

Metric System of Weights and Measures

- *708. { Shri Bibhuti Mishra:
Shri S. V. Ramaswami:
Shrimati Ganga Devi:
Shri Assar:

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

(a) the steps taken so far by the various departments of the Government of India regarding the introduction of the Metric System of Weights and Measures;

(b) by what time all the arrangements in this respect will be completed;

(c) whether the existing instruments, balances and scales will be used with conversion tables in the Government departments like Railways or the new instruments will be introduced; and

(d) the estimated cost the Union Government will have to bear in case of replacement of old instruments, balances and scales?

The Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Satish Chandra):

(a) A statement is laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha giving a brief outline of the programmes of the various departments concerned and of the steps taken by them. [See Appendix III, annexure No.6]

(b) The arrangements will be phased to ensure complete adoption of the metric system by December, 1966 as provided in the Standards of Weights & Measures Act, 1956.

(c) The existing instruments, wherever possible, will be recalibrated in terms of metric units. Pending recalibration, they will be used with conversion tables to the extent necessary

(d) The replacement of all the existing instruments is not contemplated. Some instruments may have

to be replaced. It is not possible at this stage to estimate the cost of such replacement.

Export Trade

*709. Shri Heda: Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the commodities export of which has been encouraged by Government at the cost of restricting domestic consumption;

(b) the manner in which these restrictions will work; and

(c) the steps taken to regulate the internal prices of these Commodities?

The Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Satish Chandra):

(a) to (c). No direct restraints on consumption have been placed to encourage exports, although it is hoped that in consequence of increased excise duties on items such as textiles and sugar, larger quantities will be available for export.

Export of Cotton Waste

*710. Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether exports of Indian cotton mill waste to Japan are fast dwindling;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof; and

(c) whether Government are contemplating any measures to prevent further fall in the export trade of Indian cotton mill waste to Japan?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Kanungo): (a) India's exports of cotton waste to Japan in 1956-57 showed a downward trend when compared to exports during the previous year.

(b) Competition from other exporting countries

(c) The Government are closely watching the situation and suitable measures will be taken as and when considered necessary.