள் சத்தியமாக. கட்டுப்பாடுகள் தளர்த்துங்கள், தளர்த்துங்கள், என்று அவர்கள் சொல்லிக் கொண்டிருந்தார்கள். கட்டுப்பாடு தளர்த்தப்பட்டது. திரும்பவும் எவ்வளவோ கஷ்டங்கள் ஏற்பட்டது. எல்லா வியாபாரிகளும் நல்ல நோக்கமுள்ளவர்களா யிருக்க முடியாது. சில Black Sheep, தீய செயல் செய்யும் வர்த்தகர்களும் இருக்கத்தான் செய்வார்கள். அவர்களின் செயல்களினால் தொழிலுக்கு இருக்கும் நல்ல பெயரும் ஒரு விதத்தில் கெட்டுப் போகிறது. அதிகாரிகளும் கட்டுப்பாடு இருக்கத்தான் வேண்டும், கட்டுப்பாடு இருந்தால்தான் இந்நாட்டில் கொஞ்சமா யிருக்கும் பண்டங்களை எல்லா மக்களுக்கும் நல்ல முறையில் பங்கிட்டு செய்து கொடுக்க முடியும் என்றார்கள். வாஸ்தவம்தான். இருந்தாலும் கைத்தறித் தொழில், கைத்தறி வியாபாரம் இவைகள் சம்பந்தப்பட்ட வரையில் இப்பொழுது இருக்கும் கைத்தறி கட்டுப்பாடுகளில் தற்போதைக்கு அவசியமானது என்ன இருக்கிறதென்று தெரிய வில்லை. இன்று பேல் பேலாக மில்களில் ஜனங்கள் எடுக்க முடியாத நிலைமையில் துணிகள் கிடக்கிறது. பம்பாயிலும், அகமதாபாத்திலும் எவ்வளவோ ஜவுளி, நூல் பேல்கள் கிடக்கின்றது. வாங்க ஆளில்லை. ஒரு இடத்தில் சொல்லுகிறார்கள். நூல் பஞ்சமாக இருக்கிறதென்று. இன்னொரு இடத்தைப் பார்த்தால், உதாரணமாக, கோயமுத்தூரிலிருக்கும் கிடங்குகளைப் பார்த்தால், ஆயிரக் கணக்கான பேல்கள் இன்று விற்று முதலாகாமல் கிடக்கிறது. ஜவுளிக்குப் பஞ்சம் என்கிறார்கள். இன்றைய தினம் நூற்றுக்கணக்கான பேல்கள் ஜவுளி வந்திருக்கிறது. அதை சரியான முறையில் ஜனங்கள் அனுபவிக்க முடியாமலிருக்கிறது. அதற்குப் பல காரணங்களுண்டு. விரியோ

கிக்கும் முறை தப்பான முறை என்பது ஒன்று. சாதாரணமாக நூலை எடுத்துக் கொண்டால் இந்த நாட்டிலிருக்கும் தரிகாரர்கள் பலவிதமான நெம்பர் நூல்களை உபயோகிக்கிறார்கள். சில தரிகாரர்கள் 80, 100 நெம்பர் நூல்களை கையாண்டார்கள். அழகிய அங்கவஸ்திரங்களும், அழகிய தோத்திகளும் தயாரித்தனர். அருப்புக்கோட்டையிலிருக்கும் தொழிலாளிகள் மோட்டா ரகங்களான 20, 40-ம் நெம்பர் நூல்களை உபயோகித்து நெய்து கொண்டிருக்கிறார்கள். தென்னாற்காட்டிலிருக்கும் தரிகாரர்கள் 60x40 இந்த ரக நூல்களை உபயோகித்து சிறந்த ஷங்கிகளை தயாரித்துக் கொண்டிருக்கிறார்கள். ஆகவே ஒவ்வொரு இடத்திற்கு ஒவ்வொரு நெம்பர் நூல் தேவை. இன்று மதரசில் பார்த்தால் இவ்விடத்திற்குத் தேவையான 60, 40-ம் நெம்பர் நூல்கள் கிடைப்பதில்லை. இன்று நமது பிரிமியரவர்கள் இந்தப் பட்டணத்திலிருக்கும் நூல் வியாபாரிகளுக்குப் போடும் பேல்களைக் கணக்கிட்டுப் பார்த்தால் 26-ம் நெம்பர் நூல், 10-ம் நெம்பர் நூல் எல்லாம் போடப்படுவது தெரியும். இந்த நிலைமையில் இங்கு இருக்கும் தரிகாரர்கள் எந்த நூலை வாங்குவார்கள்? இந்த விதமாக ஒரு தப்பான விநியோக முறை இருப்பதால் நியாயமாய் தரிகாரர்களுக்கு அங்காங்கு வேண்டிய நூல்களுக்கு பிளாக் மார்க்கெட் ஏற்படுகிறது. திருநெல்வேலி, கடையநல்லூர் முதலிய இடங்களில் தேவைப்படுகிற 20-ம் நெம்பர் நூல் அங்கு கிடைப்பதில்லை. அங்கு இன்று போய்ப் பார்த்தால் 30-ம் நெம்பர் 60-ம் நெம்பர் நூல் பேல்கள் இருக்கிறது. அங்கு இருப்பவர்கள் அதை பிளாக் மார்க்கெட்டில் எந்த இடத்தில் தேவைப்படுகிறதோ அந்த இடங்களுக்கு கொடுத்து, 20-ம் நெம்பர் நூல் எந்த இடங்களில் கிடைக்கிறதோ அந்த இடங்களிலிருந்து, தமது குறைவைச் சரிக்கட்டிக் கொள்ளுவதற்காக, பிளாக் மார்க்கெட்டில் வாங்கிக் கொள்ளுகிறார்கள். இகனால் பிளாக் மார்க்கெட் அதிகரிக்கிறது. இது விநியோகிப்பு முறையில் இருக்கும் ஒரு பெரிய தப்பு. இதை சிந்தித்துப் பாருங்கள். இன்றைய தினம் கவர்மெண்டார் கட்டுப்பாட்டை தளர்த்தினாலும் நாளை தினம் அவர்களே இந்தக் கட்டுப்பாட்டை திரும்பவும் கொண்டு வர முடியும். ஆகவே இன்றைய தினம் நாம் கட்டுப்பாட்டை எடுத்து விட்டால் என்ன ஏற்பட்டு விடுமோ என்று பயப்பட வேண்டாம். ஆகவே கட்டுப்பாட்டை எடுத்துப் பாருங்கள். ஒரு சமயத்தில் எடுத்தோம். அதனால் கஷ்டங்கள் ஏற்பட்டது. திரும்பவும் ஒரு முறை எடுத்துப் பாருங்கள். இந்த சமயம் அந்நிய நாட்டு ஏற்றுமதி சரக்கு குறைந்து விட்டது. பாகிஸ்தானுக்கு அனுப்புவது அறவே நின்று விட்டது. பர்மாவை எடுத்துக் கொண்டால் அங்கு கம்பூனிஸ்ட் கலகம், உள்நாட்டுக் கலகம், இவைகளினால் அந்நாட்டிலிருப்பவர்கள் சமாதான முறையில் வாழ இடமில்லை. ஜவுளிகளை வாங்கி உபயோகிக்க இடமில்லை. அங்கும் சரக்கு போக முடியாமல் இருக்கிறது. மலேயாவிலும் அப்படியே. இலங்கைத் தீவை எடுத்துக் கொண்டால் அங்கு வந்திருக்கும் புதிய அதிகாரிகள் புதிய தடைகளைப் போட்டு தடை செய்கிறார்கள். இவ்விதமாக ஒவ்வொரு நாட்டின் நிலைமை

யையும் பார்த்தால் இந்தத் தொழிலுக்கு ஒரு கஷ்டத்தைக் கொடுக்கும் நிலைமையில் தான் இருக்கிறதே தவிர வளர வழியில்லை. ஆகவே இந்த சமயத்தில் நமது பிரிமியரவர்களை நான் வேண்டிக் கொள்வது என்னவென்றால் இந்தத் தொழிலை நீங்கள் உங்கள் தொழிலாகப் பார்க்க வேண்டும். எனக்குத் தெரியும், அவர்களுக்கு இந்தத் தொழிலிலும், வியாபாரத்திலும் எவ்வளவு அக்கரை உண்டு என்று. எனவே அவர்கள் இதில் அக்கரை காட்டினால் இந்தத் தொழிலிற்கும், வாத்தகர்களுக்கும் பிரயோஜனம் ஏற்படும். இல்லாவிட்டால் நசுக்கப்பட்டும், பாதிக்கப்பட்டும் லக்ஷக்கணக்கான மக்கள் கஷ்டப்படுவார்கள். நாட்டிலிருக்கும் இந்த பண்டப் பஞ்சத்தைக் கண்டு கவர்மெண்டார் ஒரு பிளாக் மார்க்கெட் தடை மசோதாவை தயாரிக்கிறார்கள். நான் இப்பொழுது அந்த மசோதா சம்பந்தமாக எதுவும் சொல்லப் பிரியப்படவில்லை. இதை மாத்திரம் பிரிமியரவர்களுக்கு அறிவித்துக் கொள்ளுகிறேன். அதாவது இங்கிலாந்தில் ஒரு பழமொழி சொல்லுவார்கள். "Locking the stable after the horse is stolen" என்பார்கள். அதுபோல் எவ்வளவு பிளாக் மார்க் கெட்டோ நடந்து விட்டது. இப்பொழுது மசோதா வருகிறது. பிளாக் மார்க்கெட் எந்தச் சமயத்தில் தலை விரித்து தாண்டவ மாடியதோ அந்த சமயத்தில் அதிகாரிகள் தூங்கிக் கொண்டிருந்தார்கள். இப்பொழுது யார், யார் என்னென்ன சம்பாதிக்க வேண்டுமோ அது எல்லாம் சம்பாதித்தாகி விட்டது. இப்பொழுது பிளாக் மார்க்கெட் சட்டம் கொண்டு வருவதென்றால் அது அவ்வளவு ஒழுங்காயில்லை. நான் இந்த மசோதாவின் ஒவ்வொரு செக்ஷனையும் படித்துப் பார்த்தேன். பெரிய, புதிதான திட்டமாக, மசோதாவாக இருக்கிறது. வர்த்தகர்களா யிருந்தாலும், பொது ஜனங்களா யிருந்தாலும், இந்நாட்டின் மக்களல்லவா என்று கேட்கிறேன். ஏழைகள் இருக்கிறார்கள் பணக்காரர்கள் இருக்கிறார்கள். யாராயிருந்தாலும் அவன் இந்த நாட்டின் மகன் என்று எல்லோருக்கும் அந்த அரசாங்கம் பாதுகாப்பு கொடுக்க வேண்டியது அவர்கள் கடமை. பிளாக் மார்க்கெட் செய்கிறார் என்றால் அவ்விதமாக ஏற்பட்டு விட்டது. எவ்வளவோ பிளாக் மார்க்கெட்காரர்கள் இருக்கிறார்கள். இதற்கு நாட்டில் செல்வாக்குள்ள நம்போன்றவர்கள் மக்களிடையே சென்று இவ்விதமான காரியத்தில் ஈடுபடாதீர்கள் என்று வேண்டினால் அவர்களே இந்தத் தீய செயலை நிறுத்துவார்கள். அதற்கு பதிலாகப் புதிய புதிய சட்டங்களை ஏற்படுத்திக் கொண்டே போனால் நாட்டிலிருக்கும் மக்களுக்குத்தான் கஷ்டம். அது மாத்திரமல்ல. மற்ற ஒவ்வொரு கண்ட்ரோல் ஆர்டர்களுக்கும், ஒவ்வொரு கண்ட்ரோல் திட்டங்களையும் எடுத்துப் பாருங்கள். ஒவ்வொன்றிலும் பீனல் (penal) செக்ஷன் என்று ஒன்று உண்டு. அப்படி நீங்கள் தண்டனைக்காக என்று ஒரு செக்ஷனை ஒவ்வொரு மசோதாவிலும், Actலும், போட்டிருக்கும் சமயம் ஏன் தனிப்பட்ட முறையில் பிளாக் மார்க்கெட் பில் என்று ஒன்று தயாரிக்கிறீர்கள் என்று கேட்கிறேன். நான் நினைக்கிறேன். நமது பிரிமியரவர்கள் இந்த மசோதாவை சற்று

உற்றுப் பார்த்துத்தான் இதை திடீரென்று கொண்டுவரக் கூடா தென்று ஆலோசனைக்கு விட்டிருக்கிறார்களென்று நினைக்கிறேன். அது அங்கேயே மறைந்து போகுமென்றும் நினைக்கிறேன். இவ்விதமான புதிய புதிய திட்டங்களினால் வியாபாரிகளுக்கும், மற்றவர்களுக்கும், எவ்வளவோ தொல்லைகளும், இடுக்கண்களும் ஏற்படுகின்றன. வரியை எடுத்துக் கொண்டால் எவ்வளவோ வகையில் வரி கட்டுகிறார்கள். இன்கம்டாக்ஸ்காரர்கள் அடித்துக்கொண்டு போவதற்கு ஒரு எல்லையே இல்லை. தவிர சேல்ஸ்டாக்ஸ் இருக்கிறது. வியாபாரிகள் சம்பந்தப்பட்ட வரையில் இந்நாட்டின் நன்மைக்கு அவர்கள் எவ்வளவு வேண்டுமானாலும் தியாகம் செய்யத் தயார். எவ்வளவு பணம் வேண்டுமானாலும், வரி வேண்டுமானாலும், கொடுக்கத் தயார். ஆனால் அவர்களுக்கு வியாபாரத்தின் வளர்ப்பதற்கு வேண்டிய வசதிகளை நீங்களும் செய்து கொடுக்க வேண்டும். அப்படி செய்தால்தான் இந்நாட்டின் பொருளாதாரம் வளரும். அப்படிக்கில்லாமல் செய்யக் கூடிய வியாபாரத்தை செய்ய வொட்டாமல் செய்யும் ஒரு நிலைமை இருந்தால் எப்படி வர்த்தகர்களை வளர்க்க முடியும்? இந்நாட்டினிலிருக்கும் தொழில்களை வளர்க்க முடியும்? நமது Prime Minister பண்டிட் ஜவஹர்லால் நேரு அவர்கள் சொல்லுகிறார்கள் “Produce and Produce more” என்கிறார். உற்பத்தியை பெருக்குங்கள், இன்னும் அதிகமாகப் பெருக்குங்கள் என்று சொல்லுகிறார்கள். எப்படி உற்பத்தியை அதிகரிக்கச் செய்வது? உற்பத்தி செய்வதென்று ஒருவர் முனைந்தால் சேல்ஸ்டாக்ஸ் ஆபீசருக்கு பதில் சொல்ல வேண்டும். இன்கம்டாக்ஸ் ஆபீசருக்கு பதில் சொல்ல வேண்டும். எவ்வளவோ கட்டுப்பாடுகளுக்கு பதில் சொல்ல வேண்டும். இவ்விதமாக எங்கும் சட்டம், சட்டம் என்று சட்டமயமாக இருக்கிறது. அநேக தொல்லைகள் இருக்கிறது. நமது அதிகாரிகள் வசதிகள் செய்து கொடுத்தால் வியாபாரம் நல்ல முறையில் நடக்கும். நாட்டிலிருக்கும் மக்கள் சந்தோஷமாக வாழ்வார்கள். நாம் இந்த நிலைமையை சீர்ப்படுத்த வேண்டுமானால் மகாத்மா காந்தியடிகள் விட்டுச் சென்ற அழிவில்லாச் செல்வமான போதனைகளை நாம் ஏற்றுக் கொள்ள வேண்டும். அப்படி ஏற்றுக் கொண்டால்தான் அநேக சீர்கேடுகளை ஒழிக்கலாம். அடிமை விலங்கு நம்மை பாதித்திருந்த காலத்தில் அவர் கட்டுப்பாடுகள் அமைந்த வாழ்க்கை வழியை நமக்கு காட்டினார். அதனால் இந்நாட்டில் பல நூற்றாண்டுகளாய் வேருன்றியிருந்த அந்நியரை விரட்டியடிக்க தம்முடைய கட்டுப்பாடான வழியை காட்டினார். இந்த ஒரு மகானாகவும், இந்நாட்டின் தந்தையாகவுமிருக்கும் மகாத்மா காந்தியடிகளின் திருவுருவப்படத்தைத் திறந்து வைக்கும்படியான ஒரு அருமையான பணியை இன்றைய தினம் ஆற்றுவதற்கு நம் பிரதம அமைச்சர், மாகாணத்தின் கணியமிருந்த அதிகார பீடத்தில் இருக்கும் தலைமை அமைச்சர், வந்து நம்மை கவுரவிக்க வேண்டுமென்று விரும்பினேன். அவர்களும் ஒப்புக் கொண்டார்கள். கனம் பிரியியரவர்களை நம் காந்தியடிகளின் படத்தைத் திறந்து வைக்கும்படி பணிவுடன் கேட்டுக் கொள்ளுகிறேன்.

சென்னை அரசாங்க முதலமைச்சர்

கனம் பி. எஸ். குமாரசாமி ராஜா

அவர்களின்

சொற்பொழிவு

— (★) —

சென்னை மாகாண கைத்தறி ஜவுளி வியாபாரிகள் சங்கத்தாருக்கும், இச்சபையிலுள்ளவர்களுக்கும் என் தாழ்மையான வந்தனம்.

இன்றைய தினம் மகாத்மா காந்தியின் உருவப் படத்தைத் திறக்கும்படியான ஒரு பணியை எனக்குக் கொடுத்தார்களென்றால் அதனால் எனக்கு எவ்வளவு கௌரவம் தந்திருக்கிறார்கள் என்பதைப் பற்றி நான் சொல்லவேண்டியதில்லை. நீங்கள் நன்றாக அறிவீர்கள். மகாத்மாவின் படத்தைத் திறந்து வைக்க வேண்டுமென்பது சுலபமான காரியம்தான். ஏதோ படத்தை எழுதுகிறவர்கள் எழுதிவிட்டார்கள். கொண்டு வந்து அதை மாட்டி ஒரு துணியைப் போட்டு மறைத்து வைத்திருக்கிறார்கள். அந்தத் துணியை நான் எடுத்து விட்டால் நான் இன்று ஏற்றுக் கொண்ட கடமை தீர்ந்துவிட்டது. அதற்காக மட்டும் நானும் வரவில்லை. அந்தக் காரியத்திற்காக மாத்திரம், இந்தப் படத்தை சங்கத்திற்கு திறந்து வைக்க வேண்டுமென்ற கருத்துக்காக மாத்திரம், இந்த விழாவை ஏற்பாடு செய்யவில்லை என்றும் நன்றாகத் தெரிகிறது. ஒரு படத்தை ஒரு இடத்தில் திறந்து வைப்பதென்றால் வெறும் அழகுக்காக மட்டுமில்லை. அலங்காரத்திற்கு மட்டுமில்லை. அப்படி செய்யவேண்டுமானால் அதற்கு இப்பேர்ப்பட்ட ஒரு உத்சவம் வேண்டுமென்பதேயில்லை. ஒவ்வொருவர் வீட்டிலும் எப்பேர்ப்பட்ட படத்தை வாங்கித் தொங்க விட்டால் அலங்காரமாயிருக்குமோ அதை வாங்கி மாட்டிக் கொள்ளலாம். மகாத்மா காந்தியடிகளின் படத்தை வாங்கி வைப்பதென்றால் அது அவர்களுக்காக இல்லை யென்றும், உங்களுக்கு நன்றாகத் தெரியும். ஆனால் வேறு காரியம் ஒன்று இதில் மறைந்திருக்கிறதென்று நீங்கள் நன்றாக அறிவீர்கள். நம் இந்தியாவில், ஏன் உலகத்தில், இன்றைய தினம் மகாத்மாவைப் பற்றி, அவர் வாழ்ந்த வாழ்க்கை, உத்யோகத்தில் பணம் சம்பாதிக்கவில்லை என்ற விஷயங்களைப் பற்றி யாவரும் பேசக் கூடிய நிலைமையிலே உள்ள ஒரு மகான் அல்லவா அவர். அவரைப் பார்த்த மாத்திரத்தில், அவர் பெயரைக் கேட்ட மாத்திரத்தில் அவருடைய ஒழுக்கம், யோக்கியதை, சத்யம், நடுநிலைமை, அவர் ஜனங்களுக்காக சேவை செய்தார், என்பவை போன்ற விஷயங்கள் நம் மனதில் பதிக்கிறது. நாம் பாரதம் போன்ற இதிலுறாச, புராணங்களில்

படித்திருக்கிறோம். மகான்கள், ரிஷிகள், இன்னும் பெரிய மக ரிஷிகள், எல்லோருமிருந்தார்கள் என்று படித்திருக்கிறோம். ஆனால் நாம் படிக்கும்போது, அவர்களைப்பற்றி எழுதியுள்ள நூல் களை வாசிக்கும்போது, இப்படிப்பட்ட மகான்கள்கூட மனித ருடன் இருந்து வாழ முடியுமா, வாழ்ந்திருப்பார்களா, என்று சந்தேகம் ஏற்படுவது சகஜம் தான். ஆனால் ஓரளவுக்கு மகாத்மா நம் தேசத்தில் பிறந்து, அவர்கள் நம்மிடையே வாழ்ந்த நிலை மையை நாம் கண்ணாடிக் கண்ணாடிகளில் எழு தப்பட்டிருக்கும் மகான்களின் வாழ்வைப் பற்றிச் சொல்லியிருப் பது உண்மைதான். நாம் நேரில் பார்க்கும் மகாத்மா நடத்திக் காட்டியிருக்கிறார். ஆகையினால் அந்தக் காலத்திலும் நம் தேசத் தில் மகான்கள் இருந்திருக்கலாம் என்று நாம் ஒரு அளவுக்கு நினைத்து சமாதானப்படுத்திக் கொள்ள வேண்டிய நிலைமையில் இருக்கிறோம். ஆகையினால் மகாத்மாவைப்போல் நமக்கும், உல கம் பூராவும் தெரிந்திருக்கும் ஒரு மனிதர், உலகம் பூராவும் மதிக் கக் கூடிய ஒரு மனிதர், உலகம் பூராவும் கடவுளுக்கு அடுத்தபடி யாக கருதப்படும் ஒரு மனிதர், இன்றே அல்லது பல லக்ஷக் கணக்கான ஆண்டுகளுக்கு முந்தியோ இருந்திருப்பாரென்றால் மகாத்மா கார்த்தியை போன்றவர்களைத் தவிர வேறு ஒருவரும் இருக்க முடியாது என்றுதான் நினைக்கிறேன். மேலும் நாம் புஸ்தகங்களில் படிக்கிறவர்கள், அந்தக் காலத்தில் ரிஷிகளும், மகான்களும், வாழ்ந்திருந்தார்கள் என்றால், ஏதோ இந்தியா போன்ற ஒரு தேசத்திற்குத்தான் அவர்கள் தெரிந்திருக்க முடியும். எவ்வளவு மகான்கள் அந்தக் காலத்தில் இருந்தாலும் உல கம் பூராவும் அவர்களைப் பற்றித் தெரிந்து கொள்ளும் வசதிகள் அந்தக் காலத்தில் இல்லையென்று தெரியும். ஆனால் இந்தக் காலத்தில் உலகத்திலிருக்கும் ஜனங்களெல்லோரும் மகாத் மாவைப்பற்றித் தெரியாதவர் ஒருவர்கூட இருக்கமாட்டார்கள் என்று இருக்கும் இந்த நிலைமையில் அவர்கள் பேரும், புகழும், நம் நாட்டிலே விளங்குகிறது என்று எல்லோருக்கும் நன்றய்த் தெரியும். மகாத்மா கார்த்தியவர்கள் செய்த வேலையைப் பற்றி இன்று நான் உங்களுக்கு சொல்ல வேண்டிய அவசியமில்லை. ஏனென்றால் நாம் வாழ்ந்த காலத்தில்தான் அவர்களும் வாழ்ந் தார்கள், சேவை செய்தார்கள், அவர்களைப்பற்றி நன்றாக நாம் தெரிந்துகொள்ளக் கூடிய சந்தர்ப்பம், பாக்கியம் கிடைத்திருக் கிறது. எவ்வளவோ கோடிக்கணக்கான ஜனங்கள் லக்ஷக் கணக்கான வருஷங்களாகப் பிறந்திருக்கிறார்கள். ஆனால் நாம் பிறந்த இந்த நாளிலே நாம் பெரும் பாக்கியவான்கள் என்று சொல்லிக்கொள்ள வேண்டும். மகாத்மா பிறந்து வாழ்ந்த இந்த நாளில் அவர்களை பார்க்கும் ஒரு சந்தர்ப்பத்தோடு, பாக்கியத் தோடு நாம் பிறந்தோமே அதுதான் மற்றவர்களைக் காட்டிலும் நாம் பிறந்த இந்தக் காலம் மிகவும் முக்கியமானது. எல்லோரும் சந்தோஷப்படக் கூடிய காலம் நாம் பிறந்து வாழ்ந்த காலம் என்று நினைக்கும் சந்தர்ப்பத்திலிருக்கிறோம். இப்படி அவர் களைப் பற்றியும், அவர்கள் செய்த சேவையைப் பற்றியும், சொல் லிக் கொண்டே போனால் இன்றல்ல இன்னும் எவ்வளவோ நாட்

கள் சொல்லலாம். ஆனால் சொல்லுவதற்கு இது சந்தர்ப்பமல்ல. நாமெல்லோரும் அறிந்திருக்கிறோம். சில காலம் கழித்து கதை யாக நமக்குப் பின்னால் வருகிறவர்களுக்கு கார்த்தியாரைப் பற்றி, அவர் செய்த சேவையைப் பற்றி, அவர்கள் செய்த தியாகங்களைப் பற்றி, கதை கதையாகச் சொல்லலாம். அப்பொழுது அவர்கள் கேட்டுக் கொண்டிருப்பார்கள். இப்பொழுது அதற்கு அவசிய மில்லை. ஆனால் நாம் ஒன்று மாத்திரம் அடிக்கடி சொல்லிக் கொள்ள வேண்டியிருக்கிறது. ஏனெனில் கார்த்தியைப்பற்றி போற்றலாம். அவசியமேற்பட்டால் கோவில்கூட கட்டி மரி யாதை செய்யலாம். அப்படிச் செய்து விட்டதனால் ஏதாவது பிரயோஜனமுண்டா? நமக்கு ஏதாவது பிரயோஜனமா? மகாத் மாவுக்காவது ஏதாவது பிரயோஜனமா? இல்லை. நாம் செய்ய வேண்டியதெல்லாம் அவர்களுக்கு கோவில் கட்டிப் போடுவ தில்லை. அவர்கள் எந்தக் காரியத்திற்காக அவர்கள் வாழ்நாளை பலியிட்டார்களோ, எதை தேசத்தில் பரப்ப அவர்கள் கஷ்டப் பட்டார்களோ, அந்த நிலைமையை நம் ஜனங்களிடத்தில் ஏற் படும்படி நாம் முயற்சிக்க வேண்டும். நாம் ஒவ்வொருவரும் மகாத்மா கார்த்தியின் படத்தைப் பார்த்தவுடன் அவர்களின் நினைவு நமக்கு மனதில் ஏற்படுகிறது. எந்த அளவுக்கு அவரை நாம் கடைப்பிடித்து நடக்கிறோம். எந்த அளவுக்கு அவர் கொள் கைகளை பின்பற்றுகிறோம் என்று சிந்தித்துப் பார்த்து எவ்வளவு தூரத்திற்கு நம்மைத் திருத்திக் கொண்டிருக்கிறோம் என்று எண் ணிக்கொள்ள வேண்டும். நன்றாகப் படித்தவர்களாக இருந்தால் எதுவும் சொல்லிவிட முடியும். ஆனால் சொல்லுகிறவர்கள் எந்த அளவுக்கு அதைக் கடைப்பிடிக்க பிரயத்தனம் பண்ணுகிறார்கள் என்றால் அநேக விஷயங்களில் பின்னடைந்துதான் இருப்பார் களேயல்லாது பூர்த்தியாக அதை நினைத்து நடப்பவர்கள் என்று சொல்லமுடியாது. அந்த அளவில் மகாத்மா எவ்வளவு காரி யத்தை செய்ததற்காக அவரை புகழ்கிறார்கள். சரித்திரத்தில் எவ்வளவோ படித்திருக்கிறோம். ஒரு தேசம் சுதந்திரமடைந்த தெல்வாம் வேறு விதமான முறையினாலும், எவ்வளவோ கலகங் கள், சண்டைகள், எவ்வளவோ லக்ஷக்கணக்கான ஜனங்கள் இறந்து செத்துக் கிடப்பது, இவைகளெல்லாம் இல்லாவிட்டால் சாதாரணமாக சுதந்திரம் கிடைக்காது. அப்படி யெல்லாம் கதைகளில் படித்திருக்கிறோம். ஆனால் நாம் கண்டதென்ன? எதிர்ப்பில்லாமலேயே சுதந்திரம் நமக்கு வந்துவிட்டது. கிடைத்து விட்டது. முன்னாடியே வந்துவிட்டது என்கூட எல்லோருக் கும் தெரியும், மகாத்மா கார்த்தியின் முயற்சியால். சத்தியாக்கிரஹத் தினால் சண்டையில்லாமல், ஒழுக்கத்தினால், சேவையினாலே, தியா கத்தினாலே நாம் எதிர்பாராது சுதந்திரம் கூடிய சீக்கிரம் நமக்கு கிடைக்கும்படி காந்தி செய்தார். அவர்கள் என்ன வாழ்க் கையை அனுஷ்டித்தார்கள், அவர்கள் சக்தி என்ன, என்ன செய்தார்கள், என்று நாம் பார்த்தால் நான் ஏதாவது சில வார்த் தைகளில் சொல்லிவிட முடியுமா? முடியாது. அப்படிப்பட்ட பெரிய காரியத்தை அவர்கள் செய்திருக்கிறார்கள். அதற்கெல் லாம் நாம் சந்தோஷப்படலாம். ஆனால் எதிர்பாராதவிதமாக நம்

தேசம் சுதந்திரம் அடைந்த சில மாதங்களில் அவர்களை நாம் இழக்கும்படியாக ஏற்பட்ட சந்தர்ப்பம்தான் நாம் எல்லோரும் உலகத்தின் முன்னால் தலைகுனிய வேண்டியதாயிருக்கிறது. ஏனெனில் உலகத்திற்கே அவர்கள் பெரிய மகான் என்று யாவரும் ஆமோதிக்கிறார்கள். அது மாத்திரமல்ல. இந்தியாவுக்கு சுதந்திரம் கிடைப்பதற்கு மூலகாரணஸ்தர் அவர்தான் என்று உலகம் நினைக்கிறது. அவரில்லையானால் இந்தியாவுக்கு சுதந்திரம் கிடைத்திராது என்கூட உலகத்திற்குத் தெரியும். ஆனால் அதே உலகம் நம்மைப் பற்றி என்ன நினைக்க வேண்டியிருக்கிறதென்றால், பாருங்கள் இவ்வளவு செய்த ஒரு மகானை அதே தேசத்தவர்கள் கொன்று விட்டார்களே, என்று நம்மைக் கண்டு இகழ்வார்கள், சிரிக்கவும் செய்வார்கள். அதைப்பற்றி நாம் தலைகுனிய வேண்டிய நிலையையில் தான் நாயிருக்கிறோம் என்று உங்களுக்கு நன்றாகத் தெரியும். இருந்தாலும் நாம் கிடைத்த சுதந்திரத்தை, மகாத்மா காந்தியடிகள் என்ன வழியை நமக்கு காட்டியிருக்கிறார்களோ அதைக் கடைப்பிடித்து நம் தேசம் சுபிக்ஷமாக வளர முயற்சிக்க வேண்டும். அதை நாம் ஒழுங்கான முறையில் மகாத்மா விட்டுப்போன விஷயத்தைக் கடைப்பிடித்துச் செய்தால் அதுவே அவருக்குச் செய்யும் பணியாகும், வேறில்லை என்பதுதான் எனது கருத்து. ஆனால் நாம் அந்த விஷயத்தில் என்ன செய்தோம். அந்த நாளில் ஏதாவது செய்தோமா என்றால் இல்லை யென்றுதான் சொல்ல முடியும், சுலபமாக. அவர்களுடைய குணத்தை ஒட்டியோ மனித சுபாவத்தை ஒட்டியோ, மகாத்மா உயிருடன் இந்த உடலுடன் இருக்கும் காலத்தில் அடைந்த அவ்வளவு மரியாதையும் இல்லா விட்டாலும் அந்த குணத்தை நாம் கொஞ்சமாவது நம்முடைய தாகக் கொண்டு ஏதாவது பிரயத்னம் செய்ய வேண்டுமென்றால் அப்பொழுது அவருக்கு உழைக்கிறவர்களென்று சொல்லலாம். அவர்களின் திருவுருவப் படத்தைப் பார்க்கும்போது, பெயரைக் கேட்கும்போது அந்த அளவுக்காவது கொஞ்சம் அவர் குணங்களைப்பற்றி ஞாபகம் வரும். அதைக்கூட நம் மனதைவிட்டுப் போகும்படி நாம் அவ்வளவு சீக்கிரத்தில் மறக்கக்கூடியதில்லை. அந்த அளவுக்கு நாம் சில காலத்தில், சில வருஷங்களில், அபிவிருத்தியடைந்து முன்னுக்கு வரவேணும். இந்த தினம் நம் தலைவர்கள் எவ்வளவு சாமர்த்தியமாக இருந்து நடத்தினார்கள் என்பது அவர்கள் இல்லாத பிறகுதான் சொல்லுகிறார்கள். மஜீத் அவர்கள் சொன்னார்கள். “மகாத்மா கட்டுப்பாட்டை எடுங்கள் என்று சொன்னார்கள்” என்று. வாஸ்தவம்தான். மகாத்மா சொல்லிப் போன பல காரியங்களில் இவர்களுக்கு உகந்தது கட்டுப்பாட்டை எடுக்கச் சொன்னது. அது மாத்திரம்தான் அவர்கள் சொல்லுகிறார்கள். மற்றதையும் நாம் எடுத்துக்கொள்ள வேண்டுமென்பது தான் என் தாழ்மையான அபிப்பிராயம். அரசாங்கத்திற்கு ஜனங்களை கஷ்டப்படுத்த வேண்டுமென்கிற எண்ணம் கிடையாது. அந்த எண்ணத்துடன் எந்த அரசாங்கமும் இருக்காது. எதுவும் செய்யாது. அந்தக் காலத்தில் காந்தியடிகள் கட்டுப்பாட்டை எடுங்கள் என்று சொன்னார்கள். எடுத்தார்கள். ஒரு வருஷத்திற்

குள் மறுபடியும் கட்டுப்பாட்டைத் திரும்பக் கொண்டுவர வேண்டிய அவசியம் ஏற்பட்டுவிட்டது. ஒருவேளை மகாத்மாவே இருந்திருந்தால் அவருடைய செல்வாக்கு, அவரிடத்தில் ஜனங்களுக்கு இருக்கும் மரியாதை, பக்தி இவைகளினால் கட்டுப்பாடு மறுமுறையும் வராமல்கூட இருந்திருக்கலாம். ஆனால் ஒரு வருஷத்திற்குள் கட்டுப்பாடு மறுபடியும் வரவேண்டிய சந்தர்ப்பம் ஏன் ஏற்பட்டதென்றால், அரசாங்கத்திற்குக் கட்டுப்பாடுகள் வைத்தால்தான் அரசாங்கத்தை நடத்த முடியும், இல்லாவிட்டால் அரசாங்கம் நடக்காது, தங்களுக்கு மந்திரிப் பதவிகள் இருக்காது என்று எண்ணி கட்டுப்பாடுகளை கொண்டுவரவில்லை. பின் ஏன் கொண்டு வந்தார்களென்றால் ஜனங்களிடத்தில் அந்த ஒரு வருஷத்தில் ஏற்பட்ட குழப்பம்தான் கட்டுப்பாட்டை மறுபடியும் கொண்டுவரும் நிலைமை ஏற்பட்டதற்குக் காரணம். விலை வாசிகள் ஏறியது. ஜனங்கள் எல்லோரும் “விலை அதிகமாகிக்கொண்டு போகிறது. பிராக்மார்க்கெட்டுக்கு சாமான்கள் போய்விடுகிறது. எங்களுக்கு கிடைக்கவில்லை” என்று அலறினார்கள். அதற்குச் செவிசாய்க்க வேண்டியது அரசாங்கத்தார்கடமையாகியது. நன்றாக யோசித்து கட்டுப்பாடு இல்லாமல், அதாவது மறுபடியும் கட்டுப்பாடு கொண்டு வராமல் சீர்திருத்தம் செய்ய முடியாது என்ற நிலைமையைக் கண்டுதான் கொண்டு வந்தார்களேயல்லாது ஏதோ கட்டுப்பாடு என்கிற ஒரு விஷயம் இருக்க வேண்டுமென்று இதைக் கொண்டுவரவில்லை. மகாத்மா அவர்கள் கட்டுப்பாடு கூடா தென்று சொன்னார்கள். வாஸ்தவம்தான். “கட்டுப்பாடு கூடாது. வியாபாரிகள் தங்கள் இஷ்டம்போல் விற்றுக் கொள்ளலாம்” என்று சொல்லவில்லை. வியாபாரிகள் எந்த விதமாக நடந்து கொள்ள வேண்டுமென்றும் சொன்னார்கள். நாமும்,—பொது ஜனங்களும்—எப்படி நடந்து கொள்ள வேண்டுமென்றும் சொன்னார்கள். அவர்கள் கட்டுப்பாட்டை எடுங்கள் என்று சொன்னதை மாத்திரம் மனதில் வைத்துக்கொண்டு வியாபாரிகள் எப்படி நடந்து கொள்ளவேண்டுமென்பதை சொன்னார்களோ அதை மறந்து, பொது ஜனங்கள் எப்படி நடந்து கொள்ள வேண்டுமென்று சொன்னார்களோ அதையும் மறந்துவிட்டால் அதனால் ஏதாவது பிரயோஜனப்படுமா என்று நீங்களே யோசிக்கும்படி நான் கேட்டுக் கொள்ளுகிறேன். நான் இன்று வரும்போது இந்த விஷயங்களை யெல்லாம் அவர்கள் பேசுவார்கள், பதில் சொல்ல வேண்டிய சந்தர்ப்பம் ஏற்படுமென்ற எண்ணத்துடன் வரவில்லை. ஆனால் நிஜம்தான். அவர்கள் கேட்டதும் சரி. நானும் அதற்கு ஓரளவுக்கு பதில் சொல்லக் கடமைப்பட்டிருக்கிறேன். ஏனென்றால் இப்பொழுது அரசாங்கம் நடத்துகிற ஒரு முறையில் அரசாங்கத்திற்கும், பொது ஜனங்களுக்கும், வியாபாரிகளுக்கும், கைத்தறியாளர்களுக்கும், பணக்காரர்களுக்கும், ஏழைகளுக்கும், தொடர்பு ஏற்படுவதற்கு எவ்வளவோ சந்தர்ப்பங்கள் இருக்கிறது. ஒவ்வொரு தொழில் செய்பவர்களுக்கும் தங்கள் தொழிலைப்பற்றிய ஞாபகம்தான் வரும். ஆனால் அரசாங்கத்திற்கு அப்படி தனிப்பட்ட ஒரு தொழிலை மாத்திரம் கவனித்துக் கொண்டிருக்க முடியாது. பல தொழில்கள் செய்யும் எல்லோரை

யும் எப்படி கஷ்டமில்லாமல் ஒருவருக்கொருவர் சண்டையில்லாமல், நடத்துவது என்றுதான் அரசாங்கம் கவனிக்க வேண்டியிருக்கிறது. அரசாங்கம் எந்தக் கட்டுப்பாட்டை போட நினைத்தாலும் சாதகபாதகங்களை யோசித்துத்தான் போடுவார்களேயல்லாது ஒரு வகுப்பினரை அடக்க வேண்டுமென்பதற்காக இல்லை. ஏன் கட்டுப்பாடுகள் போடவேண்டும்? விலை வாசிகள் அதிகமாகப் போகக்கூடாது. வாங்கி உபயோகிப்பவர்கள் கஷ்டப்படக் கூடாது என்ற ஒரே எண்ணம்தான். வியாபாரிகளைக் கஷ்டப்படுத்தவேண்டுமென்பதில்லை என்பதை நிச்சயமாக எண்ணுங்கள். ஒவ்வொரு செய்கைக்கும் அரசாங்கத்திற்கு ஒரு காரணமிருந்துதான் செய்வார்களேயல்லாது அவசியமாக எதுவும் செய்யமாட்டார்கள். அதுவும் பொதுஜன அரசாங்கம், பொதுஜன வோட்டுகளால் தீர்மானிக்கப்பட்ட அரசாங்கம் ஜனங்களுக்கு அதிருப்தியாக நடப்பதானது தங்கள் கடமை என்று எந்த பயித்தியக்காரனாவது செய்வானா என்றால் செய்ய முடியாது. அப்படி செய்தால் அந்த அரசாங்கம் இருக்க முடியாது. ஆகவே அரசாங்கம் எது செய்தாலும், ஒரு சிலர் வாதிக்கலாம் அவர்களின் இஷ்டத்திற்கு பொதுஜன விரோதமாகச் செய்வதாகச் சொல்லலாம், ஆனால் அரசாங்கம் என்ன நினைக்கிறதென்றால், நம் காரியத்தினால் ஒரு சிலர் பாதிக்கப்பட்டாலும் பெருவாரியான பொதுஜனங்களுக்கு நன்மை கிடைக்கிறது என்ற நல்ல எண்ணத்துடன்தான் செய்கிறார்களேயல்லாது ஜனங்களை அடக்க வேண்டும், நசுக்கவேண்டுமென்ற எண்ணத்துடன் செய்வதில்லை யென்று நீங்கள் நம்பலாம். ஏனெனில் பொதுஜன ஆதரவுடன் தான் அரசாங்கம் நடக்க வேண்டியிருக்கிறது. ஆங்கிலேயர்கள் நாட்டைவிட்டுப் போகும்போது புஸ்தகம் எழுதி பொதுஜனங்களிடம்தான் இந்நாட்டை ஒப்புவித்துவிட்டுப் போனார்கள். பொதுஜனங்களிடத்தில் “நாங்கள் போகிறோம், 30 கோடி ஜனங்களே இந்த அரசாங்கத்தை நடத்துங்கள்” என்று 30 கோடி ஜனங்கள் கையிலும் ஒப்புவித்துவிட்டுப் போனார்களேயல்லாது தனிப்பட்டவர்கள் கையிலோ, உயில் எழுதியோ வைத்து விட்டுப் போகவில்லை. ஆகையினால் ஒரு சிலரிடம் அவர்கள் கொடுத்துவிட்டுப் போயிருந்தால் அவர்கள் இந்த முப்பது கோடி ஜனங்களின் பிரதிநிதிகள் என்ற ஹோதாவில் மகாத்மாவையும், ஜவஹர்லாலையும் பிரதிநிதிகளாக நியமித்தார்களேயல்லாது பார்க்க அழகாக இருக்கிறார், நம் ராஜாங்கத்தை நடத்த லாயக்கு என்று எண்ணி கொடுத்துவிட்டுப் போகவில்லை. அப்படி வந்த தலைவர்களும், அதிகார பீடத்திலிருப்பவர்களும் என்ன செய்ய நினைப்பார்கள் என்பதைப்பற்றி நீங்களே தெரிந்து கொள்ள வேண்டும். என்ன செய்ய நினைப்பார்கள்? ஜனங்களை திருப்தி செய்ய வேண்டும். ஜனங்களால் அரசாங்கம் நடத்தப்பட வேண்டும் என்ற எண்ணந்தான் அவர்களுக்கு இருக்குமே ஒழிய, இருக்க நீங்களே நன்றாக அறிவீர்கள். ஆனால் மஜீத் அவர்கள் அரசாங்கம் செய்திருக்கும் பல காரியங்கள் தவறு என்று நினைக்கலாம். தெரிந்தும் இருக்கலாம். தெரியாமலும் இருக்கலாம். ஆனால்

ஒன்று மாத்திரம் நான் சொல்லுவதற்கு பிரியப்படுகிறேன். எந்தக் காரியம் செய்தாலும் ஏதாவது ஒரு சிலரைக் கஷ்டப்படுத்த வேண்டுமென்று நினைத்து அரசாங்கம் எதுவும் செய்வதில்லை யென்றும், அப்படிப்பட்ட எண்ணம் வேண்டாமென்றும், அப்படி நீங்கள் நினைத்திருந்தாலும் மறந்து விடுங்கள் என்றும் தான் நான் கேட்டுக்கொள்ள முடியும். இன்னொன்று, முக்கியமாக அவர்கள் கைத்தறி ஜவுளியைப்பற்றி சொன்னார்கள். நம் நாட்டில் விவசாயத் தொழிலிருக்கிறது. ஜனங்களுக்கு மிகவும் முக்கியமான தொழில். மிக அதிகமான ஜனங்கள் இந்தத் தொழிலில் ஈடுபட்டிருக்கிறார்கள். இதற்கு அடுத்தபடியாக ஜனங்கள் அதிகமான வேலை செய்யும் தொழில் கைத்தறித் தொழில்தான். அதனால் விவசாயத்திற்கு அடுத்தபடியாக ஜனங்களுக்குப் பிழைப்புக் கொடுப்பது கைத்தறி என்பது எல்லோரும் அறிந்த விஷயமே. அதனால் இந்த கைத்தறித்தொழில் நம் தேசத்தில் அபிவிருத்தியடைய வேண்டுமென்பது முக்கியமானது என்ற கொள்கையும் எல்லோருக்கும் தெரியும். அப்படியிருக்கும்போது கைத்தறி நெசவுத் தொழில் நசித்துப் போக வேண்டுமென்று எந்த அரசாங்கமும் ஒன்றும் செய்ய முடியாது. அந்நிய தேசங்களுக்கு அந்தக் காலத்தில் ஏற்றுமதியை நிறுத்தியதனால் அந்தத் தொழிலுக்கே கஷ்டம் வந்துவிட்டதென்று சொன்னார்கள். தொழிலுக்குக் கஷ்டம் வரவேண்டுமென்று ஏற்றுமதியை நிறுத்தினார்களோ என்று யோசிக்க வேண்டும். அந்த சமயம் தேசத்திலிருந்த நிலைமை என்ன? ஒரு கஜம் துணியாவது சமயம் கிடைத்ததா? ஜனங்கள் எவ்வளவு கஷ்டப்பட்டார்கள். நம் தேசத்திலிருக்கும் ஜனங்கள் அப்படி கஷ்டப்படும் யாருக்கேனும் கிடைத்ததா? ஜனங்கள் எவ்வளவு கஷ்டப்பட்டார்கள். நம் தேசத்திலிருக்கும் ஜனங்கள் அப்படி கஷ்டப்படும் யாரோ ஒருவர் வியாபாரம் செய்வதற்கோ அல்லது வேறு போதுவதற்காகவோ ஜவுளிகளை வெளிதேசங்களுக்கு அனுப்பிக் கொண்டே யிருக்கும்படியாகப் பார்த்துக் கொண்டிருக்க முடியுமா? இதை யோசித்துப் பாருங்கள். ஜனங்கள் என்ன சொன்னார்கள்? எங்களுக்கு உடுத்துவதற்குத் துணியில்லை. நீங்கள் அயல் நாட்டுக்கு ஏற்ற பர்மிட் கொடுக்கிறீர்களே. இந்த நீங்கள் அயல் வியாபாரிகளின் அரசாங்கமா? பொதுஜன அரசாங்கமா? என்று அவர்கள் அந்தக் காலத்தில் கூக்குறலிட்டது எல்லோருக்கும் தெரியும். இன்னும் பார்த்தீர்களானால், இந்த எல்லோருக்கும் கட்டுப்பாடு—இல்லாத சமயத்தில் எங்கே கட்டுப்பாடு—உணவுக் கட்டுப்பாடு இன்னொரு கிராமத்திற்கு உணவு யாவது ஒரு கிராமத்திற்கு வியாபாரியோ, தனிப்பட்டவர்களோ வாங்கி தான்யத்தை ஒரு வண்டியில் கொண்டு போவதை கண்வண்டியில் ஏற்றி அடுத்த கிராமத்திற்கு கொண்டு போவதை கண்டால் தடுத்து நிறுத்தியிருக்கிறார்கள் என்பதை அறிவீர்கள். ஏன் தடுத்தார்கள்? தங்களுக்கு சாப்பாட்டுக்கு இல்லாமல் போய்விடுமென்று எண்ணத்தால் அந்தக் கஷ்டத்தைத் தடுக்க, கட்டுப்பாடு ஏற்படுவதற்கு முன்னால் தானியக் கஷ்டம் ஏற்பட்ட காலத்தில், ஏற்படுவதற்கு முன்னால் தானியங்கள் வெளியூருக்குப் போகவொட்டாமல் ஒரு ஊரிலுள்ள தானியங்கள் வெளியூருக்குப் போகவொட்டாமல் ஒரு வண்டிகளையெல்லாம் தடுத்து கிராமத்திற்குள்ளேயே நிறுத்தினார்கள் என்பது எனக்கும், உங்களில் பலருக்கும் தெரியும். நீங்கள் மூட்டை கட்டி வெளியூர்களுக்கு அனுப்புவதைத் தடுக்க முடியா

விட்டால் அவர்கள் அரசாங்கத்தைக் கேட்டுக் கொண்டார்கள். "இதை இப்படியே விட்டு விட்டால் நாங்கள் துணிக்கு கஷ்டப்படுகிறோமே. ஆகையினால் நம் நாட்டிலேயே உற்பத்தியாகும் துணியையாவது இங்கேயே இருக்கும்படியாகச் செய்து எங்களுக்கு கொஞ்சமாவது துணி கிடைக்க வேண்டுமென்று பொதுஜனங்கள் மிகவும் கிளர்ச்சி செய்ததன் காரணத்தால் தான் இப்படி செய்தது. இன்னும் கூட உற்பத்தியைப் பெருக்குங்கள் என்றால் வெளி நாட்டுக்கு அனுப்புவதன் என்று அர்த்தமில்லை. உற்பத்தியைப் பெருக்கி நாமே அதை அனுபவிக்க வேண்டும். நமக்கு கிடைக்க வேண்டும். நமக்குக் கிடைத்து நாம் உபயோகிக்கக் கூடிய அளவுக்கு மேல் ஏதாவது மீதமிருந்தால் இன்னொரு நாட்டுக்கு அனுப்பவேண்டுமேயல்லாது நாம் உற்பத்தியைப் பெருக்கிப் பெருக்கி வெளிநாடுகளுக்கு அனுப்ப வேண்டுமென்று உற்பத்தியைப் பெருக்கச் சொல்லவில்லை. இந்த நிலைமையில் நாம் பார்க்க வேண்டும். இப்பொழுதுகூட ஏதோ காரணத்தினால் வெளிநாடுகளுக்கு அனுப்பினால் அதிக பணம் கிடைக்கும்படியா யிருக்கலாம். ஆனால் நம் ஜனங்களுக்கு வேண்டிய துணியெல்லாம் நாம் உற்பத்தி செய்து கொண்டிருக்கிறோமா என்று பார்க்கவேண்டும். நாம் உற்பத்தி செய்யும் துணி நம் தேசத்திற்குப் போதாமலிருப்பதுடன், இன்னும் கொஞ்சம் துணி வெளி தேசத்திலிருந்து வரும் நிலைமையில்தான் இருக்கிறோம். கொஞ்ச நாள் போனால் மாறலாமே தவிர இப்பொழுதில்லை. இன்னொன்று. நாம் உற்பத்தி செய்கிற துணி அந்நிய நாடுகளுக்குத்தான் போகவேண்டுமென்று ஏன் நினைக்கிறீர்கள்? நம் தேசத்தில் அவைகளை உபயோகிக்க அவசியமில்லையா? நமக்கு அவசியமிருக்கிறது. தேவையிருக்கிறது. நாம் அதை வாங்கிக் கட்டவேண்டும். விலை அதிகமானாலும் கூட, ஏதோ தொழிலாளிகள் கஷ்டப்படுகிறார்களே, அந்த அளவுக்காவது அவர்கள் கஷ்டம் குறையட்டும். அவர்கள் ஏற்படுத்திய விலையைக் கொடுத்தேனும் உபயோகித்தால் இது கட்டாயம் இங்கேயே செலவாகும். வெளிநாட்டுக்குப் போகவேண்டியதில்லை. அதனால் நல்ல ரகங்களாயிருப்பவைகள் வெளியில் போகவொட்டாமல் தடுத்தால் ஜனங்களின் கஷ்டம் குறையும். கைத்தறி தொழிலாளிகள் கஷ்டப்படுகிறார்கள் என்று சொல்லும் நீங்களாவது அந்தத் துணியை உபயோகிக்கிறீர்களா என்று கேட்கிறேன். பிறருக்குப் பரிந்து பேசுகிறவர்கள் முதலாவதாக நம் தேசத்தில் உற்பத்தியாகும் துணியை கூடுமானவரையில் உபயோகிக்க முயற்சிக்க வேண்டும். நம் உபயோகத்திற்கு ஆனபிறகு பாக்கியிருந்தால் அப்பொழுது வெளிநாடுகளுக்கு அனுப்பப் பிரயத்தனம் செய்யலாம். அப்பொழுது அரசாங்கம் அதற்குத் தடை செய்தால் அவர்களிடம் போய் முறையிட்டு நம் தேசத்தில் உற்பத்தியாகும் துணி அதிகமாயிருக்கிறது. வெளிநாட்டுக்கு ஏற்றுமதி செய்தால் ஒழிய இந்தத் தொழிலிலுள்ள ஜனங்களுக்கு வேலை இராது, தொழிலில் மந்தம் ஏற்பட்டுவிடும், என்று சொன்னால் அப்பொழுது வெளிநாட்டுக்கு அனுப்பலாம். அந்த நிலைமை ஏற்படும் வரையில் அந்நிய நாட்டுக்கு ஏன் நம் ஜவுளிகளை அனுப்ப

வேண்டுமென்று தான் கேட்கிறேன். நம் தேசத்தில் உற்பத்தியைப் பெருக்க வேண்டுமென்றால் வெளிநாட்டுக்கு அனுப்புவதற்காக மாத்திரமல்ல. நம் தேவையைப் பூர்த்தி செய்வதற்காகத்தான் சொல்லுகிறோம். அந்த நிலைமையில் இல்லாமல் வெளிநாடுகளுக்கு அனுப்பி பணம் சம்பாதிப்பதில் பிரயோஜனமென்ன என்று நினைக்கவேண்டும். மேலும் இன்று அரசாங்கம் போட்டுள்ள தடைகளினால் மாத்திரம் துணிகள் வெளிநாடுகளுக்குப் போகாமல்லை. இப்பொழுது தடையில்லை. எந்த தேசத்திற்கு நாம் பழக்கமாய் அனுப்பி வந்தோமோ அந்த நாடுகளில் சுணக்கமேற்பட்டு இருப்பதால் வாங்குவோரில்லை. ஏனென்றால் "அந்த தேசங்களுக்கு நாம் அனுப்பிவந்தது நின்றபோது அந்நிய நாட்டு வியாபாரிகள் அந்த மார்க்கெட்டுகளைக் கைப்பற்றிக் கொண்டார்கள்" என்று சொன்னார்கள். வாஸ்தவமாயிருக்கலாம். நமக்குத் துணியே இல்லாத சமயத்தில் அப்படி செய்தோம். பரவாயில்லை. வியாபாரம் நிற்கக் கூடாது. நமக்குத் துணியில்லா விட்டாலும் பரவாயில்லை. அந்நிய நாடுகளுக்கு அனுப்ப வேண்டுமென்று சொல்ல முடியுமா? இப்பொழுது நாம் பசியால் திண்டாடினாலும், உணவு தான்யத்தை வெளிநாடுகளுக்கு இப்பொழுது அனுப்பாவிட்டால் பின்னாடி வாங்கமாடார்கள். ஆகையினால் அவர்கள் தேவைக்கு நாம் அனுப்பிக் கொண்டே யிருக்கவேண்டுமென்று நாம் சொல்லுவது பொருத்தமா? என்று நீங்கள் யோசித்துப் பார்க்க வேண்டும். ஆகையினால் அரசாங்கத்திற்கு ஒருவர் கஷ்டப்பட வேண்டுமென்றே அல்லது எவரையும் கஷ்டப்படுத்த வேண்டுமென்றே எண்ணம் கிடையாது. அதுவும் பொது ஜனங்களால் ஏற்பட்ட அரசாங்கத்திற்கு அந்த எண்ணம் இருக்கவே இருக்காது. இருக்கவும் யத்தை செய்கிறது. நீங்கள் அதனால் சில பாதகங்கள் இருக்கிறதென்று எடுத்துக் காட்டுவது நல்லதுதான். சில காரியங்களில் அனுபவமில்லாமலிருக்கலாம். நீங்கள் எடுத்துக் காட்டினால், அரசாங்கம் நியாயமானது என்றும் கண்டால் அதைத் திருத்தும். நீங்கள் சொல்லுவதற்கு, பிடிவாதமாக அதை செய்யமாட்டார்கள் என்று நினைக்கக் கூடாது. நீங்கள் சொல்லியும் நாங்கள் நினைப்பது நியாயமென்று நினைத்தால் அதைத்தான் அரசாங்கம் பிடிவாதமாகச் செய்யுமேயல்லாது, பிறர் சொன்னதற்காக மாற்றிக் கொண்டால் அப்பொழுது அரசாங்கம் நடக்கவே நடக்காது. ஏனென்றால் பலரும் பலவிதமாக ஏதாவது சொல்லிக்கொண்டே யிருப்பார்கள். ஒவ்வொருவரையும் திருப்தி செய்ய அரசாங்கம் தான் நியாயமென்று நினைத்ததை மாற்றிக்கொண்டே போனால் அரசாங்கம் நடத்த முடியாது. ஆகையினால் நீங்கள் சொல்லுவதில் நியாயமிருந்தால் மாற்றவேண்டியதுதான். அப்படிக்கின்றி நீங்கள் சொல்வது நியாயமில்லை, தாங்கள் செய்தது சரி என்று நினைக்கும்போதுதான் அரசாங்கம் பிடிவாதமாக இருப்பார்களேயல்லாது நீங்கள் சொல்வதற்காக பிடிவாதமாக இருப்பார்களென்று நினைப்பது தவறு என்று சொல்ல விரும்புகிறேன். இன்னும் பூராவும் அரசாங்க விஷயத்தைப்பற்றி நான் பேச வர

வில்லை. அவர்கள் ஏதோ சில விஷயங்களை சொன்னபடியால் அவர்களுக்கு சமாதானம் சொல்லும் முறையில் சில வார்த்தைகள் சொல்ல முன் வந்தேன். மகாத்மா கார்தியடிகள் பல காரியங்களைச் செய்து காட்டிவிட்டுப் போயிருக்கிறார்கள். வியாபாரிகள் மாத்திரமில்லை, நாமும்கூட அவர்கள் என்ன சொல்லிப் போயிருக்கிறார்கள், என்ன காரியத்தை செய்தார்கள், எப்படிச் செய்தார்கள் என்பதை தினமும் நாம் ஞாபகத்தில் வைத்துக் கொண்டால் நாம் நினைத்துக் கொண்டிருக்கும் பல சந்தேகங்கள் தீர்ந்துபோகும். ஒருவரை ஒருவர் சந்தேகிக்கும் நிலைமை ஒழியும். கிரியாமசையில் அவர் காட்டிய காரியத்தை கவனித்தால் பல சந்தேகங்களுக்கு நிவர்த்தி ஏற்படும் என்பதில் சந்தேகமில்லை. ஆகையினால் நம் அரசாங்கம் செய்வதில் தவறு இருப்பதாக நீங்கள் நினைப்பதைப் பற்றி வருந்தவில்லை. அரசாங்கம் செய்கிற குறைகளை எல்லோரும் சொல்லவேண்டியதுதான். ஆனால் சொல்ல வேண்டியதில் வாஸ்தவமாய் அரசாங்கம் செய்துள்ள தவறுகளை சொல்லி சீர்திருத்த வேண்டும் என்பது ஒன்று. ஏதாவது சொல்லி அரசாங்கத்தைக் கவிழ்க்க வேண்டும் என்று நினைப்பது மற்றொன்று. இந்த மாதிரி நினைப்பது தவறு. அரசாங்கத்தை சீர்திருத்த வேண்டுமென்ற எண்ணத்தோடு எல்லோரும் குற்றம் சொல்லவேண்டும், குற்றம் சொல்லுகிறவர்கள். அரசாங்கம் அதைக் கேட்டு நடக்கக் கடமைப்பட்டவர்கள் என்று தெரிவித்துக் கொள்ளுகிறேன்.

இந்த நேரத்தில், மகாத்மாவின் படத்தைத் திறக்கும் சமயம், மகாத்மாவைப் பற்றிப் பேசக்கூடிய சந்தர்ப்பம் நமக்கெல்லாம் முக்கியமாக ஏற்பட்டதைப் பற்றி மிகவும் சந்தோஷிக்கிறேன். இந்தக் காரியத்தை என்னைச் செய்யும்படி சொன்னதற்கு என்வந்தனத்தை தெரிவித்துக் கொள்ளுகிறேன். சந்தோஷத்துடன் மகாத்மானுடைய படத்தை திறந்து வைக்கிறேன்.

ஸ்ரீமதி பாலசரஸ்வதி

அவர்களின்

இன்னிசை விருந்து

ஜனாப் எம். எஸ். அப்துல் ரஹீம்

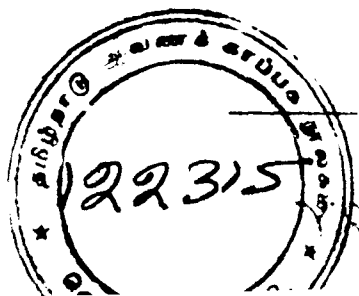
அவர்களின்

வந்தஜோபசாரம்

பெரியோர்களே,

இன்று சாயங்காலம் இவிடத்தில் நம் சங்கத்தின் வேண்டு கோளுக்கு இணங்கி நாட்டின் தந்தையாகிய மகாத்மாகார்தியவர்களின் படத்தை சிறப்பாகத் திறந்து வைத்த நம் மாகாணப் பிரதமர் அவர்களுக்கு நமது வந்தஜோபசாரத்தை கூறுகிற சந்தோஷமான பணி எனக்கு அளிக்கப்பட்டிருக்கிறது. நமது மாகாணத்தின் பிரதமர் எவ்வளவோ ஆற்றலும், அனுபவமும் உடையவர்கள். அவர் ஏற்றிருக்கும் பொருப்புகளின் மத்தியில் நம் அழைப்புக்கிணங்கி அவர்கள் இவ்வைபவத்தில் கலந்து கொண்டு மகாத்மாஜி அவர்களின் படத்தைத் திறந்து வைத்ததற்கு எங்கள் உள்ளங்களினிந்த நன்றியை நாங்கள் தெரிவித்துக் கொள்ளுகிறோம். அவர்கள் எங்கள் சங்கத்திற்கு விஜயம் செய்ததால் எங்கள் சங்கமும் கண்யம் அளிக்கப்பட்டது, இந்தக் கண்யமானது கைத்தறித் தொழிலுக்கும், கைத்தறி வியாபாரத்திற்கும் அளித்த கண்யமாகும். கைத்தறித் தொழிலில் லக்ஷக் கணக்கான நெசவாளர்களும், நூற்றுக்கணக்கான வியாபாரிகளும் ஈடுபட்டுள்ளனர். இந்தத் தொழிலாளிகளைச் சேர்ந்த ஆயிரக்கணக்கான ஏழைக் குடும்பங்கள் இந்தத் தொழிலை நம்பி வாழ்கின்றன. தற்போது இந்தக் கைத்தறித் தொழில் பலவிதமான கட்டுப்பாடுகளினாலும், இன்னும் பல காரணங்களினாலும் ரொம்பவும் பாதிக்கப்பட்டிருக்கிறது. முக்கியமாக எங்கள் தலைவரவர்கள் எடுத்துக் கூறியதுபோல் பலவித கட்டுப்பாடுகள்தான் இதற்குக் காரணம். ஆனால் நம் பிரியியரவர்கள் நம் நாட்டில் நமது மக்களுக்கு துணியில்லை. அப்படியிருக்கும்போது ஏற்றுமதிக் கட்டுப்பாட்டை எப்படித் தளர்த்துவது. நம் நாட்டில் இப்பொழுது உங்கள் குறைகள் எல்லாம் மில் துணிகளுக்குள்ள கட்டுப்பாட்டுக்கும், கைத்தறித் துணிக்குள்ள கட்டுப்பாட்டுக்கும் வித்தியாசம் காட்டப்படுவதால் என்பதுதான் உங்கள் குறை. இப்பொழுது ஏற்றுமதி சம்பந்தமாக மில் துணிகளுக்கு இந்நாட்டில் உற்பத்தியாகும் அளவில் சுமார் 15 முதல் 20 சத விசதம் ஏற்றுமதிக்கு அனுமதிக்கிறார்கள். ஆனால் கைத்தறித் துணியை 3 சத விசதம்தான் வெளிநாடுகளுக்கு ஏற்றுமதி செய்ய அனுமதிக்கிறார்கள். அதுவுமின்றி இந்தியா கவர்மெண்டார் பல நாடுகளுடன் வியாபார உடன்படிக்கைகள் செய்துகொள்ளும்போது இந்தத் தொழிலை கவனிக்கவில்லை. சமீபத்தில் பாகிஸ்தானுடன் வியாபார உடன்படிக்கை செய்துகொண்டார்கள். அதில் மில் துணிகளுக்கு மட்டும் செய்தார்கள் கைத்தறித் தொழிலை மற்றதே

விட்டார்கள். இதுவரையில் பாகிஸ்தானுக்கு கைத்தறித் துணியை ஏற்றுவதற்கு பரமிட் கிடையாது. மில் துணிக்கு இந்தத் தடையில்லா சாரம், லுங்கி, கைவி போன்ற துணிகள் பாகிஸ்தானில் தான் செலவாகியது. நம் மாகாண உற்பத்தியில் 25 சதவிகிதம் லுங்கி போன்ற ரகங்கள் தான் உற்பத்தியாகிறது. நாம் பாகிஸ்தான் மார்க்கெட்டையே நம்பியிருக்கிறோம். தற்போது ஏறக்குறைய ஒரு லக்ஷம் கைத்தறித் துணி பேல்கள் தேங்கிக் கிடக்கிறது, நம் மாகாணத்தில். இந்தியா கவர்மெண்டாருக்கு இது சம்பந்தமாக மதராஸ் கவர்மெண்டார் மூலம் எவ்வளவோ முயற்சிகள் செய்தோம். மதராஸ் கவர்மெண்டார் எங்களுக்கு அனுசூனமாக எவ்வளவோ எழுதினார்கள். அதை மட்டும் ஏற்றுமதி செய்யலாமென்று சொன்னார்கள். பலனில்லை. அந்த நாட்டில் ஏற்றுமதி செய்ய ஆர்டர் வாங்கித் தரவில்லை. கராச்சியில் சமீபத்தில் உடன்படிக்கை செய்தார்கள். அதிலும் மில் துணியை மட்டும் செய்தார்களே தவிர கைத்தறி ஜவுளியைப் பற்றி ஒன்றும் செய்யவில்லை. நேற்று எனக்குப் Provincial Textile Commissioner இடமிருந்து லெட்டர் வந்தது. அதைப் பார்த்தால் அதில் கைத்தறி ஜவுளிகளை இந்த மாகாணத்திலிருந்து ஈஸ்டர்ன் பாகிஸ்தானுக்கு எவ்வளவு ஏற்றுமதி செய்யலாம். ஈஸ்டர்ன் பாகிஸ்தான் கைத்தறி ஜவுளியை நம் மாகாணத்தில் எவ்வளவு இறக்குமதி செய்யலாம் என்று கேட்டிருக்கிறார். ஈஸ்டர்ன் பாகிஸ்தானுக்கு சமீப காலத்தில் ஏற்றுமதி செய்யக் கூடாதென்று கட்டுப்பாடு செய்ததால் அவர்கள் லுங்கிகளை உற்பத்தி செய்து வந்தார்கள். அப்படி அவர்கள் உற்பத்தி செய்த இந்த லுங்கிகளை நாம் இறக்குமதி செய்ய கவர்மெண்டார் யோசனை செய்து கொண்டிருக்கிறார்கள். இப்படிப்பட்ட குறைகளைத்தான் நாம் சொல்லுகிறோமேயன்றி மக்களுக்குத் துணி கிடைக்காமல் அந்ரீய நாட்டு மக்களுக்கு துணி கொடுக்கவேண்டுமென்று சொல்லவில்லை. இதைத்தான் நம் மாகாணப் பிரதமருக்கு எடுத்துச் சொல்ல விரும்புகிறேன். மேலும் இந்தத் தொழிலில் நம் பிரியியருக்கு மிகவும் அக்கரையுண்டு. ஆகையால் இந்த விதமான இக்கட்டுகளையும், இடைபூறுகளையும் அவர்கள் நிவர்த்தி செய்வார்கள் என்று எனக்கு முழு நம்பிக்கை உண்டு. எங்கள் அழைப்புக்கு இணங்கி இவிடம் வந்துள்ள பிரமுகர்கள் யாவருக்கும் இச்சங்கத்தின் சார்பாக எங்கள் நன்றியறிதலை தெரிவித்துக் கொள்ளுகிறேன். பிரியியரவர்களுக்கும் எங்கள் நன்றியைத் தெரிவித்துக் கொண்டு என் பிரசங்கத்தை முடித்துக் கொள்ளுகிறேன்.



Madras Provincial Handloom Cloth Merchants' Association

MADRAS

COMMERCIAL HOLIDAYS IN 1952

Under the Explanation to Section 25 of the Negotiable Instruments Act, 1881, (XXVI of 1881) the following days besides Sundays have been declared Holidays for the year 1952.

Month	Date	Day	Holiday
January	1	TUESDAY	New Year's Day
"	7	MONDAY	Vaikunta Ekadasi
"	14	MONDAY	Pongal
"	15	TUESDAY	Mattu Pongal
"	26	SATURDAY	Republic Day
February	23	SATURDAY	Mahasivarathri
March	26	WEDNESDAY	Telugu New Year's Day
April	11	FRIDAY	Good Friday
June	24	TUESDAY	Ramzan
"	30	MONDAY	Half-Yearly Closing of Bank Accounts
August	6	WEDNESDAY	Avani Avittam
"	15	FRIDAY	Independence Day
September	1	MONDAY	Bakrid
"	4	THURSDAY	Sri Narayana Guru Dev's Birthday
"	10	WEDNESDAY	Sri Jayanthi
"	18	THURSDAY	Mahalaya Amavasa
"	26	FRIDAY	Ayuda Puja
"	27	SATURDAY	
"	30	THURSDAY	Muharram
October	2	THURSDAY	Mahatma Gandhi's Birthday
"	17	FRIDAY	Deepavali
December	1	MONDAY	Meeladi Nabi
"	25	THURSDAY	Christmas Day
"	27	SATURDAY	Vaikunta Ekadasi
"	31	WEDNESDAY	Annual Closing of Bank Accounts

N. B.—The following Holidays fall on Sundays :

Bhogi	13th January 1952
Tamil New Year's Day	13th April 1952
Vinayaka Chathurchi	24th August 1952
Vijaya Dasami	28th September 1952

* The Proposed Postal Holidays.

Armenian St., Madras 1	M. S. A. MAJID,	M. S. A. RAHIM,
16th December 1951	President.	N. V. R. SOURIRAJAN,
		Hon'y. Secretaries.