

**Mr. Speaker:** Are they similar; is the Minister prepared to answer them together?

**Shri Kanungo:** They are only somewhat similar; but I can answer both of them together.

**Mr. Speaker:** Yes.

#### Requisitioning of Cotton

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\*231. { **Shri P. R. Patel:**  
**Shrimati Jayaben Shah:**  
**Shri Oza:**

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

(a) how many bales of cotton are requisitioned by the Textile Commissioner State-wise; and

(b) whether cotton co-operative societies and farmers have protested against the requisition order?

**The Minister of Commerce (Shri Kanungo):** (a) The information called for is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(b) Yes, Sir.

#### Stocks of Cotton in Gujarat

\*242. **Shri Yajnik:** Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Textile Commissioner of Bombay has been serving notices on cotton producers and ginning factories in Gujarat to freeze and requisition stocks of cotton in their possession;

(b) whether it is a fact that great and serious discontent is growing among all concerned with the growing and ginning of cotton throughout Gujarat as a result of this step;

(c) whether Government have given any instructions to the Textile Commissioner at Bombay to seize all the stocks of cotton with a view to supply the same to the Textile Mills in Gujarat and elsewhere due to the shortfall in the cotton crop this year; and

(d) whether in view of the general feelings aroused in the people and the Government circles in Gujarat, Government will give instructions to the Textile Commissioner to withdraw all the freezing and requisitioning orders given so far and normalise the situation?

**The Minister of Commerce (Shri Kanungo):** (a) to (d). A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix II, annexure No. 17].

**Shri P. R. Patel:** I would like to know whether because of the requisition order the prices have gone down and the cultivators suffer.

**Shri Kanungo:** No, Sir.

**Shri P. R. Patel:** Is it a fact that the price that is paid to the cultivators is less by Rs. 2?

**Shri Kanungo:** No, Sir; the ceiling price for that cotton is fixed.

**Shri P. R. Patel:** May I know whether the ceiling price that is paid at the time of requisitioning is much less than the market price prevailing at the time?

**Shri Kanungo:** We are trying to hold the market at the ceiling price.

**Shri P. R. Patel:** May I know whether while the cotton is requisitioned and given to the textile mill owner the prices of textile goods have gone up high?

**Shri Kanungo:** The prices of textiles have not gone high.

**Shri Yajnik:** The ceiling prices were fixed in 1952, about 10 years ago, for cotton. As everything has gone up in prices, has Government considered the necessity of re-assessing the ceiling price for cotton, especially in view of the fact that the cotton crop has very much deteriorated this time and the expenses have gone up very high?