

place to place in Madhya Pradesh, and during what period?

Shri C. Subramaniam: As far as I am aware, originally as I have already stated, to the private sector body licence was issued based on Itarsi. Now, as I have already stated, we have to change the process of manufacture, and the raw material will be coal. Therefore, the coal area will have to be selected. I am really not aware of all the other considerations which the hon. Members are mentioning just now.

Shri U. M. Trivedi: Is it a fact that....

Mr. Speaker: I am not allowing a second question now.

Shri Daji: By what time will this plant be constructed, and when will it go into production?

Mr. Speaker: Let the site be selected first.

श्री कछवाय : मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि मध्य प्रदेश की साल भर की खाद की कितनी मांग है और उस को कहाँ से पूरा किया जाता है ?

Shri P. C. Sethi: I require separate notice for that.

Cloth Prices

+

*234. { **Shri Umanath:**
Shri Narendra Singh Mahida:

Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there are numerous complaints from the consumers that stamped prices of cloth are generally very high and the consumers are made to pay the higher prices in the belief that the stamped prices are incontrovertible; and

(b) if so, what check is being exercised by Government to save the consumers from such exploitation by the mill-owners?

The Minister of International Trade in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise. In view however of the present emergency, certain measures to maintain prices of essential commodities including cotton textiles have been taken. These measures have been indicated in the statement laid on the Table of the **LOK Sabha** on the 10th November, 1962.

Shri Umanath: May I know whether any special measures have been contemplated by the Government to keep down prices of medium and coarse cloth which are largely consumed by the public?

Shri Manubhai Shah: Yes, Sir. We have taken steps as mentioned in the statement to increase production of coarse and lower medium cloth by 300 million yards, and again 10 per cent of the production of every mill will be made available to consumer and co-operative societies, and further measures of price fixation as have been mentioned here have been taken.

Shri Umanath: May I know how far these measures have been enforced already in the various States?

Shri Manubhai Shah: This was a statement on the 10th that the various measures requiring legal remedies have been undertaken, but I may assure the House that there has been no rise in prices in all these varieties including coarse and lower medium at all.

श्री बेरवा : क्या यह सत्य है कि कपड़े के दुकानदार ग्राहकों से छपे हुए मूल्य से ज्यादा लेने लगे हैं ?

Mr. Speaker: Are the retailers charging more than the stamped price even?

Shri Manubhai Shah: I have had occasion to reply that even during Divali and Dasara days this time no complaints were received. Naturally

there is heavy demand for certain varieties. Buckingham and Carnatic and Bombay Dyeing are two of them. There is spurt in the demand and no supply can catch up with it because one or two mills cannot cater for the entire requirement, but broadly speaking in varieties of coarse and medium cloth, there has been no price rise.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: May I know whether Government have received assurances from the textile mills that they will see that the prices do not increase during the emergency?

Shri Manubhai Shah: We are not relying on their assurances alone. We are taking legal measures to fix and stamp prices at the Textile Commissioner's Office level, and are not leaving it to the private party.

श्री यशपाल सिंह : जिन व्यापारियों ने गरम कपड़े के दाम दुगने कर रखे हैं क्या उन के खिलाफ भी डिफेंस आफ इंडिया क्लस के मातहत कोई कार्रवाई की गई है ?

श्री मनुभाई शाह : अभी तो काटन टैक्सटाइल्स की बात हो रही है। गरम कपड़े की बात होगी तो उस का भी पता करेंगे।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : आज कल जाड़े का मौसम है।

Shri Priya Gupta: Will the hon. Minister kindly state if consumer co-operative societies and multi-purpose societies can get at ex-mill rates the cloth direct from the mills, to sell at lower rates to the consumers?

Shri Manubhai Shah: Yes, Sir. All arrangements have been made to increase production by 300 million yards, and ten per cent of all varieties will be placed at the disposal of consumer co-operative stores as well as departmental stores.

Shri Priya Gupta: But my information is that they are not getting.

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. I am not allowing that.

Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad: In spite of the very affirmative answer of the hon. Minister may I know whether the Government is contemplating to strengthen its measures to control the rising trend in prices that is likely to be in an emergency?

Shri Manubhai Shah: That is what I have indicated. All measures are taken. I will be grateful if any hon. Member brings to my notice specific cases of price rise in textiles so that we can take drastic action.

Shri Dinen Bhattacharya: May I know whether the Government has any machinery to ascertain that the stamped prices are the real prices and not exorbitant prices.

Shri Manubhai Shah: Yes, Sir. That is the intention.

Mr. Speaker: The Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Price of Motor Cars

*223. { Shrimati Renuka Ray:
Dr. L. M. Singhvi:

Will the Minister of Steel and Heavy Industries be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any steps to induce the manufacturers of motor cars in the private sector to bring down the prices of motor cars; and

(b) if so, the result thereof?

The Minister of Steel and Heavy Industries (Shri C. Subramaniam): (a) and (b). The question of reduction of automobile prices was taken up with the manufacturers some time ago. As a result of Government's persuasion, two of the three car manufacturers in the country, namely, M/s Premier Automobiles Ltd., Bombay, and M/s. Standard Motor Products of India Ltd., Madras, had reduced the prices of their cars by Rs. 200 each, in May 1960. No price increase has