

COARSE CLOTH

*450. **Shri M. L. Dwivedi:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether the supply position of coarse cloth has also improved or whether there has been improvement only in the case of other varieties of cloth;

(b) whether coarse cloth is still rationed;

(c) if so, whether the rationing is to be relaxed shortly;

(d) whether the production of coarse *dhoties* and *sarees* is increasing; and

(e) if not, the causes therefor?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari):

(a) The supply position of cloth in all categories has improved.

(b) Excepting certain varieties like *dhoties*, *sarees* and *markin* in coarse and medium categories in the State of Bihar, there is no rationing.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Yes.

(e) Does not arise.

Shri M. L. Dwivedi: May I know, Sir, if some quantity of this coarse cloth is being exported out of India?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: That is so, Sir.

Shri M. L. Dwivedi: How is it that coarse cloth such as *sarees* etc. is not still available to the general public in some places?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: Sir, the Government decision in order to make movement easier has been taken recently and State Governments have perhaps not been quite active in implementing this decision, but they are all implementing this decision now and it is merely a question of time for goods to flow into the areas where they are in scarce supply.

Shri M. L. Dwivedi: May I know, Sir, the time likely to be taken for improvement in the supply position of this cloth?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: That is beyond my capacity, Sir.

सेठ जबल सिंह: क्या मंत्री महोदय बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि ज़रूरत से ज्यादा

कपड़ा पैदा होने पर कंट्रोल रखने की ज़रूरत है ?

[**Seth Achal Singh:** Will the hon. Minister be pleased to state whether there is any necessity of keeping on controls even if the production of cloth be much greater than the demand?]

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: Sir, the basic presumption that there is excessive production of cloth is one with which Government cannot agree.

Shri S. N. Das: Arising out of part (d) may I know, Sir, what is the percentage of increase in the production of coarse *dhoties* and *sarees*?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I am not able to give the percentages. Actually I can give the figures of packings. In the case of *dhoties* there has been a steady improvement because we had 31,840 bales in September 1951 and the position in March is 34,155 bales medium cloth; in the case of coarse cloth, 511 in September 1951 and 1021 in March 1952. In the case of *sarees*, in September, medium quality, 13,712 bales and in March 1952 the position is 23,638. Similarly in the coarse varieties of *sarees*, 49 bales in September 1951 and 247 in March 1952. So obviously there is an improvement in the position.

Shri N. B. Chowdhury: May I know why difficulties arise in the case of movement of coarse cloth only?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I am not aware that the difficulties are concentrated in the case of particular kinds of cloth. I suppose difficulties are there in the case of movement of all types of cloth. Perhaps because the demand for coarse and medium cloth is greater, people feel that there is difficulty in movement. But it is not so.

Shri Sarangadhar Das: May I know, Sir, how it is that the production in the recent months has increased twice or thrice over the previous period as gathered from the statistics given by the Minister?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: It is not correct to say that the production has increased twice or thrice. I merely gave certain figures to show that the tendency is to increase. I certainly do not confirm the view that the hon. Member has that there has been a phenomenal increase like 200 per cent. or more. There has been a general tendency for production figures to stabilise themselves and the position is undoubtedly satisfactory.

Dr. Jaisoorya: May I know, Sir, why State nominees have not lifted the medium and coarse quality quotas?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: Sir, it is a very simple proposition. Apparently they do not find demand. There may be other contributory factors, namely, that the finance available to them is limited or perhaps the nominees being State nominees, are not accustomed to the normal trade and they are a little overcautious. These are psychological factors. But the fact remains that State nominees are not lifting their quota and the simple answer to that is that they feel that the demand won't be equal to what they take normally.

Shri Sarangadhar Das: With regard to the previous supplementary, I wish to know why it is that in the previous period production was less. Was there any reason like scarcity of cotton or labour trouble for which production was less than in the recent period?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: Sir, there is no question of any insistence on the part of Government with regard to the previous period, at any rate the period prior to Sept. 1951. There are no extraneous factors excepting the question of normal conditions. Undoubtedly the cotton position was a little difficult because of high prices, and the prices were coming down slowly. I cannot commit myself to any statement of fact which would confirm my hon. friend's presumption.

COMPLAINTS ABOUT INDIAN PRODUCTS

*451. **Shri M. E. Krishna:** (a) Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state whether any complaints have been received from the buying countries regarding Indian products?

(b) Is there any Inspection Board to check the products that are to be exported and label them according to their grades?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): (a) and (b). Complaints in connection with exports or imports are not an uncommon feature in trade. There is no Inspection Board to check the quality of all goods that are exported. Buyers and sellers make their own arrangements according to commercial practice in each line.

Shri Gurupadaswamy: May I know, Sir, whether the Government has taken any precautions in manufacturing special varieties for exports like in England?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I cannot see how this question arises, Sir.

Mr. Speaker: He wants to know whether any steps have been taken.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I would ask for notice.

Shri K. G. Deshmukh: What are those countries?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: The answer given does not admit of these complaints.

COIR AND COIR GOODS

*452. **Shri V. P. Nayar:** (a) Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state whether any foreign countries other than the United States of America and the United Kingdom, have made enquiries from the Government of India regarding supplies of Coir and Coir goods from India?

(b) What action have the Government of India taken on such enquiries, if any?

The Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Karmarkar): (a) Trade enquiries for coir and coir goods were received during the last two years from firms in Canada, New Zealand, Hongkong and Switzerland.

(b) The enquiring firms were furnished with lists of exporters in India of these goods and the enquiries were circulated among Indian exporters.

Shri V. P. Nayar: Are the Government aware, Sir, that coir industries in Travancore and Malabar States are in a very bad crisis?

Shri Karmarkar: Yes, Sir. For the last few months Government are aware that there has been a depression in the coir industry and therefore we have deputed a special officer recently to make thorough enquiry about the same with a view to improve the prospects of the coir industry.

Shri V. P. Nayar: What steps have the Government taken to give employment to the lakhs of people who are thrown out of work?

Shri Karmarkar: Sir, that is a question for the State Government primarily.

Shri Velayudhan: May I know, Sir, whether the Government have enquired into the reasons why the demands from foreign countries like U.S.A. and Canada and New Zealand were not received?