

Shri Hem Barua. May I know whether the proposal to build an all-weather road connecting Bhutan with Rangiya in Assam was discussed by the Prime Minister with the Maharaja there and, if so, what is the outcome of that discussion?

Shrimati Lakshmi Menon. This was discussed by the Prime Minister during his recent visit to Bhutan.

Shri Hem Barua. What was the conclusion?

Shrimati Lakshmi Menon. I think it is for the Bhutan Government to take up the matter with our government and settle it.

Shri V C Shukla. May I know whether it is a fact that after the Treaty of 1949 our relations with Bhutan were not so friendly and these economic aids are to restore our friendly relations with Bhutan?

Shrimati Lakshmi Menon. We have no information about the unfriendly relations between us and Bhutan.

Shri Raghunath Singh. May I know whether Bhutan is not very friendly to us?

Shrimati Lakshmi Menon. We are always very friendly.

Shri Muhammed Elias. May I know the terms and conditions under which these financial help is given?

Shrimati Lakshmi Menon. There are no conditions.

Shri Harish Chandra Mathur. May I know whether any other country has gone to the assistance of Bhutan for its development?

Shrimati Lakshmi Menon. We have no information.

Unsold Cloth

*219 { **Shri Tangamani.**
Shri S M Banerjee

Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to refer to the

answer given to Starred Question No 29 on the 11th August, 1968 and state:

(a) to what extent the stock of unsold cloth has been reduced; and

(b) the further steps taken to expedite disposal of this stock?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Kanungo): (a) and (b) A statement is laid on the Table of the House [See Appendix II annexure No 1]

Shri Tangamani. From the statement I find that in November this year the stock is less by 38,000 bales when compared to November of last year. Does it mean that the crisis in the textile industry no longer exists?

Shri Kanungo. That is a matter of opinion. The effect of the steps which we are taking are coming into play.

Shri Tangamani. What is the average monthly production of cloth by the Indian textile mills?

Shri Kanungo. It is roughly 450,000 bales.

Shri S M Banerjee. May I know whether a major portion of the unsold stock is of the medium and coarse variety and if so what steps are being taken to export a portion of the unsold stocks to the Asian countries?

Shri Kanungo. Obviously the bulk of the stock must be medium and coarse, because more than 70 per cent of the total production is medium and coarse cloth. As for export incentives, the effect of the notifications issued in the first week of this month must be awaited.

Shri Rameshwar Tantia. In spite of the fact that Government have given reductions in excise and other concessions the quantity of unsold stocks has not gone down. In view of this, may I know whether Government will consider the question of reducing the production just as in the jute mills?

Shri Kanungo: As the figures will show, the stocks are showing a downward trend, and certain steps have been taken for giving incentives for export. No other steps are in contemplation at the present moment.

Shri A. C. Guha: Is it true that because of the stock of unsold cloth the production of cloth has been going down month by month for the last few months? And if there is any reduction in stock, is it due to the reduction in production or higher sale of accumulated cloth?

Shri Kanungo: As the hon. Member will appreciate, the period from July to November is usually a slack season, and movements start somewhere after Diwali.

Shri A. C. Guha: My question was about production.

Shri Kanungo: I am coming to that. About the production figures, they are not exactly going up. But they are not going down very much compared with previous years.

Shri C. D. Pande: In view of the fact that there has been a general shortfall in the production as well as in the export of cotton textiles, will the Government give more consideration to the fact that according to our Plan we have to make available to the people 18 yards per capita. Now it has come down to 15 yards.

Shri Kanungo: We hope that by the end of the Plan period the consumption will be 17.5 yards.

Shri A. C. Guha: May I ask the hon. Minister to refer to the Reserve Bank Report in which it is stated that the production of cloth is going down since March, every month, when compared to last year's production?

Shri Kanungo: The figures will show a certain amount of reduction. But it is nothing unusual.

Shri A. C. Guha: Considerable reduction has been effected.

Shri Tyagi: As it is a matter of great concern to the whole nation that we are losing our markets abroad, may I know if the Ministry made any attempts to take the industry into confidence and to invite their suggestions as to how they can establish fresh markets?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri): As regards accumulation, it is true that there has been accumulation of cloth during the last one year. But the accumulation is not going up. I have seen some figures and I am still examining them, and those figures go to show that the production has not actually gone down. The mills have delivered their stocks to the market and the delivered quantity is not lower if not actually higher than what it was last year. But, that figure has to be verified. If more cloth has been consumed during this year and more cloth has been put in the market, it shows that production has not gone down much. There are other figures which are collected by other bodies. These figures have to be verified. In fact, I placed these figures before the Textile Advisory Board in Bombay the other day and the industrialists had nothing to say about these figures. This should not cause us much concern. As regards exports, of course, still steps have to be taken to step up exports. But, I must say that the Government has done what it could. Excise duty has been reduced. Certain incentives have been given. We have provided other facilities. It is now for the industry to show some initiative and courage. Recently, the other day, in Bombay, the Textile Advisory Board has appointed a small Committee, two members from the industry and the Textile Commission to discuss with the Textile Federation what steps they should take in order to clear the stock which is lying there for a few months.

Shri Tangamani: In the statement we find that the November stock is 395,000 bales. Does it represent the

stock after Deepavali, that is, the 10th of November, or before the Deepavali?

Shri Kanungo: These are before the Deepavali movement.

Central Implementation and Evaluation Committee

+
 *228. { **Shri S. M. Banerjee:**
Shri D. C. Sharma:
Shri Damani:
Shri Tangamani:

Will the Minister of Labour and Employment be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central Implementation and Evaluation Committee held its meeting in September, 1958; and

(b) if so, the important subjects discussed and decisions taken thereon?

The Deputy Minister of Labour (Shri Abid Ali): (a) Yes.

(b) A statement is placed on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

(i) Workers' and employers' organisations should take early steps to set up a machinery to screen cases before it is finally decided to take them up to higher courts.

(ii) As regards appeals against industrial awards and agreements pending in courts, Central Government and the State Governments, in their respective spheres, might explore the possibility of bringing the parties together with a view to settling disputes out of courts.

(iii) The question of associating neutral auditors as assessors with the industrial tribunals so as to provide them with expert advice on accounting matters should be considered

(iv) As the Code was formally ratified at the sixteenth session of the Indian Labour Conference held at Nainital in May, 1958, it should be deemed to have come into effect from June 1, 1958.

(v) A tripartite body comprising nominees of Government and organisations representing employers and employees should conduct an on-the-spot study of the Calcutta tram workers' strike under the Code of Discipline.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: May I know the number of awards and agreements discussed in this particular committee and what steps have been taken to see that the employers accept them?

Shri Abid Ali: I did not hear the question.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: My question is whether the agreement or award is being implemented. My information is that the employers have not accepted many awards and agreements. May I know what steps have been taken to see that they are implemented.

Shri Abid Ali: To persuade them and take legal action wherever necessary.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: The Committee decided that the Calcutta Tramways strike should be studied by a tripartite committee. May I know whether that committee has been appointed and if so whether it has made an on-the-spot enquiry and submitted a report?

Shri Abid Ali: No. On-the-spot enquiry has not yet been made. A committee is being formed. Preliminary data has been collected by the officer concerned. It is expected that during the next month, this work will be completed.

Shri Prabhat Kar: May I know how many breaches of awards have been referred to this committee?

Shri Abid Ali: I do not think any award has been referred to this committee.

Shri Prabhat Kar: Breaches of implementation.

The Minister of Labour and Employment and Planning (Shri Nanda): At the last meeting of the committee,