

open these shops on Sundays and close them on some other day, because most of the offices in Delhi and other places remain closed on Sundays and therefore they have better facilities for shopping on Sundays?

Shri Hathi: So far as this matter is concerned it is a question only about the opening and closing time.

Shri D. C. Sharma: Is it not a fact that people want different timings of opening and closing shops in different localities?

Shri Hathi: There are various viewpoints suggested, as the hon. Member just now mentioned.

Shri A. N. Vidyalkar: May I know whether any joint consultative committee exists to advise the Government from time to time on these matters and, if so, what their advice is?

Shri Hathi: There is the Labour Advisory Committee for the Delhi Administration on which there are representatives of employers and labour.

Shri A. N. Vidyalkar: What was their advice?

Shri Hathi: They have met on the 9th. They have not come to any conclusion and advised the Chief Commissioner.

Shri Jaipal Singh: May we know whether the Spanish pattern of cool shopping hours during summer has ever been thought of; that is, closing the shops during the middle of the day in the summer months, so that we may have cooler shopping hours in the evening?

Shri Hathi: That is why there are suggestions that they should be closed at 8.

Shri U. M. Trivedi: May I know if the attention of the Government has been drawn to a recent judgment of the Punjab High Court confirmed by the Supreme Court that even those

who are small labourers are not allowed to keep their labouring shops open?

Shri Hathi: I have not seen that.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: I want to know whether the Central Government have advised the State Governments also to legislate and introduce working hours as in the case of Delhi and if so, the reaction of the State Governments.

Shri Hathi: There are various enactments in the various States. This refers only to the Delhi Administration.

Shri Warior: Is there any suggestion to introduce a shift system in order to restrict hours of working and at the same time to avoid trouble to the purchasing public?

Shri Hathi: I do not think they have made any such suggestion so far as this question is concerned.

Mr. Speaker: Next question..

Shri P. Kunhan: No. 143.

The Minister of International Trade in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): If I have your permission, Sir, I would like to club Question No. 144 also with No. 143. They are both on the same subject.

Mr. Speaker: Both of them may be answered together.

Yarn Prices

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*143. { **Shri Kunhan:**
Shri A. K. Gopalan:

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

(a) whether the Handloom industry in the country is facing a serious crisis due to the rising prices of cotton yarn; and

(b) if so, what steps have Government taken to bring down the yarn prices?

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

STATEMENT

No reports of any serious crisis in the Handloom industry have been received by Government. When a voluntary system of price control on cloth was announced by the Indian Cotton Mills Federation effective from 1st January, 1961, the Southern India Mill-owners' Association also worked out a schedule of yarn prices at which yarn was to be delivered to consumers including handloom weavers. By and large the voluntary control has been working fairly satisfactorily.

The various problems affecting cotton textiles (including cotton yarn) and prices have already been referred to the Tariff Commission for a full enquiry. The report of the Tariff Commission is awaited. Pending the report of the Commission Government are keeping under constant review the current system of voluntary price control.

Handloom Cooperative Societies

*144. Shri Kunhan:

Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state the allocation made by the Handloom Board in order to encourage handloom co-operative societies during Third Five Year Plan period?

The Minister of International Trade in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): A sum of Rs. 34 crores, exclusive of working capital loans financed by institutional agencies like the Reserve Bank of India, has been tentatively allocated for the development of the Handloom Industry during the 3rd Five Year Plan. Major portion of this allocation will be spent in the co-operative sector of the handloom industry as central assistance is confined to the co-operative fold only.

Shri P. Kunhan: May I know whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the statement by Mr. M. S. A. Majide, Member, All India Handloom Board that the industry is in a crisis due to the prevailing high price of cotton yarn?

Shr Manubhai-Shah: I have not seen the statement of the gentleman referred to. But, I have been complaints about some rise in prices of certain kinds of yarn. We have gone into the matter. Most of the prices charged by the Southern Millowners' association conform to the prices agreed to. In a few cases where the prices have risen, it is engaging our attention.

Shri P. Kunhan: May I know whether the Government have made any investigation into the reason for the higher prices of yarn?

Shri Manubhai Shah: That is exactly what I have said. The same type of complaint has been received from other quarters and we are examining it.

Shri Umanath: May I know if prices higher than those fixed by the Millowners association are daily publicised in the newspapers by members of the very same association? If so, how does the Minister say that voluntary price control is working satisfactorily?

Mr. Speaker: This is an argument.

Shri Manubhai Shah: The prices published are for some quantities of packets and not for bulk supply. What we are verifying is actually the price paid by most of the co-operative societies which are already on our register. A large amount of assistance flows to them. By checking them up we feel that on the whole, price control of a voluntary nature is working satisfactorily.

Shri Nambiar: May I know whether the Government took an interest to study the situation in the handloom industry *vis a vis* production of textile yarn and see that weight is given