

श्री जवाहरलाल नेहरू: ये तो हमेशा बनते रहते हैं, यह कोई नया सवाल नहीं है। मेरे ख्याल में हम यहां तक नहीं पहुंचे हैं कि खर्च का एस्टीमेट बन सके।

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: What did he say?

Mr. Speaker: This has not reached that stage where an assessment of the expenditure that has to be incurred could have been considered so far.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: The Prime Minister said that it continues to be constructed. But up till now I have never heard of flats being constructed for diplomats.

Mr. Speaker: These considerations are always there.

श्री प्रकाश बीर शास्त्री : ये विदेशी राजनयिक अधिकारी जो इतने मंहगे भाड़े पर मकान लेते हैं, क्या ये इनको सीधे मकान मालिकों से बातचीत करके लेते हैं या गवर्नमेंट के माध्यम से किराये पर लेते हैं? यदि ये सीधे बातचीत करके लेते हैं तो फिर इस मंहगे किराये पर उन्हें क्यों शिकायत होनी चाहिये?

अध्यक्ष महोदय : जवाब दिया जा चुका है कि टैनेट और लॉडलार्ड सीधे बातचीत करते हैं।

Shri Vishwa Nath Pandey: May I know what is the total income of all the flats allotted to foreign diplomats?

Mr. Speaker: Next question.

श्री यशपाल सिंह : अध्यक्ष महोदय, सवाल लिख कर दिया जाए तो उसका जवाब देना चाहिये। मैंने सवाल किया है।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : यह जरूरी नहीं होता है हर वक्त। कभी किसी वक्त भूल भी हो जाती है।

Prices of Cotton

*620. **Shri Shree Narayan Das:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to refer to the reply

given to Unstarred Question No. 477 on the 2nd May, 1962 and state the precise nature of decisions taken by Government with regard to removal of ceilings on the prices of Indian cotton and the appointment of a Commission to promote production of cotton in the country?

The Minister of International Trade in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): The Government have already announced their decision not to remove the ceilings on the prices of Indian cotton but to increase them with effect from the 1st September, 1962, i.e., the beginning of the new cotton season. The ceiling of the basic variety "Jarilla Fine 25/32", has been increased by Rs. 35 per quintal (Rs. 125 per candy) with corresponding increases in the ceilings of the other varieties of Indian cotton.

As regards the appointment of a Cotton Commission for promoting production of cotton in the country, there is at present no such proposal under contemplation of the Government. This question may be referred to the Ministry of Food & Agriculture.

Shri Shree Narayan Das: From the statement it appears that the Government have not been able to remove the ceiling prices of Indian cotton but they are going to increase the prices. I would like to know the consideration that weighed with Government in not removing the ceiling.

Shri Manubhai Shah: By removing the ceiling the prices will rise so much that they will affect the basic commodities like cloth for the general masses of the people; and de-control of prices would not have also led to any increase in production *pro rata*. Thereafter, after considering all the aspects of the issue we decided this, and raised the ceiling by Rs. 125 per candy.

Shri Shree Narayan Das: May I know whether Government has considered that by not removing the ceiling there would be a set-back in the

production of cotton? If so, what steps have been taken by Government to avoid that?

Shri Manubhai Shah: It was not so; the ceilings have been ruling for the last ten years and even though the increase in production has depended upon agricultural factors and not directly on price escalation, even then, taking all factors into consideration, as I said, for the current season and onwards, we have raised the price by Rs. 125.

Shri Rameshwar Tantia: May I know whether the Government are considering the earmarking of some land in the cotton growing area for extensive cultivation of cotton?

Shri Manubhai Shah: As the House is aware, in the last two Plans, the land under cotton has increased almost from 14.5 million acres to 20 million acres, and so expansion of land under cotton has taken place. The productivity of soil which is round about 93 lbs. per acre has to be raised to 150 lbs. per acre. The present efforts are to improve by giving fertilisers, new agricultural practices, etc., not only the productivity of cotton per acre but of other crops also.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Is it not a fact that the Indian Central Cotton Committee unanimously recommended the lifting of ceilings and, if so, what weight has the Government given to this unanimous recommendation of the Committee?

Shri Manubhai Shah: This is one of the several bodies which makes recommendations and we give due consideration to the recommendations of such august bodies. There are many other such bodies which have recommended that no prices should be raised. My hon. friend knows how the prices were in the last ten years.

Shri K. C. Pant: Is there any proposal to create a buffer-stock of cotton?

Shri Manubhai Shah: Yes; but unfortunately, till the production internally at least outstrips the actual de-

mand, if the surplus is to be created, then, agricultural production can alone build up buffer-stocks. Therefore, we are trying to import something under PL 480. We have given the figures of imports several times before the House; and when the internal production rises, then buffer-stock will be created.

गोला बारूद का आयात

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*६२१. { श्री प्रकाशवीर शास्त्री :
श्री वीरन्द्र बहादुर सिंह :

क्या वाणिज्य तथा उद्योग मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या विदेशों से कारतूस, बन्दूकें और राइफलें आयात करने पर प्रतिबन्ध लगा दिया गया है ;

(ख) क्या यह भी सच है कि अभी तक इन चीजों का हमारे देश में आवश्यकता के अनुरूप उत्पादन नहीं हो रहा है ;

(ग) क्या सरकार को ऐसी कठिनाइयों के बारे में कुछ ज्ञापन मिले हैं ;

(घ) क्या यह भी सच है कि आयात पर प्रतिबन्ध लगने से कीमतें बहुत बढ़ गई हैं और उसमें भ्रष्टाचार भी चालू हो गया है ; और

(ङ) सरकार का इस सम्बन्ध में क्या कदम उठाने का विचार है ?

वाणिज्य तथा उद्योग मंत्रालय में अन्तर्-राष्ट्रीय व्यापार मंत्री (श्री मनुभाई शाह) :

(क) जी हां ।

(ख) असेनिक इन्डेंटकर्ताओं की मांग पूरी करने के लिये युद्ध का सामान बनाने वाले कारखाने ८ मि० मी० ३१५ "राइफलों की कारतूसों तथा .२२" रिमफायर के छर्रे पर्याप्त परिमाण में बना रहे हैं । ये कारखाने २, ४, ६ और ७ नम्बर की लोकप्रिय २/१/२ इंच के आकार की १२ बोर की कारतूसों भी तैयार कर रहे हैं ।