

lower prices of cotton which the Government has fixed?

Shri Manubhai Shah: It has nothing to do with cotton prices. This is the movement of cloth.

Shri Bade: Is it a fact that the accumulation is there owing to the difficulty in the transport of goods?

Shri Manubhai Shah: It is only due to panic which was caused at the time of the emergency. Now, the conditions have been restored fully.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: May I know whether it is a fact that this little accumulation of stock in Kanpur mills is due to the dwindling position of export of medium and coarse cloth; if so, what steps are being taken to see that the exports of these varieties are increased?

Shri Manubhai Shah: The hon. Member's information was that it was one lakh bales. There is a great difference between 1 lakh and 36,000. 36,000 bales are the normal stocking of all mills in that area.

Shri Bade: Is it a fact that such accumulation of stock of textile goods is there everywhere in the country and it has been reported in the Press that accumulation is going on; if so, may I know whether the Government is looking into it?

Shri Manubhai Shah: It is not so. The House would appreciate that even though there is a slight accumulation, we have passed the most difficult period of our time.

Shrimati Savitri Nigam: May I know whether the textile industry people have demanded any relief from the Government on the plea that they have got accumulation of stocks?

Shri Manubhai Shah: Yes; they did ask for credit facilities. I am glad to say that the Reserve Bank liberalised the credit and from Rs. 50 crores the credit has jumped to Rs. 76 crores.

श्री तुलसीदास जाधव : आजकल जो स्पिनिंग ऐंड वीविंग मिल्स हैं उनमें स्टॉक के जमा होने से जो अनएम्प्लायमेंट पदा होता है उसके बारे में क्या सरकार को पता है ? और उसके लिये सरकार क्या उपाय कर रही है ?

श्री मनुभाई शाह : जहां स्टॉक पड़ा हुआ है वहां कोई अनएम्प्लायमेंट नहीं हुआ है और कोई मिल बन्द नहीं हुई है ।

Bokaro Steel Plant

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*503. { **Shri Mantri:**
Shri Bishanchander Sath:
Shri Ram Ratan Gupta:

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

(a) whether any talks have been held regarding U.S. aid for the proposed Bokaro Steel Plant; and

(b) if so, when the work on the Project would begin and when the Plant will be put into operation?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Steel and Heavy Industries (Shri P. C. Sethi): (a) and (b). Preliminary negotiations were held with the U.S. Agency for International Development on the question of U.S. finance for Bokaro in May last. Following these negotiations the Agency for International Development of the U.S. Government sent a team of experts to undertake a techno-economic survey of the projected Bokaro Plant. The team have completed their survey and their report is awaited on the basis of which a final decision regarding aid is likely to be taken.

श्री मंत्री : इस सम्बन्ध में सरकार कितने पैसा देने वाली है, क्या इसकी कोई बातचीत हुई है ?

Shri P. C. Sethi: The question of amount is not decided; it would be finalised only after the report is received.

Shri K. C. Pant: When does Government expect to receive this report?

The Minister of Steel and Heavy Industries (Shri C. Subramaniam): It is expected that the report will be submitted by March-April, but even before that we may know their decision.

Accumulation of Cloth with Ahmedabad Textile Mills

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Shri D. J. Naik:

*504. **Shri Ram Ratan Gupta:**
Shri Mantri:
Shri Bade:

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

(a) whether huge stocks of cloth have accumulated with Ahmedabad Textile Mills; and

(b) if so, the action taken in the matter?

The Minister of International Trade in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): (a) The Textile Industry in the country including specially in Ahmedabad recently faced the problem of accumulation of stocks.

(b) Steps were taken to liberalise credit facilities available to the Cotton Textile Industry and Trade. The Gujarat Government have a scheme for providing bilateral security on advances made by banks to mills in that State. These have given some relief to the Industry.

Shri D. J. Naik: May I know the quantity of stocks that accumulated with the Ahmedabad mills?

Shri Manubhai Shah: 118,000 bales.

श्री मंत्री : इस कारखाने में अपना माल ज्यादा होने के बाद भी सरकार ने अमरीका से काटन बेल्स मंगाई हैं, इसका क्या कारण हो सकता है, और इन बेल्स का इतना ज्यादा स्टॉक मंगाने से हमारे यहां काटन की कीमत पर भी क्या उसका कोई असर पड़ा है ?

श्री मनुभाई शाह : जो भी स्टॉक है वह कपड़े का है और बाहर से रुई आती है । जितना हम रुई में डेफिफिट हैं उतनी रुई हमें बाहर से मंगानी पड़ती है । पिछले साल रुई की क्राफ खराब हो गई थी और उनके इम्पोर्ट करने की डिमांड आई थी ।

Shri D. J. Naik: May I know whether it is a fact that the accumulation of cloth has been on account of the high prices; and, if so, what steps Government have taken to reduce the prices?

Shri Manubhai Shah: This was one of the reasons, but the principal reason which I said was recession of trade in a very large area of the country. There were some varieties where the prices were very high. We made it clear that selling at a lower price than the ceiling price was fully permissible and legal and many mills were selling at 10 per cent and 15 per cent discount.

श्री शिवाजीराव शं० देशमुख : क्या यह सच है कि अमरीका की रुई उसी वक्त यहां मंगाई जाती है जब कि कापतकार की रुई बाजार में आती है, और मिडिलमैन के हाथ में रुई तब जाती है जब कि उसका एक्सपोर्ट होता है ?

श्री मनुभाई शाह : ऐसा नहीं होता है । होता इस तरह से है कि कहां से कितना माल मिल रहा है यह हमारे हाथ में नहीं है । अमरीका गवर्नमेंट आजाद है, दूसरी गवर्नमेंट्स आजाद हैं, कि वह अपने यहां से कितना माल कब भेजें । वह खुद ही इन को प्रनाउन्स करते हैं ।

Shri Shivaji Rao S. Deshmukh: Sir, my question was about the timing of the import and export.

Mr. Speaker: There was no question at all. He was only throwing an accusation and not putting the question.