

Indian. That is, the Indians who resided in the so-called princely States of India before independence became all Indian nationals wherever they might be.

Textile Stocks

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- *5. { Shri Rameshwar Tantia:
Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:
Shri Raghunath Singh:
Shri S. C. Samanta:
Shri Warrior:
Shri A. K. Gopalan:
Shri Punnoose:

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

(a) the effect of the replacement of Sales Tax by the additional excise duty on the accumulation of textile stocks; and

(b) whether there has been an increase in the export of cloth since the reduction of excise duty on medium cloth?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Kanungo): (a) This measure was designed to make flow of cloth from the production to the consuming centres easier. The clearance of stocks from the mills during the month of January, 1958 indicates that this object is being achieved.

(b) There is no excise duty on cloth meant for export. Therefore, the reduction of excise duty is not likely to have any direct bearing on the export price. The export figures for December and subsequent periods are not yet available.

Shri Rameshwar Tantia: May I know what was the cloth stock in September when the excise duty was put and what was the stock by the end of December, 1957?

Shri Kanungo: There were somewhere about 4 lakhs and odd bales.

Shri B. S. Murthy: Please give the correct figure.

Shri Kanungo: I think 4,96,000 bales in December.

Shri Rameshwar Tantia: What was the reduction in this type of cloth?

Shri Kanungo: The reduction was of the order of about 50,000 bales.

Shri Rameshwar Tantia: The main reduction was in medium cloth. Is the Government considering relief to coarse cloth also to give benefit to the poorer people?

Shri Kanungo: There is no intention of making any other concession at present.

Shri Tangamani. To a similar question put in November, the hon. Minister was pleased to state that the stock then was 8 weeks' stock. May I know whether the stock still continues to be 8 weeks' stock?

Shri Kanungo: It is about 8 weeks' stock.

Shri Gajendra Prasad Sinha: What is the position of stocks of coarse cloth at present? Has there been any sizable reduction in the accumulation of coarse cloth stock?

Shri Kanungo: There has been a slight reduction but the effect will be felt after a little while, not now.

Shri Anthony Pillai: Has the reduction in the stock of cloth been due to the stoppage of the third-shift working?

Shri Kanungo: No.

Shri Senawane: May I know whether the reduction of stocks will help the starting of the textile mills which have recently closed?

Shri Kanungo: It is too early to anticipate.