

RAJGHAT SAMADHI

*464. **Prof. Agarwal:** Will the Minister of Works, Housing and Supply be pleased to state:

(a) the total expenditure incurred so far on the Rajghat Samadhi; and

(b) further expenditure that is likely to be incurred during the current year?

The Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Sardar Swaran Singh): (a) The total non-recurring expenditure incurred so far is Rs. 5,79,467. In addition, expenditure on maintenance, amounting to Rs. 84,443 has also been incurred upto the end of March 1952.

(b) Further expenditure amounting to about Rs. 65,000, on maintenance, is likely to be incurred during the current financial year.

प्र० अग्रवाल: क्या यह सही है कि गांधी समाधी के आस पास जो जमीन है वह गांधी स्मारक निधि को दे दी गई है ?

[**Prof. Agarwal:** Is it a fact that the land lying nearabout Gandhi Samadhi has been transferred to the Gandhi Memorial Fund?]

Sardar Swaran Singh: Not to my knowledge. Sir, I have not got information on that point.

Shri Namdhari: In view of the secular teachings of Mahatma Gandhi and the miraculous spiritual effect of his prayers resulting in national freedom, may I know whether Government will consider constructing on the four corners of Rajghat grounds a Gurdwara, a Temple, a Mosque and a Church.....

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. The hon. Member is making a suggestion for action. It is not permissible.

Shri Namdhari: No, Sir. It is a question.

Mr. Speaker: What is his question?

Shri Namdhari:to facilitate and encourage a prayer movement according to the respective faiths thus making Rajghat a world spiritual centre?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. I cannot allow that.

Shri Datar: May I know the total amount Government propose to spend on this?

Mr. Speaker: The question on khadi is over. Next question.

Shri Datar: I asked the question with regard to Gandhi Samadhi.

AFRICAN COTTON

*467. **Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** (a) Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state what quantity of African Cotton has been purchased by the Government of India for distribution to the textile mills in India?

(b) At what prices was the contract for African cotton entered into and is it a fact that the contract rate was Rs. 2,300 per khandi?

(c) What was the rate of the contract and what was the quantity purchased?

(d) Is it a fact that there was a precipitate fall in the prices of African cotton very soon after and the price touched Rs. 1,600 per khandi?

(e) What was lowest level of prices reached and on what date?

(f) Is it a fact that the Indian textile mills are unwilling to purchase this cotton?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): (a) Approximately 1,60,000 bales.

(b) Rs. 2,405 for B. P. 52 variety of East African cotton per candy Bombay Godown Delivery.

(c) The information is given in answer to parts (a) and (b) of the question.

(d) There was a fall in price about a month later.

(e) Rs. 1,566 per candy in terms of Bombay Godown delivery on 18th April, 1952.

(f) No.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: May I know what are the reactions of the mill owners so far as this cotton is concerned?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I am afraid I cannot give an answer. I do not think I can study their reactions and say accurately.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Is it a fact that owing to this reduction in prices this cotton is not being lifted by the mill owners, that they are very reluctant to take it?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: There has been a general reluctance, no doubt, to lift cotton as it is in the case of other goods where the prices have dropped, and I think there has also been a certain amount of difficulty in regard to finding finance. The Government have made adequate arrangements to help mill owners in regard to finance and as I understand it today the reluctance if any does not persist.

Shri S. G. Parikh: Will the Minister please state what quantity is demanded by the mills, what method have been adopted for distribution, and whether there are any complaints regarding distribution?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I would like the questions to be put one by one, Sir.

Shri S. G. Parikh: What quantity is demanded by the mills?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: What quantity of what?

Shri S. G. Parikh: The question refers to cotton—African cotton.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: The position is, our import programme has been made out on the following basis. Our estimated production was taken at about 34 lakh bales and on this basis the opening stocks with the mills and the trade were expected to be 15 lakh bales, plus estimated crop 34 lakh bales, total available 49 lakh bales. The estimated consumption by mills is 42 lakh bales, minimum mill requirements for the carry-over from September, 1952 to January, 1953 is 17 lakh bales, extra factory consumption is 3 lakh bales, exports 2 lakh bales, total 64 lakh bales. This leaves a margin of 15 lakh bales and it is on this basis that imports have been arranged.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

WOOL

***428. Shri Velayudhan:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) what relief Government have given to the wool-traders as the price of wool has fallen to 75 per cent. or about that level; and

(b) whether any approach has been made to the Government by the wool-merchants Association of India?

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The Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Karmarkar):

(a) The export duty of 30 per cent. *ad valorem* on raw wool has been removed with effect from the 16th March, 1952.

(b) Yes, Sir.

ABDUCTED WOMEN (RECOVERY)

***434. Shri B. K. Das:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether the work of recovery of abducted women is still being carried on;

(b) what is the total figure of recovery up-to-date;

(c) what machinery is at work for this; and

(d) what facilities are being given by Pakistan for recovery of abducted non-Muslim women?

The Minister of Defence (Shri Gopalaswami): (a) Yes.

(b) Upto the 30th April 1952, 17,495 abducted persons have been recovered in India. 16,484 of them have been restored in Pakistan and the rest in India.

(c) While day to day investigation and the actual recovery of abducted persons is the responsibility of the Police Staff specially appointed for the purpose, the Government have appointed a High Powered Officer, for carrying out the purposes of the Abducted Persons Recovery and Restoration Act and general supervision of the implementation of the agreements with Pakistan, on the subject. In addition, an organisation of Social Workers, called the Central Recovery Organisation, has been set up in Delhi with branches in various States, whose functions are: (1) to keep in close liaison with the similar organisation in Pakistan and (2) to run camps, wherever necessary, for the reception etc. of the recovered abducted persons pending restoration to their relatives.

(d) According to the existing Indo-Pakistan Agreement on the subject, the responsibility of recovering abducted persons is that of the Government of the country where such persons are alleged to be residing. The Pakistan authorities concerned do, however work in consultation and co-operation with Indian Central Recovery Organisation.