

**Shri Shivaji Rao S. Deshmukh:** May I know what specific proposals Government have before them to make low-grade coal cheaper for economic generation of electricity by thermal stations?

**Shri P. C. Sethi:** At the moment there seems to be no possibility of reducing the prices of coal.

**Shri Indrajit Gupta:** May I know whether the Minister's attention has been drawn to a statement made a couple of days ago by the Chairman of the Indian Mining Association, Calcutta, to the effect that due to wrong planning and over-estimating of the amount of coal that would be required, the position now is such that unless Government takes special steps to augment the export of coal, the coal industry will be facing a severe crisis? Has he seen the statement, and what is his view on that?

**The Minister of Steel and Mines (Shri Sanjiva Reddy):** Export of Grade I coal is being done, but we are not able to find markets for the lower grade coals. We are very much surplus only in lower grade coals. Metallurgical coal we will have to produce a little more because of the demand. If and when we find market for lower grade coals, naturally our position will be much better. We are making all attempts to find out if we can export that.

**श्री हुकम चन्द कछवाय :** क्या यह बात सही है कि मध्य प्रदेश में बहुत से ऐसे स्थान हैं जहाँ कि कोयला मिला है लेकिन केन्द्रीय सरकार उस कोयले को निकालने के लिए मना कर रही है जबकि दूसरे स्थानों से कोयला लाने के लिए मजबूर करती है और वह काफ़ी महंगा पड़ता है जिसके कि परिणामस्वरूप वहाँ पर उत्पादित होने वाला सामान महंगे दामों में तैयार होता है तो सरकार क्यों नहीं वहीं मध्य प्रदेश में पाया जाने वाला कोयला खोद

कर निकालने और उसे वहीं पर उद्योगों में काम में लाने की इजाजत देती है ?

**श्री प्र० चं० सेठी :** जहाँ तक रेलवेज से ट्रान्सपोर्टेशन का सवाल है इसे रेलवेज तय करती है कि कहां से लाया जाय। मध्य प्रदेश में चूँकि लोअर ग्रेड का कोयला पैदा हो गया है इसलिए हमें उस को लेने में कुछ कमी करनी पड़ी, वहाँ से कोयला लेने की डिमाण्ड में हमें कुछ कमी करनी पड़ी है।

**श्री हुकम चन्द कछवाय :** अध्यक्ष महोदय, मेरे सवाल का उत्तर नहीं आया कि यह जो कोयला बाहर से मंगवाया जाता है वह काफ़ी महंगा आकर पड़ता है और जिसके कि परिणामस्वरूप उत्पादित सामान भी काफ़ी महंगा पड़ता है तो सरकार क्यों नहीं मध्य प्रदेश में पाये जाने वाले उस कोयले को खोदने की इजाजत देती ताकि वहाँ के उद्योगों को कोयला सस्ता उपलब्ध हो सके ?

**श्री प्र० चं० सेठी :** अगर कोयला वहीं मिल सकता है तो वहीं से उसे देने की कोशिश करते हैं। लेकिन कहां से कोयला दिया जाय यह रेलवे विभाग से सलाह और मशविरा करके तय किया जाता है।

#### Powerloom Enquiry Committee

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Shri D. J. Naik:  
Shri D. D. Puri:  
Shri Solanki:  
Shri Narasimha Reddy:  
Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia:  
\*483. Shri Kishen Pattnayak:  
Shri Madhu Limaye:  
Shri Ramachandra Ulaka:  
Shri Dhuleshwar Meena:  
Shri M. S. Murti:  
Shri P. R. Chakraverti:  
Shri Jeshvant Mehta:

Will the Minister of Commerce be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 481 on the 11th December, 1964, and state:

(a) whether the recommendations of the Powerloom Enquiry Committee

have since been considered by Government;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the Federation of the All-India Cotton Powerloom Association has represented to the Government to accept in toto the recommendations of the Powerloom Enquiry Committee; and

(c) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

**The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Commerce (Shri S. V. Ramaswamy):** (a) The recommendations of the Powerloom Enquiry Committee are still under the consideration of the Government.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The views of the All India Federation of the Cotton Powerloom Association would also be taken into consideration before the recommendations of the Powerloom Enquiry Committee are decided upon by the Government.

**Shri D. J. Naik:** May I know if free licences issued to powerlooms would affect the production of handlooms and that would also affect the handloom weavers?

**Shri S. V. Ramaswamy:** Free licensing as recommended by the Asoka Mehta Committee will certainly affect the handlooms as even under the present licensing system there are so many unlicensed powerlooms which are affecting the handloom industry. Therefore, it is very clear that free licensing will affect the handloom industry very badly.

**Shri D. J. Naik:** What steps are intended to be taken by Government to accelerate the production of handloom weaving?

**Shri S. V. Ramaswamy:** Every assistance is being given to the handloom industry; schemes for co-operative societies are there. There are technological improvements in the handloom machinery. All these things are being looked into by the handloom board and State Governments.

**Shri P. R. Chakraverti:** May I know whether the recommendations of the powerloom enquiry committee had been accepted by the Government and if so, what specific recommendation had been accepted and implemented?

**Shri S. V. Ramaswamy:** The Asoka Mehta Committee's recommendations had been broadly accepted by this Ministry but the main point, namely, that there should be free licensing of the powerlooms had not been accepted. The Ministry has submitted to the Cabinet that free licensing will lead to unnecessary and unhealthy competition between the powerloom and the handloom industry. In fact the Planning Commission was not originally in favour or in agreement with us. Later on they have veered round to our opinion that some sort of a regulation is necessary though the control of licences that we think of is not the only thing but that there should be fiscal measures also.

**Shri S. M. Banerjee:** Is it a fact that the association of Bombay powerloom people have demanded the removal of restrictions placed on them and want the implementation of the Asoka Mehta Committee report and, if so, what is the reaction of the Government?

**Shri S. V. Ramaswamy:** The reaction is very definite. That is one-sided. On the other hand, there is the Indian Cotton Millowners' Association representing that it should not be accepted; they have given certain reasons why Government should not accept the powerloom committee's report. Then again the All India Handloom Board and many handloom associations have represented in a different manner urging the Government not to accept this. In view of these conflicting views Government have got to take a balanced view and then come to a decision.

**Shrimati Savitri Nigam:** May I know whether many of the power-

loom and handloom weavers associations had represented to the Government that instead of a few rich people getting all the benefit, the benefit should go to the ordinary weavers and free licensing should be done?

**Shri S. V. Ramaswamy:** As I submitted, there are two views the Asoka Mehta Committee has recommended free licensing on the ground that the licensing system as it is today has failed but our view is that that is not the reason for free licensing; we can tighten up the licensing system and adopt fiscal measures.

**Shri Thirumala Rao:** Have the Government given due consideration to the representation made by the handloom weavers all over the country that widespread unemployment would result in view of this indiscriminate protection for powerlooms and whether the Government would take into consideration the economic conditions of the country?

**Shri S. V. Ramaswamy:** We are taking very serious notice of these representations because any scheme that we introduce in the industry should not result in large-scale unemployment. The handloom industry, by and large, gives very wide employment and, therefore, we have got also to see how we could protect it.

**Shri Oza:** May I know the percentage of power looms which are operating without licence—unlicensed powerlooms—compared to the total percentage of powerlooms working in the country?

**Shri S. V. Ramaswamy:** It is difficult to say how many unlicensed powerlooms are there. The licensed powerlooms are 1,49,000; It is anybody's guess as to how many unlicensed powerlooms are there; it may be 70,000 or more.

**Shrimati Ramdulari Sinha:** May I know whether any protest has been made by the handloom industry of Bihar against the allotment of powerlooms on the basis of existing regis-

tered handlooms of each State and what is the number of registered handlooms in Bihar and Madras?

**Shri S. V. Ramaswamy:** I do not readily have the figures for the handlooms in Bihar.

**Shri Sham Lal Saraf:** May I know whether the Government are along with proposals at the moment for abandoning the excise duty on pure powerloom silk fabrics prepared to issue licences for new powerlooms for pure silk weaving for which there is demand, especially in his own Ministry, for the export drive?

**Shri S. V. Ramaswamy:** As regards powerloom for silk, there are representations from places like Chicbhallapur where they have said that this art silk does not pay and that they should be permitted to convert it into pure silk. Certain licences have been given for about 2,000 looms.

**श्री गुलशन :** क्या सरकार ने कभी इस बात पर गौर किया है कि जो गांवों में हथकरखों पर काम करने वाले जुलाहे हैं वे सरकार की सहायता के बगैर धीरे धीरे बेरोजगार होते जा रहे हैं, यदि हां, तो क्या सरकार उन बेरोजगार होते जा रहे व्यक्तियों को सहायता देने के बारे में कुछ सोचेगी ?

**Shri S. V. Ramaswamy:** There are several schemes by which the handloom weavers are being assisted; The State Governments step in, and, under the co-operative scheme, finances and other facilities such as machinery, looms, etc., etc., are given.

**श्री किशन पटनायक :** अभी तक छोटे पावरलूम्स के उद्योग पर ऐक्साइज इयूटी नहीं थी लेकिन नये बजट में उन पर ऐक्साइज इयूटी लागू हो गयी है तो क्या सरकार की नीति छोटे पावरलूम्स की इंडस्ट्री के बारे में बदल गई है ?

**Shri S. V. Ramaswamy:** Formerly, four powerlooms were exempt, but now, under the new Finance Bill, each

will have to pay about Rs. 25 per annum which, I submit, is really inconsiderable. It comes to about Rs. 2 a month, whereas each powerloom will be making a profit of Rs. 500 per month.

**Shri R. Ramanathan Chettiar:** The hon. Deputy Minister in his answer to a supplementary question said that the powerloom industry being given free licences will affect the handloom industry. If so, may I know whether the export varieties will be affected more than the home-consumption varieties and what steps are the Government going to take to give subsidies so that the export drive could be promoted?

**Shri S. V. Ramaswamy:** This question of export varieties being affected has not been analysed. But, by and large, any free licensing of powerlooms is certainly bound to affect the handloom industry.

**Shri Kandappan:** The handloom industry cannot compete with the powerloom industry and the handloom weavers are therefore willing to go into the powerloom industry. After all, it is the handloom weavers that are being put to trouble. They are suffering for want of finance. Therefore, my question is this. Will Government work out a scheme of assistance to the weavers whereby they will switch on to the powerloom industry with the necessary financial assistance from the Centre and the States.

**Shri S. V. Ramaswamy:** The point seems to be whether any assistance will be given to the handloom weavers to shift over to powerlooms. The main point is whether this should be in the private sector or co-operative sector. By and large the Ministry is in favour of Co-operative Sector, which the State Government can finance.

**Shri S. Kandappan:** Can't the weavers be helped by the Government so that they can join together?

**Shri S. V. Ramaswamy:** The co-operatives are there. The State Government will look after that.

**Shri Ranga:** May I know whether it is a fact that these powerlooms are asked to pay some tax or fee at the rate of Rs. 20 per month?

**Shri S. V. Ramaswamy:** It is Rs. 25 per annum per loom.

**Shri Ranga:** For what purpose is it being imposed? Is it for the benefit of the handloom industry or for the powerloom industry or for Government?

**Shri S. V. Ramaswamy:** The reasons seem to be that there was large-scale evasion of excise duty as a result of exemption given to 4 powerlooms and below, because in a huge shed having say 50 powerlooms, for every four powerlooms different names would be put in order to evade the tax. To prevent this loophole, the Finance Minister has thought it fit to levy Rs. 25 per annum for each loom, whatever the number.

#### Export of Sports Goods

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\*484. { **Shri Brajeshwar Prasad:**  
**Shri Bishwanath Roy:**  
**Shri Sammani:**

Will the Minister of Commerce be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the export of sports goods declined during the Third Five Year Plan period;

(b) whether the import of materials required for the manufacture of sports goods has increased as compared to that in the Second Five Year Plan period; and

(c) whether the indigenous raw materials are not being utilised properly for increasing the export of sports goods?

**The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Commerce (Shri S. V. Ramaswamy):** (a) No, Sir. The exports