

# European Communities

---

## EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

# Working Documents

1976 - 1977

---

23 February 1977

DOCUMENT 572/76

ORAL QUESTION (O-113/76)

with debate pursuant to Rule 47 of the Rules of Procedure

by Mr LAGORCE, Mr MITCHELL, Mr RADOUX, Mr PATIJN, Mr FLÄMIG, Mr Knud NIELSEN, Mr AMADEI, Mr HUGHES and Mr SIEGLERSCHMIDT

to the Commission of the European Communities

Subject : The EEC's commercial relations with India

In December 1973 a Commercial Cooperation Agreement was signed between the EEC and India. In April 1975, President Ortolí, during a visit to India, said that this Agreement should be extended. Two months later a State of Emergency was declared. The international press has reported that for the next 19 months, many thousands of political leaders of most of the Opposition Parties, including members of the Indian National Parliament and State Assemblies, as well as many trade unionists, were detained in prison without trial, and that the press was heavily censored.

The calling of a new General Election by the Prime Minister on January 18, 1977, to take place towards the end of March has led to the release of several

of the leading detainees and a relaxation of press censorship, although many important political leaders, and thousands of rank and file opposition supporters, remain in prison, while editors are obliged to exercise great discretion.

Will the Commission state :

1. Whether it has any plans at present to extend the EEC-India Commercial Cooperation Agreement?
2. Does it not consider that the return to real parliamentary democracy in India is a precondition for the strengthening of commercial relations between the EEC and India?