

The Minister of Education (Dr. K. L. Shrimali): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir.

Shri Bangshi Thakur: May I know whether children belonging to Scheduled Castes are also allowed to study free that school?

Dr. K. L. Shrimali: Yes, Sir; all children are free.

Shri Basumatari: May I know whether children belonging to Scheduled Tribes in the tea gardens are treated in the same way?

Dr. K. L. Shrimali: 20 per cent. of the seats are reserved for Scheduled Tribes students in this school.

Shri Basumatari: I was referring to the children belonging to Scheduled Tribes in the tea gardens.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member is referring to the children of those persons who work in the tea gardens.

Dr. K. L. Shrimali: The school is open to anybody and everybody, who ever wants to send his children to the school.

Shri Bangshi Thakur: I wanted to know whether Scheduled Caste children are also allowed free.

Dr. K. L. Shrimali: I have said that no tuition fees are charged in this school, and all children are admitted without payment of any fees. There is no question of making any discrimination for anybody. 20 per cent. seats are reserved for Scheduled Tribes.

Excise Duty on Cotton Textiles

*1533. { **Shri N. E. Munisamy:**
Pandit D. N. Tiwary:

Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) whether any assessment has been made of the impact of recent re-adjustment of excise duty on various categories of cloth produced by mills and powerlooms; and

(b) if so, the nature thereof?

The Deputy Minister of Finance (Shri B. R. Bhagat): (a) It is too early to make a correct assessment of the effect of the recent re-adjustment of excise duty on mill and powerloom cloth; the trends of production, clearance, export and prices are being watched.

(b) Both production and clearance of powerloom units have increased. There has been some improvement in the clearance of cloth from the mills and the whole-sale prices of mill cloth have slightly fallen.

Shri N. R. Munisamy: May I know whether as a result of the re-adjustment of excise duties the prices in respect of coarse and medium cloth have not registered a downward trend and, as a matter of fact, they are the same as they were before prior to the introduction of the re-adjustment of excise duties; and, if so, whether Government would take some steps to mop up the profits made by the millowners since they have not brought about any reduction in the prices of these items?

Shri B. R. Bhagat: Sir, I have not followed the latter part of the question; but I should like to say, generally, the price of cloth is registering a downward trend. I have not got with me the details of prices of various categories, but I should like to say that the index of the wholesale price of mill cloth was 119.4 in April and in August it was 115.9.

Shri N. R. Munisamy: Among the various recommendations made by the Enquiry Committee, they have recommended a downward revision with regard to *per capita* consumption of cloth from 18½ yards to 17½ yards. In consequence thereof, may I know whether in the Second Five Year Plan, where we have fixed a target of 8,400 million yards, we are going to have a downward revision with regard to output also?

Shri B. R. Bhagat: This particular aspect of the question, Sir, relates to the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, and I would request the hon.

Minister to address his question to that Ministry.

Shrimati Renuka Ray: The hon. Deputy Minister mentioned the downward trend in the price index. May I know how far it has reflected in the price of coarse and medium cloth; has he got the break-up?

Shri B. E. Bhagat: I do not have the break-up.

Shri Tangamani: In reply to a previous question the hon. Minister stated that there has been some improvement in the clearance of mill cloth stocks. May I know how much is the present stock of mill cloth as compared to the stock which was there before this excise concession was given?

Shri B. R. Bhagat: The stocks in the mills today—the latest figure available for August, 1958—are 688 million linear yards as against 734 million linear yards in June. Therefore, the stocks seem to be decreasing.

श्री रा० क० वर्मा : ग्राज जो कपड़ा तैयार होता है एक्साइज ड्यूटी से बचने के लिये, उसमें से कट-पीस अधिक परिमाण में बनाया जा रहा है क्या गवर्नमेंट को इस बात का ज्ञान है ?

श्री ब० रा० भगत : पूरी तरह यह ज्ञात नहीं है ।

Shri Ranga: Even though this excise duty has been imposed only on two types of cloth produced by mills and powerlooms, is it not a fact that there has been a depression in the sale of hand-woven cloth also?

Shri B. R. Bhagat: That is a separate question, Sir, and I would require separate notice for that.

Acquisition of Rare Manuscripts

*1534. **Shri Sanganna:** Will the Minister of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs be pleased to state the steps taken by the Government of India to acquire rare manuscripts in the hands of private owners?

The Minister of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs (Shri Humayun Kabir): The Government purchase rare manuscripts through its Art Purchase Committee and have also issued in September, 1957 a public appeal requesting individuals as well as public and private institutions to offer as gifts or sell to Government such manuscripts in their possession.

Shri Sanganna: May I know whether any survey has been undertaken about the rare documents, and, if so, which agency has done that?

Shri Humayun Kabir: Some attempts are being made to try to locate, collect and preserve ancient manuscripts; but no national survey has yet been undertaken.

Shri Sanganna: May I know whether any financial assistance has been placed at the disposal of State Governments to make enquiries about rare documents in the respective States?

Shri Humayun Kabir: We have written to all State Governments and requested their help in the matter.

Raja Mahendra Pratap: May I know whether any particular investigation has been made in our *Braj*, because in *Braj* there are very valuable manuscripts?

Shri Humayun Kabir: We want to have this investigation all over India, and in all languages including *Braj*.

Shri M. B. Krishna: May I know whether any effort is being made to acquire or purchase rare Moghul paintings?

Shri Humayun Kabir: Yes, Sir.

Shri Panigrahi: May I know whether any amount has been spent so far in the purchase of these rare manuscripts in any of the States?

Shri Humayun Kabir: The figures that I have here are: 562 gifts from 1956 up to 1958 and 2263 purchases at a cost of about 1.41 lakhs. We have also received from the Prime Minister a very large number of manuscripts as gifts.