

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

on the side of the handloom so that they are saved from this crisis?

Shri Manubhai Shah: This has been a subject of study by the Government. As the House knows, in the Third Five Year Plan, major expansions of the requirements of cloth in the country have been allocated to the handloom. Three million more spindles are being licensed. Already, most of the licences have been issued for increasing yarn production.

श्री बड़े : क्या यह सत्य है कि राकाटन को प्राइसिज पर कंट्रोल होने के कारण काटन यार्न की प्राइस बढ़ गई है ?

श्री मनुभाई शाह : मेम्बर साहबान को पता है कि काटन की प्राइस कंट्रोल है। उस का पत्रो भी है और सोलिंग भी है और बैरायटो-वाइज भी कंट्रोल है। लेकिन चूंकि कई दफा रई की कमी थी, इसलिये प्राइस सोलिंग को थोड़ा सा क्रास कर गई। इसी लिए यह तकलीफ हुई।

Shri Bade: My question is not like that.

मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या गवर्नमेंट के द्वारा काटन का नई प्राइस फिक्स करने और उस को कोमत बढ़ाने के कारण काटन यार्न की प्राइस बढ़ गई है।

श्री मनुभाई शाह : अभी कोई नई कोमत नहीं बढ़ी है।

Shri Sham Lai Saraf: May I know whether the amount that will be set apart for the handloom industry, which is referred to in question No. 144 is inclusive of cotton and other handlooms?

Shri Manubhai Shah: It includes cotton handlooms, but we have separate schemes for wollen and silken handlooms.

Shri Ramanathan Chettiar: May I know whether the handloom weavers in the non-co-operative sector are finding it difficult to obtain yarn at reasonable prices, and if so, what

steps Government are going to take to make yarn available at reasonable prices?

Shri Manubhai Shah: As far as the general position of yarn is concerned, we make no distinction between the handlooms outside the co-operative field, and those which are covered by the co-operative fold. But, as the House is aware, the national policy is to encourage the co-operative sector. The House will be glad to know that about 60 per cent of the working handloom weavers have been covered by the co-operatives.

श्री का० रा० गुप्त : जो यार्न कोओपरेटिव सोसाइटीज को मिलता है वह उनको उनकी जरूरत के मुताबिक मिलता है या नहीं मिलता है और साथ ही क्या उसी काउंट का मिलता है जिस काउंट का वे चाहती हैं ?

श्री मनुभाई शाह : ज्यादा तर तो उनको जरूरत को हम पूरा करने की कोशिश करते हैं : लेकिन एक्सपेंशन हो रहा है जैसा कि तीसरे प्लान में कहा गया है। हमने ३० लाख स्पिडलज को तकरोबन सी से ज्यादा मिलों को जो कि खाली यार्न को बीव करेंगी, लाइसेंस किया है।

श्री बड़े : जिस प्रकार से राकाटन की कोमते फिक्स की गई है, उसी प्रकार से क्या काटन यार्न की प्राइसिस भी फिक्स है ?

श्री मनुभाई शाह: बिल्कुल ऐसा ही लिखा गया है। जैसे काटन को प्राइस होती है उसने जितनी लागत आती है, जितनी मजदूरी लगती है, मैनजमेंट का जितना खर्चा होता है, उसको देखते हुए प्राइस लगती है। ज्यादा तर हैंडलूमज को यार्न उसी दाम पर मिलता है जिस को वालेंटरी प्राइस कंट्रोल कहा जाता है और दाम छपा होता है। थोड़ी सी बैरायटोज हैं जो हमारे नोटिस में आई है जिन के अन्दर

काय महंवे हो नए हं और उनके बारे में
भी हम सोच रहे हैं :

Kidnapping of a Member of the National volunteer force in West Bengal by Pakistanis

+

*145. { Shri P. C. Borooah:
Shri S. M. Banerjee:

Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether a reply has since been received from the East Pakistan Government to the West Bengal Government's protest on the kidnapping of a member of the National Volunteer Force of West Bengal from the Indian territory on the 15th March, 1962;

(b) if so, what is their reply; and

(c) whether the release of the person kidnapped has been secured?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs (Shrimati Lakshmi Menon): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

Shri P. C. Borooah: May I know whether the Central Government took up the matter with the Pakistan Government, and if so, with what result?

Shrimati Lakshmi Menon: No. The West Bengal Government has taken it up with the Pakistan Government.

Shri P. C. Borooah: Since the kidnapping of Indian personnel by the Pakistanis is on the increase, may I know what steps have been taken by Government or are proposed to be taken to put a stop to this, and since our protests have failed, whether Government propose to take the advice or the good offices of some international body in this matter?

Shrimati Lakshmi Menon: The usual procedure is followed, and I do not see any reason why we should take the good offices of somebody, whom the hon. Member does not mention.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: May I know whether the whereabouts of this particular boy, namely Mr. Das, are known to the Government of India, and whether he is safe in the Pakistani custody?

Shrimati Lakshmi Menon: He is in Pakistani custody. We have tried our best, by all possible means, to find out the conditions under which he lives, but we have not received a reply from the Pakistan Government.

An Hon. Member: Is he alive?

Shrimati Lakshmi Menon: He is alive.

We were told that we would get the information yesterday, but we have failed to get that information.

Shri Vidya Charan Shukla: May I know what those 'all possible means' are, which Government have tried in order to secure the release of our national from Pakistani custody?

Shrimati Lakshmi Menon: We took up the matter immediately after he was taken away, with the local authorities, that is, our counterparts in the Pakistan police. The West Bengal Government has also lodged a protest, and our Deputy High Commissioner in Dacca has himself approached the East Pakistan Government to give us information about the condition of the young man.

Shri Nath Pal: It seems that our Pakistani neighbours are making quite a habit of kidnapping Indian personnel on legitimate duty. Some time back, Col. Bhattacharya was kidnapped. Had we taken any vigorous steps at that time perhaps to secure his release, then this kind of kidnapping would have been stopped. May I know where we stand with regard to Col. Bhattacharya's release?

Mr. Speaker: That is a different thing altogether.

Shri Nath Pal: It is a kidnapping case by Pakistan.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: Even after the Col. Bhattacharya incident, have not Government been able to