

Rs. 9 crores to Rs. 6.5 crores. In 1958, 9.0387 crores lbs. were exported valued at Rs. 1355 lakhs. In 1959, it has come down to 6.5 crores lbs. valued at Rs. 1166 lakhs. What is the reason for the short-fall and to which country has the export diminished?

Shri Satish Chandra: It can be attributed to two reasons. Firstly, there are crop variations. The size of the crop is different from year to year. A portion of tobacco crop was spoiled this year due to excessive rains at a particular moment of time. Secondly, as I said just now, U.K. purchased more tobacco this year from Rhodesia and Nyasaland.

Shri D. C. Sharma: May I know why no Indian tobacco is used for the manufacture of mixture for pipes? May I know what is going to be done to use Indian tobacco for this purpose?

Shri Satish Chandra: If some party comes forward to produce that mixture, we shall certainly give a licence.

Displaced Persons at Sealdah Station

†

*273. { **Shri S. M. Banerjee:**
 { **Shri Tangamani:**
 { **Shri D. C. Sharma:**

Will the Minister of Rehabilitation and Minority Affairs be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 360 on the 27th November, 1959 and state:

(a) whether displaced persons have since been shifted from Sealdah Station; and

(b) if so, the number of families so shifted?

The Deputy Minister of Rehabilitation (Shri P. S. Naskar): (a) and (b). Out of 479 displaced families squatting at Sealdah Station premises on the 27th November, 1959, 87 families have been dispersed. I may add that we have been informed by the State Government that another 82 families will shortly be removed from the Sealdah Station.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: In reply to the previous question, the hon. Minister said that about 400 to 500 families still remained. I want to know how long it will take to rehabilitate all the refugees who are there in the Sealdah Station?

Shri P. S. Naskar: As I stated, out of those 500 families, about 87 families have been removed and 82 will be removed. So, the net number will be 310 families which will remain. The State Government is doing everything possible to remove them from the Sealdah Station. I may add that the displaced families are reluctant to leave the Sealdah Station, because they have some income there.

Shri Tangamani: In reply to a previous question, we were told that there was a decision between the Central Government and the State Government not only about the Sealdah Station refugees, but others also. May I know the nature of the decision about the complete evacuation of Sealdah Station refugees or providing alternate employment to the Sealdah Station refugees?

Shri P. S. Naskar: The nature of the decision is that the State Government will persuade the displaced families squatting at the Sealdah Station to go back to their original place of rehabilitation. So far as those who are not displaced persons, i.e., those who do not have the documents, are concerned, the State Government have their own scheme to disperse them from the Sealdah Station.

Shri D. C. Sharma: Since the matter has been pending for a very long time, may I know what are the hurdles in the way of the Government in clearing the Sealdah Station of the refugees?

Shri P. S. Naskar: This has not been pending for a very long time. A year ago, the number of families was more than 1,000. The present number is about 300. So, we have dispersed about 700 families in a year. About the remaining 300 families, the State Government do not want to give more priority than the camp inmates.

Shri Bimal Ghose: Does the hon. Minister's reply include the displaced persons settled on the approach roads, to the station and if not, how are they going to be dealt with?

Shri P. S. Naskar: The Ministry of Rehabilitation is only concerned with the 400 families or so that remain at the Sealdah Station. About the others, the Ministry is not concerned.

Shri Bimal Ghose: These displaced persons are squatting just opposite the station.

The Minister of Rehabilitation (Shri Mehr Chand Khanna): May I divide the problem into two parts? One relates to the displaced persons and the other relates to the local population. We are only concerned with the displaced population. As regards the local population their number is much greater than the D.Ps. and the State Government are conscious of that fact. They are also taking action. There is hardly anything I can do in the matter.

Rise in Price of Cloth

+

Shri Harish Chandra

Shri Rameshwar Tantia:

Shri Halder:

Shri Raghunath Singh:

Shri Assar:

Shri Aurobindo Ghosal:

Shri Sarju Pandey:

Shri S. A. Mehdi:

Shri Tridib Kumar

Chaudhuri:

Shri Shree Narayan Das:

Shri Radha Raman:

Shri Vajpayee:

Shrimati Renuka Ray:

Kumari M. Vedakumari:

Shri S. M. Banerjee:

Shri U. L. Patil:

Shri Amjad Ali:

Shri Ram Garib:

Shrimati Masida Ahmed:

*274.

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

(a) whether Government have taken any note of the steep rise in the price of cloth;

(b) what accounts for the rise; and

(c) the steps taken to bring down the prices?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Kanungo): (a) to (c). A statement giving the required information is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

(a) Yes, Sir. It is a fact that prices of cloth both at the wholesale and retail stages have increased during the recent months.

(b) The reasons adduced for these increases are:—

(1) Rise in prices of Indian and foreign cotton;

(2) Higher manufacturing cost of account of several factors including increased dearness allowance; and

(3) Speculative activity on the part of the trade.

(c) One of the primary causes of the speculative activity was the shortfall in the Indian cotton crop during the last season. To make good the shortage Government have arranged for imports of adequate quantities of foreign cotton, short staple as well as long staple, and the Industry have been assured that the production will not be allowed to suffer for want of raw materials. Arrangements for distribution of Indian cotton have also been made. Government have been in touch with the representatives of the Industry, who in turn have been taking steps to curb speculation and bring down prices. The spokesmen of the Industry have announced that, should the situation warrant, they would even be prepared to stamp prices on the cloth, and open their own depots in important centres for distribution of yarn to weavers. These steps have already had a steadying effect on the market and it is expected that prices will come down still further in the coming weeks. Government are closely watching the position.