

Khadi Industry in West Bengal

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*161a. { Shri Ghosal:
Shri K. U. Parmar:

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

(a) whether any steps have been taken to improve the Khadi Industry in West Bengal; and

(b) if so, what are they?

The Minister of Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): (a) and (b). A statement is laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha. [See Appendix VII, annexure No. 41.]

Shri Ghosal: What is the total number of people engaged whole-time in Khadi industry in West Bengal and what is their average earning?

Shri Manubhai Shah: The number of spinners is 2,900 and instructors 105. The average earning varies from Re. 1 to Rs. 2-8 per day.

Shrimati Ila Palchoudhuri: Considering the fact that khadi sarees and dhoties need much finer fabrics, are efforts being made to induce them to produce coarse khadi and export it, as there is a very good market for that? If they do that, the weavers also will get good remuneration.

Shri Manubhai Shah: Of course, this does not arise out of the main question. But I can assure the hon. Member that the Khadi Commission is making efforts to produce the finest variety of Khadi. As a matter of fact, Ambar yarn as fine as 60s has been produced. They are also producing better printed voiles and a sort of richer khadi with embroidery which can be exported.

Shri Goray: How far is it true to say that weavers are reluctant to accept Ambar yarn?

Shri Manubhai Shah: Such a thing has not come to our notice. It may be that in some Parishramalayas the weavers in the beginning are not accepting Ambar yarn. But, generally,

Ambar yarn is as good any other yarn, if not better.

Shri C. K. Bhattacharyya: Is Government offering any help to any organisation in West Bengal for Khadi work?

Shri Manubhai Shah: That is exactly what I mentioned. The amount of grants and loans given to West Bengal Government has varied from Rs. 10 lakhs to Rs. 14 lakhs annually. I will also give the number of Ambar charkhas in Bengal. There are about 2,863 of them in Bengal today. They will go much faster according to the programme submitted by them.

Shri C. K. Bhattacharyya: I did not exactly want to know the help given to the Government. I wanted to know whether any non-official organisation was receiving any help from the Centre.

Shri Manubhai Shah: This is the help given through the State Government to the non-official bodies. The Commission also gives help to the non-official bodies. The entire programme of khadi is through voluntary organisations and not through governmental organisations. It is the weaver, spinner, dyer and the printer who is helped by the Khadi Commission.

Shri Goray: May I know the total amount of yarn spun on Ambar charkha and the amount utilised by the weavers?

Shri Manubhai Shah: This does not again arise out of this question. I have placed before the House several figures. The Ambar yarn has increased from twelve lakh pounds to about twenty lakh pounds.

As far as the West Bengal Government itself is concerned, in the statement I have mentioned that the production has increased from 3,00,000 square yards to about 5,60,000 square yards in the first ten months of 1957-58.

Shri Thimmatah: Sir, may I request you to direct the hon. Minister to answer Q. No. 1606?

Mr. Speaker: I am not going to allow that. The hon. Member, who has tabled the question, has not even cared to send a letter of authority.

The questions are all over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Distribution of Cement

*1606. **Shri V. C. Shukla:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) what steps were taken by the State Trading Corporation of India (Private) Ltd. to rationalise and prevent overlapping in the then existing arrangements for the distribution of cement after it took over the monopoly for the distribution of cement in the country; and

(b) the particulars of the economies in transport and transportation costs, if any, achieved by the State Trading Corporation as compared to pre-S.T.C. era?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Kanungo): (a) and (b). A statement is laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha. [See Appendix VII, annexure No. 42.]

Coir Industry

*1607. **Shri Assar:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that large quantity of coir yarn is available in Bombay State on Konkan Coast in Kolaba and Ratnagiri District;

(b) if so, whether there is any proposal to set up coir industries on small scale in District Ratnagiri; and

(c) the amount allotted to the Bombay Government for the development of coir industry in the years 1956-57, 1957-58 and 1958-59 by the Central Government?

The Minister of Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): (a) Although coconut palms are grown in Bombay

State on Konkan Coast in Kolaba and Ratnagiri Districts, Coir yarn is not readily available in large quantities there.

(b) Action has already been taken by the Government of Bombay for exploitation of coconut husk in Ratnagiri District by—

(i) Establishment of Departmental Training Institutions.

(ii) Establishment of Coir Production Centres.

(iii) Organisation of Coir Producers' Co-operative societies and giving financial assistance to them.

(c) No funds were sanctioned during 1956-57 as no proposals were received from the State Government. A loan of Rs. 8,325 and grant of Rs. 11,121 were sanctioned during 1957-58. The allocation for 1958-59 is Rs. 25,000.

Evacuee and Government Properties

*1609. **Shri Ajit Singh Sarhad:** Will the Minister of Rehabilitation and Minority Affairs be pleased to lay a statement showing the number of evacuee premises and Government built properties not disposed of so far owing to the delay in finalising the prices?

The Minister of Rehabilitation and Minority Affairs (Shri Mehr Chand Khanna): The process of valuation and sale is a continuous one. Properties of the value of about rupees forty crores have already been sold.

Rescue Station at Kothaguidum

*1612. **Shri T. B. Vittal Rao:** Will the Minister of Labour and Employment be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to have a rescue station at Kothaguidum, Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, when it is likely to be opened; and

(c) The amount likely to be spent on it?