

(d) if so, the names of the States where survey has so far been completed?

The Minister of International Trade in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): (a) to (d). To enable a correct assessment of the pattern of tea consumption in the country, the Tea Board have as a regular feature conducted Random Sample Surveys in selected towns in different parts of the country except Jammu and Kashmir and the Centrally administered areas of Tripura, Himachal Pradesh, Manipur and Andamans & Nicobar Islands. A similar survey has been launched in Delhi very recently. Government is informed about the data collected during each survey. The annual compilation of the Board "Tea Surveys" contains this data and the conclusions in respect of the different towns surveyed during each year.

श्री विशानचन्द्र सेठ : अगर सर्वे हो जाने के बाद यह पता लग जाता कि देश में ख़ात होने वाली चाय के बाद कितनी टो हमारी सरप्लस रहती है और जिसको कि हम फारेन कंट्रीज़ को भेज सकते हैं तो बहुत ही आसानी हो जाती ?

श्री मनभाई शाह : मैं माननीय सदस्य को बतलाना चाहता हूँ कि देश के अन्दर का कंजप्शन घटे अथवा बढ़े, जितनी भी चाय एक्सपोर्ट हो सकती है वह सारी क्वांटिटी एक्सपोर्ट के लिए एवेलेबुल की जायगी ।

Shri P. C. Borooah: May I know the way in which these surveys are conducted?

Shri Manubhai Shah: They are mostly family sample surveys. They took about one in 10 houses. If the hon. Member goes into the figures he will find them very revealing as to how tea consumption in certain areas is going up and in other areas it is more or less stable.

SHORT NOTICE QUESTION AND ANSWER  
12 hrs.

### Shortage of Cotton

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Shri R. G. Dubey:  
Shri Harish Chandra  
Mathur:  
S.N.Q. Shri Shree Narayan Das:  
2. Shri P. C. Borooah:  
Shri D. C. Sharma:  
Shri Rameshwar Tantia:  
Shri Daji:  
Shri S. M. Banerjee:

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

(a) whether India is facing shortage of cotton as reported in the Press;

(b) if so, what are our annual requirements so far as the textile mills are concerned and how big is the shortage; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take to meet the crisis?

The Minister of International Trade in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): (a) to (c). Requirements of cotton for consumption in the mills during the current season (1st September, 1961—31st August, 1962) are estimated at 55 to 56 lakh bales. The available supplies coupled with the imports already arranged are considered sufficient to meet the requirements of the mills, but a shortage of the order of 10 lakh bales in the carry-over stocks at the beginning of the next season is anticipated. The Government are exploring the possibilities of meeting this shortage by imports from various sources including the U.S.P.L. 480 programme arrangements, barter, Russian Trade agreement and the East African countries.

Shri R. G. Dubey: In this connection, may I know whether a delegation representing the East India Cotton Association met the Minister in charge and it was brought to the notice of Government that the ceiling price fixed for various types of cotton are below the ruling market prices and that is one of the reasons

of the shortfall in the production of cotton.

**Shri Manubhai Shah:** In answer to the first part of the question I may say that they met me and discussed at length. We assured them that every sympathetic consideration would be given to the suggestions. But, regarding the second part, it is not correct. This country has experienced the largest crop when the ceiling prices were the same.

**Shri R. G. Dubey:** May I know what are the exact arrangements for the time being?

**Shri Manubhai Shah:** We expected at that time considerable quantities under the P. L. 480 arrangements. And, I can assure the House and the country in general and the industry that Government is fully aware of the necessity of meeting the entire requirements of cotton, not only of keeping up production but also of stepping up exports.

**Shri P. B. Patel:** May I know whether the prevailing prices of cotton do not give an incentive to the cultivators and so they are switching over to other crops such as groundnuts which pay them more?

**Shri Manubhai Shah:** I would not anticipate the government decision. We have assured them that before the new crop comes we shall announce the government policy in that respect very soon. The inference of the hon. Member is wholly unwarranted.

**Shri Ramanathan Chettiar:** Are we going to import more cotton this year from foreign countries? If so, what will be the quantity?

**Shri Manubhai Shah:** We are going to import more cotton this year from all the available sources, including the P.L. 480. The shortfall has to be met. Not only that. We are working on the theory of stock-piling and creating buffer stocks so that this very important industry has a steady and uniform development both for internal consumption and for export for a period of a decade

**Shri Harish Chandra Mathur:** In 1959-60 also we were faced with a shortage of cotton and we were faced with increased prices of cloth. Again now we are faced with the same situation. May I know whether the Ministry of Commerce and Industry have discussed this matter with the Ministry of Agriculture and come to any conclusion in this question?

**Shri Manubhai Shah:** As the House is aware, in the Third Plan the targets for internal production of cotton had been stepped up to 72 lakhs of bales and if necessary it will be stepped up further. But the demand in the country both for internal consumption and also export promotion is rising faster. For sometime perhaps we will have to import some varieties of cotton and also manufacture synthetic fibres and yarn.

**Shri Shree Narayan Das:** May I know whether besides taking these short-term measures, any long term measures are proposed to meet these shortages?

**Shri Manubhai Shah:** That is precisely what I mentioned: stock piling and buffer stock system, so that this very important industry as also the jute industry are put on even keel on a long term basis.

**Shri P. C. Borooah:** May I know whether it is a fact that the textile industry of India is mainly dependent on the imported cotton for the production of quality clothes and if so what steps have the Government taken to improve the quality of cotton itself?

**Shri Manubhai Shah:** The imported variety includes staple of more than 1.25 inches but lower staples are also imported. It is our attempt in both directions. Our soil being more suited to the lower staple, the concentration is on varieties less than one inch but some quantities of higher varieties over one inch staple are also being promoted.

**Shri D. C. Sharma:** We are going to import cotton from different countries on different basis; from some on barter basis and from some on foreign

exchange basis. How is the price line for the cotton going to be maintained in this country?

**Shri Manubhai Shah:** Hon. Members are aware that there is a link between the scheme of export promotion and the import of certain varieties which do not directly contribute to export promotion. Therefore, the prices are interlinked at that level.

**Shri Iqbal Singh:** At what price are we purchasing from foreign markets and how do those prices compare with the Indian prices?

**Shri Manubhai Shah:** I will not be able to take up contractwise; neither is it desirable to do so. But generally the internal prices today are slightly higher than the imported prices.

**Shri Daji:** Is it a fact that this year's production is below last year's and the year before and if so has the Government ascertained the cause of low production of Indian cotton and what steps are taken to improve the production?

**Shri Manubhai Shah:** Most of the reasons are monsoonic. There were some floods in certain parts of the country and in some other parts, there were drought conditions. But we are not going to rely on nature alone in the long run. We are taking every step of the economic type such as stock piling and buffer stocks. Agricultural programmes and measures are also there to increase internal production. We are also encouraging larger production of synthetic fibres and yarn.

#### WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

##### Inventions Promotion Scheme

\*148. **Shrimati Maimoona Sultan:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) what important inventions were made under the Inventions Promotion Scheme, in the year 1981;

(b) what was the cost involved on the scheme during the year;

(c) what provision is proposed to be made for these schemes during the ensuing year; and

(d) what are the more important inventions in respect of which studies are at present going on?

**The Minister of International Trade in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah):** (a) to (d). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

##### STATEMENT

(a) and (d). A brochure giving details of the Inventions that were awarded prizes in the year 1961-62 by the Inventions Promotion Board, has been placed in the Library of Parliament. Besides the award of prizes, the Board gave financial assistance during the same period to persons working on 72 inventions. At present, the Board have under consideration 40 proposals for grant of financial assistance in respect of possible inventions.

(b) Rs. 1,45,271.

(c) Rs. 2,00,000.

##### Indian Labourers for Bhutan

\*149. **Shri Nath Pai:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of Bhutan have requested to the India Government for the loan of the services of 26,000 unskilled Indian labourers;

(b) if so, whether Government have considered the demand of the Bhutan Government; and

(c) what would be the terms of contract in this connection?

**The Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs (Shrimati Lakshmi Menon):** (a) No Sir. The Government of Bhutan have not requested the Government of India for the loan of any unskilled labourers.