

textile group has decided to make a bonfire of foreign cloth in London?

Shri Manubhai Shah: I share the information with the hon. Member.

Shri K. N. Pande: Is the cloth imported in U.K. from India for internal consumption or is it for purposes of export after being reprocessed?

Shri Manubhai Shah: Some of it is for internal consumption; some of it which goes in grey condition is reprocessed for trade abroad.

Shri Tyagi: What is the volume, and value in money, of our textile trade with U.K.?

Shri Manubhai Shah: It is 195 million yards every year. The value is according to trading prices from time to time.

Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad: Have Government examined and satisfied themselves that the proposed cut is not due to any difficulties faced by the Lancashire industry but because of the proposed entry of UK into the E.C.M.?

Shri Manubhai Shah: Even before the E.C.M. idea was there, this was a hardy annual. The textile interests there have taken up the matter with the U.K. Government and with us. All this is well known to the House. So it is not a new situation. But we are alive to both the situations, entry of Britain into the E.C.M. as well as the difficulties of export trade with U.K. independently.

Shri Hem Barua: Is it a fact that of late the U.K. Government have proposed to us a Government-to-government agreement and not an industry-to-industry agreement? If so, what is Government's reaction thereto?

Shri Manubhai Shah: That has not been the approach. The approach has been that the Governments on both sides are kept informed of the discussions between the trade and industry on both sides.

Shri Sivamurthi Swamy: In these

exports, how much is handloom export?

Shri Manubhai Shah: It has not confined itself to that. It is more for the organised textile industry.

Indian Troops in Congo

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*1234. { **Shri Hem Barua:**
Shri Rameshwar Tantia:
Shri Shree Narayan Das:

Will the **Prime Minister** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that situation in Congo has of late considerably improved; and

(b) if so, whether Government have fixed any date by which it is proposed to completely withdraw our troops from there?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs (Shrimati Lakshmi Menon): (a) No, Sir. The situation in the Congo cannot be said to have definitely improved until there is a settlement between Mr. Tshombe of Katanga and Mr. Adoula, Premier of the Congolese Central Government. No progress has been made on the question of ending the secession of Katanga, which is the main problem remaining unsolved in the Congo. Renewed talks are now going on between Mr. Tshombe and Mr. Adoula and much will depend on their outcome.

(b) Does not arise.

Shri Hem Barua: In view of the recent decision of Mr. Adoula and Mr. Tshombe to integrate their armed forces into the Congolese Army as also to take steps for the complete integration of the Katanga province into the Congo, may I know if the situation is not ripe enough for us to withdraw our troops?

Shrimati Lakshmi Menon: No. The situation is not ripe enough for us to withdraw our troops. I would like to bring to the notice of the hon. Member the news that appeared this morning.

Shri Hem Barua: I have seen that.

Shrimati Lakshmi Menon: Mr. Tshombe says that he will not continue discussions unless the movement of the Congolese army is stopped and it does not endanger the Katangese gendarmerie.

Shri Hem Barua: I have also read that news. The position is that the movement of Congolese troops is supposed to take place into the Katanga province. On the other hand, they have already appointed a committee or commission to go into the question of complete integration of Katanga into the Congo.

Mr. Speaker: He is arguing. Has he a question in a definite form to ask?

Shri Hem Barua: Yes. In view of our pressing needs on the frontier because of the new situation arising out of disturbed conditions with neighbours like Pakistan and China, is it not worthwhile for us . . .

Mr. Speaker: He is arguing, drawing inferences, using adjectives and so on. What is the straight question?

Shri Hem Barua: Is it not worthwhile for us to withdraw our troops?

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Minister has said that.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: The Prime Minister can reply.

The Prime Minister and the Minister of External Affairs and Minister of Atomic Energy (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): We do not wish to keep our troops in the Congo a day more than is necessary. We have given these troops to the United Nations. And, it is, finally, for the United Nations to Judge whether they have finished their work or not. At the present moment, although there are some slightly hopeful signs—the talks between Tshombe and Adoula—our past experience is that they tend to break up at the right moment or the wrong moment; and Mr. Tshombe is not a peculiarly reliable individual in such

matters. So, it would be doing no service at all for us to do something now which would upset all the work that has been done and upset the further talks that these people may be having.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: To what extent has the despatch of combat troops to the Congo and their participation in the Congolese affairs been consistent or compatible with Government's of repeated emphasis on the peaceful settlement of disputes, internal as well as international and also compatible or consistent with the tenets of Panch Sheel.

Mr. Speaker: It is a matter of opinion.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: It is compatible completely with both.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: I could not hear.

Mr. Speaker: It is compatible completely with both.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee: May I know if the attention of Government has been drawn to Press reports that Gizenga is very likely in danger of his life; and, if that is so, if Government has any ideas in regard to this matter? I ask this because the first part of the answer says that the situation in Congo has considerably improved.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: We have read news about Mr. Gizenga in danger. But I should think not, because we would have heard about it otherwise.

Shri Vasudevan Nair: One of the main aims of the presence of the U.N. Troops was to expel the foreign mercenaries working in Katanga. May I know whether the U.N. Army has achieved that aim or whether it has miserably failed in that aim?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I cannot say whether it has achieved it absolutely. But, if the whole Katanga Army is put under the unified control of the Congolese Army, it is clear

that the mercenaries will either be under the control of that Army against whom they have been functioning or will go.

Shri Brajeshwar Prasad: Are we to understand that the U.N. Troops will not be withdrawn from the Congo till Katanga is integrated with the Congo?

Mr. Speaker: A hypothetical question. Next question, Shri Yajnik.

Price of Piece Goods

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*1235. { **Shri Yajnik:**
 { **Shri C. K. Bhattacharyya:**

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

(a) whether Government are aware that the Textile Mills have added the entire amount of the new Excise Duty to the original price of piece goods and marked the total price thereon; and

(b) whether Government propose to take any steps in the matter?

The Minister of International Trade in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): (a) and (b). Excise duty on textiles consists of a duty on yarn as well as a duty on cloth. Under the new Excise Tariff, duty on cloth in the grey state has been reduced while there has been an increase in the duty on yarn as well as on processed cloth. So far as the duty on yarn is concerned, the industry has absorbed about 1/6th of the compounded duty. The voluntary system of price control on cloth relates only to the ex-mill price of cloth. In addition to the ex-mill price, mills can stamp separately the Excise Duty at the rates in force from time to time. In view of this, the question of Government taking any action in the matter does not arise.

Shri Yajnik: I should like to know from the Minister if he is aware of the statement of the Finance Minister that the increased excise duty on fine

cloth would be absorbed by the mills in their own costs.

Shri Manubhai Shah: There was no such statement made that all that would be absorbed. As the hon. Member is aware, the fresh duty rise on processed cloth, particularly fine and superfine, has been steep and it would not be possible to absorb all that in the present prices.

Shri C. K. Bhattacharyya: May I know whether the attention of the hon. Minister is drawn to the fact that the prices printed on cloth are arbitrarily changed?

Shri Manubhai Shah: No, Sir. As I said in the past, the voluntary price control which is in full consultation with the government officials in every region is, broadly, working satisfactorily. But, there have been lapses on the part of the trade and mills which have always been taken action against.

Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad: The statement does not clearly show whether it is not a fact that the entire new excise duty has been passed over by the manufacturer to the consumer.

Shri Manubhai Shah: I have neither said one way or the other. I have said that the absorption of the yarn duty is compounded in a manner that one-sixth has been agreed to be retained by the mills and five-sixths passed on to the consumer. For the rest, the voluntary price stamping regulates the excise. It is our hope that to the extent possible the industry will bear the additional burden of the excise duty.

श्री ब० बि० महरोत्रा : क्या मंत्री जी को इस तरह की शिकायत मिली है कि फाइन कपड़े पर जो प्राइस छपी हुई होती उससे ज्यादा देनी पड़ती है ?

श्री मन्भाई शाह : ऐसी शिकायत तो नहीं आयी है। लेकिन जो पिछले दिनों बजट के वारे में एनाउंसमेंट हुआ था जिसमें