

Shri C. R. Pattabhi Raman: The strike has been withdrawn and the question of gratuity will be settled by the Supreme Court. They will abide by the decision of the Supreme Court. The question was whether the tips received by the waiters should be taken into account. That is the question before the Supreme Court, and they will abide by their decision. Otherwise, there is an agreement.

Price of Yarn

*1394. **Shri A. K. Gopalan:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether the price of yarn is increasing daily, especially in South India;

(b) what was the price six months back;

(c) the present market price in Kerala;

(d) whether any complaints have been received of bad quality yarn being supplied;

(e) if so, the reasons for the supply of bad quality yarn;

(f) whether any factories have closed down and if so, their number; and

(g) in view of the fact that there are lakhs of handlooms in Kerala, whether Government propose to open fair price shops for distributing yarn to the handloom workers?

The Minister of International Trade in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): (a) to (g) According to the information received by the Government the prices of cotton yarn between the ranges of 10s and 40s were almost steady up to December 1961 and generally within the ceiling envisaged under the system of voluntary price control. However, between December 1961 and May 1962 there has been a slight increase. A statement showing the wholesale prices in the Coimbatore

Market which is the index to the prices in South India including Kerala State in December 1961 as also in May 1962 is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix IV annexure No. 11].

2. No complaints about the quality of yarn have been received nor has Government any information about the closure of factories. The supply of yarn at reasonable prices to handloom weavers is a general question affecting not only Kerala but the whole of India and the matter is under constant review. There is however no proposal at present for opening fair price shops.

Shri A. K. Gopalan: In the statement it is said that the system of voluntary price control is there. May I know why there is a rise? It is said that from December, 1961 to May, 1962 there was an increase in the price.

Shri Manubhai Shah: That is what I have given in the annexure. The marginal rises have been noted, but all efforts are being made like the import of the required cotton, the establishment of additional spindles and the working of the mills to three shifts, to provide handloom cloth with larger and larger volume of yarn.

Shri A. K. Gopalan: In the statement it is stated that the supply of yarn at reasonable prices to handloom weavers is a general question affecting not only Kerala but the whole of India and the matter is under constant review. Besides this "constant review", what action does Government propose to take so that there may be stabilisation of prices and the prices may not increase?

Shri Manubhai Shah: We have licensed, as the House is aware, two million spindles for cotton spinning and Kerala particularly has been given the highest importance by the allocation of 150,000 spindles. The hon. Member is aware that the licences have been granted.

Shri M. K. Kumaran: May I know whether it is a fact that the quota of art silk yarn allotted to Madras is being cut every quarter; if so whether Government have received any representation regarding this?

Shri Manubhai Shah: There is no State-wise quota but handlooms in proportion to the availability of art silk is being distributed by the Textile Commissioner on a limited basis. It is true that due to shortage of foreign exchange and art silk being now a very high priority item there has been a continuous cut.

Shri Vasudevan Nair: The hon. Minister just now stated that steps will be taken for more supply of yarn by starting new spindles and by working the mills to a third shift. But naturally it will take a lot of time. May I know what are the specific steps that the Government propose to take to meet the immediate demand?

Shri Manubhai Shah: Working a third shift does not take any time. As a matter of fact, most of the mills are working a third shift because the demand is pressing. But their real difficulty, as I stated in my answer, was cotton. We are making efforts to obtain adequate quantity of cotton even to run these third shifts.

श्री बड़ै : क्या सरकार को इस बात का पता है कि बाजार में ऐसी हवा उड़ने में कि यार्न पर नए टैक्सिज बढ़ने वाले हैं, उसकी प्राइसिज बढ़ रही है ?

श्री मनुभाई शाह : जो टैक्सिज लगने थे, वे तो फिनांस मिनिस्टर साहब की स्पीच के अनुसार लग गए। बाजार में इस बारे में और बात कैसे आयगी ?

Shri A. K. Gopalan: What is the objection of the Government in issuing this yarn through co-operatives or through fairprice shops organised by the Government?

Shri Manubhai Shah: We really give preference to co-operative loom sector and sales co-operatives. If the hon. Member can indicate any co-operative which would like to handle the matter we would certainly give preference to it.

Wage Boards for Newspaper Employees

*1397. **Shri S. M. Banerjee:** Will the Minister of Labour and Employment be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's proposal to have a combined wage board for all categories of newspaper employees has been dropped;

(b) if so, the reason therefor; and

(c) whether two wage boards will be constituted?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Labour and Employment and for Planning (Shri C. R. Pattabhi Raman): (a) There has been no such proposal by Government.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The question of setting up a Wage Board for working journalists only is under consideration.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: In case the Government is not willing to set up a wage board for the other newspaper employees, may I know what machinery Government propose to evolve for considering their demands like working conditions, wages etc?

Shri C. R. Pattabhi Raman: For the time being, a wage board for the working journalists alone is under active consideration. The other employees are covered by other enactments like the Minimum Wages Act. There is no such consideration just now.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: May I know whether the final decision has since been taken to constitute the wage board for working journalists and whether necessary consultations have