

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**Shri Brajeshwar Prasad:** Are we to understand that the U.N. Troops will not be withdrawn from the Congo till Katanga is integrated with the Congo?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 मन्मोहन शाह :** ऐसी शिकायत तो नहीं आयी है। लेकिन जो पिछले दिनों बजट के वारे में एनाउंसमेंट हुआ था जिसमें

तोन पैसे से २१ पैसे की एक्साइज ड्यूटी वर दी गयी है, उस बारे में कुछ शिकायत आयी है।

**Shri Yajnik:** May I know if the hon. Minister is aware that the entire burden of the increased excise duty has been passed on to the consumers by the producers?

**Shri Manubhai Shah:** Actually there has been reduction as far as the grey, medium and lower medium varieties are concerned there has actually been a reduction as a result of the revised duties. It is only in the fine, superfine and better processed variety like the organdy or mercerised that there had been a rise in excise duty from 3 nP. to 21 nP. Government cannot expect that the whole levy will be borne by the industry. Even so to whatever extent it can be borne, the effort is to do that.

#### Price of the Imported Dry Fruits from Afghanistan

\*1236. **Shri Hem Raj:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the prices of the Dry fruits imported from Afghanistan have gone up considerably;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to improve the position?

**The Minister of International Trade in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah):** (a) Prices went up last year but recently they have registered a substantial decline.

(b) On the closure of the land route between Afghanistan and Pakistan in September, 1961 dry fruits had to be imported into India by air with consequent rise in prices due to a higher freight element.

(c) Government have permitted import into India via Iranian ports of dry fruits from Afghanistan. This has

resulted in a substantial reduction in prices.

**Shri Hem Raj:** May I know whether it is a fact that due to the increase in air fares the prices have gone up

**Shri Manubhai Shah:** That is true, Sir, because the land route was not possible to be operated upon and they have to be airlifted; therefore, there has been some rise in prices.

**Shri Hem Raj:** May I know whether it is also a fact that our exports to Afghanistan, especially of tea, had also declined due to the air fares being high?

**Shri Manubhai Shah:** There have been no indications of reduction in our exports. We are keeping a watch and are trying to see that the Air India flies freight services between India and Afghanistan to keep our exports up.

**Shri Hem Raj:** May I know whether efforts will be made to reduce the fares and freights of Air India so far as export of these things are concerned?

**Shri Manubhai Shah:** Why should a commercial service run by the public sector reduce its freights and fares? We have to see how we could assist the exports but there is no such proposal at present.

#### सेंसर बोर्ड नियम

१२३७. श्री यशपाल सिंह : क्या सूचना और प्रसारण मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि कुछ सप्ताह पूर्व बम्बई में दिये गये वक्तव्य में उन्होंने कहा था कि फिल्म सेंसर नियमों में कुछ और ढिलाई की जायेगी ;

(ख) क्या यह भी सच है कि उन्होंने कहा था कि नियमों में प्रस्तावित ढिलाई के परिणामस्वरूप सरकार को प्रति वर्ष करोड़ों रुपये का लाभ होगा ; और