

downward trend in the cotton textile prices, in spite of an increase in the excise duty in September, 1956

**Shri Shree Narayan Das:** Due to the increase in excise duty, what was the extent to which the prices rose?

The Minister of Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah). From the statement the hon Member will notice that actually the prices ruling now are 5 per cent lower than in September when the excise duty of 2 annas per yard was levied on all cloth

**Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha:** There is large accumulation of cloth with the Mills. Do Government think that this accumulation will go in the usual way during Puja and Diwali or do they propose to take some special steps to remove this accumulation of cloth?

**Shri Satish Chandra:** The stock with various mills is 3 to 4 weeks' production and it is expected that much of it will be cleared in the coming festive season. This is the normal slack season.

**Shri Heda:** May I know if it is a fact that in the case of certain kinds of cloth the quantum of excise of duty is higher, that is, as much as 50 per cent of the cost of the cloth?

**Shri Manubhai Shah:** That is not so. But it is somewhere over 33 per cent in coarse varieties.

**Shri Damani:** May I know the stocks with the mills by the end of July, 1957, as compared with the stocks of the same period last year?

**Shri Manubhai Shah:** The present stock position is only 3,19,000 bales with all the mills which compares very favourably with 1955 when it was 2,54,000 and in 1954 it was 1,38,000. The present stock position is not at all one which would cause anxiety looking to the very great expansion in production that has taken place during the last two years.

### Rural Housing

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 Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha:  
 Shri Ram Krishan:  
 Shri Keshava:  
 Pandit D. N. Tiwary:  
 \*890. Shri D. C. Sharma:  
 Shri P. B. Patel:  
 Shri Karni Singhji:  
 Shri L. Achaw Singh:  
 Shri Sanganna:

Will the Minister of Works, Housing and Supply be pleased to state the progress made so far in the direction of the Rural Housing Programme of the Second Five Year Plan?

The Minister for Works, Housing and Supply (Shri K. C. Reddy): The broad outlines of an integrated scheme for village housing projects have been finalised. The important features of the scheme are indicated in the statement placed on the Table of Lok Sabha [See Appendix III, annexure No 20]. The details of the scheme are being communicated to the State Governments which are primarily responsible for rural housing.

**Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha:** May I know whether the Government promised to give some amount for the purpose of rural housing schemes and, if so, how many State Governments have submitted their schemes for the approval of the Government of India?

**Shri K. C. Reddy:** If the hon. Member had followed closely the answer I had given, she would have noticed that the scheme is about to come into operation. As such, we have received no schemes from the State Governments as yet. Hereafter the State Governments will have to send their schemes which will have to be considered and approved or otherwise.

**Shri Karni Singhji:** May I know the initial allotment for Rajasthan in this direction?

**Shri K. C. Reddy:** Statewise allotment has not yet been made.

**Shri S. R. Arumugham:** This Ministry has set up a Rural Housing Cell with the object of constructing houses in the rural areas. I wish to know whether the Madras Government has such a unit as this and if so how many houses have they built?

**Shri K. C. Reddy:** According to the scheme, one Rural Housing Scheme will have to be started in the States. As far as the Centre is concerned, we are agreeable to pay 50 per cent for the working of the Rural Cell but the remaining 50 per cent will have to be met by the State concerned.

**Shri D. C. Sharma:** Of the eight items mentioned, may I know how many have been implemented and whether the five regional research-cum-training centres have been set up or when they will be set up?

**Shri K. C. Reddy:** This scheme has just been finalised and it has not been communicated to the State Governments. I am afraid the hon. Member is expecting too much.

**Pandit D. N. Tiwary:** May I know whether there are two other schemes—the low income housing scheme and the scheme for building houses in rural areas and whether they are different from this or they are also included in this?

**Shri K. C. Reddy:** It is in the borderline, if I may say so. For instance, the loans, subsidies and grants given by the Home Ministry for Harijans, etc. will be dovetailed into the rural housing scheme and the scheme will be worked on those lines.

**Shri Nagi Reddy:** May I know whether the Government will consider the question of allotting separate amounts in the rural housing schemes for the Harijans and agricultural labourers?

**Shri K. C. Reddy:** As I indicated, there are some other schemes apart from the rural housing scheme which

will cater to the needs of people living in the villages. For instance, the Ministry of Home Affairs have a scheme and allot funds for the housing of Harijans and backward classes. The Ministry of Commerce and Industry has a scheme for allotment of funds for building houses for handloom weavers, etc. One or two other Ministries have also got some schemes. So all these schemes will be co-ordinated and there will be a sort of an integrated execution of the schemes.

**Shri Mohamed Imam:** May I know whether the State Governments have sent their comprehensive programmes for rural housing? How many houses have been built in each State?

**Shri K. C. Reddy:** No State Government has sent a comprehensive scheme so far as rural housing schemes are concerned. They have to send the schemes hereafter. The question as to how far they have been implemented does not arise.

**Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha:** Is it a fact that during the visit of the Finance Minister to Bengal, he went to visit the housing programmes in some area near Burdwan and assured the West Bengal Government that the Central Government would meet the full cost of rural housing, especially that part of the area which has been affected by floods? What is the policy of the Central Government in this regard and may I know whether this concession will apply to all the State Governments?

**Shri K. C. Reddy:** I do not exactly know what my colleague said at Calcutta. I have read certain newspaper reports. I do not know under what circumstances and in what context he said something. I have not seen what he said to the West Bengal Government. Regarding the policy, I think we will have an opportunity in the debate today, I need not anticipate that discussion now.