

The mills have been permitted to sell all yarn manufactured from foreign cotton, and up to 33 1/3 per cent. yarn made of Indian cotton together with all such yarn rejected by the State nominees to licensed buyers of their own choice. Simultaneously the export of yarn of foreign cotton up to 6000 bales for shipment by the end of June 1952, and another 6000 bales for shipment thereafter till the 31st August 1952 has been allowed. Also, export of yarn of Indian cotton packed in April 1952 and of prior manufacture have been allowed freely for shipment up to the end of 31st August. Control on the postal transmission of yarn has been lifted with effect from 10th May 1952 and movement permits have not to be taken with effect from the same date for movement and free sale of yarn from the mill-end to the buyers in the States. This is all that has been done in regard to relaxation of controls.

Shri S. N. Das: To what extent, the consumption of yarn by handloom industry in India has decreased?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: It is very difficult for us to estimate with any precision the extent to which there has been a decrease, because our statistics in regard to handlooms is extremely poor, as the last fact-finding Committee's report is about 9 years old, and is therefore completely out of date. But judging from the complaints received from the handloom weavers and the master weavers and also from the prices that obtain for handloom cloth, we feel that trade in handloom cloth is not in a very good state today, and therefore automatically the offtake of yarn from handloom weavers is also relatively poor.

Shri S. N. Das: What is the present position of stocks of yarn?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I am afraid that it is rather difficult to say anything precisely on the subject. I can only say about the position of mill stocks. The stocks of yarn in the mills are just about one month's stock. These concessions that we have given have operated to the benefit of the mills, and the stocks have moved. It is very difficult to say what is the quantity of stocks in the hands of dealers.

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: Are the Government making any attempts to bring up their knowledge of facts and their statistics with regard to handloom up to date?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: It is a matter with which we are not now mainly concerned. I think we have to make that attempt before long. But I cannot say that I have the matter on hand.

Shri Veeraswamy: May I know the quantity of yarn required by the handloom weavers in Madras State, and the quantity supplied to them?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I think it is rather difficult for me to answer that question off hand.

Shri Nana Das: The hon. Minister stated that large quantities of yarn are lying with the dealers; may I know whether it is due to the high prices of yarn?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: It may be. There are several factors which impede the off-take of yarn at higher prices. One of the operating factors may be the concept in the minds of the people who buy yarn that prices are high now and that they are likely to come down.

सेठ अचल सिंह : क्या माननीय मन्त्री को पता है कि आजकल सूत कंट्रोल भाव से नीचे बिक रहा है, और ऐसी हालत में बहां कंट्रोल उठाने की कृपा करेंगे ?

Mr. Speaker: The question is whether it is being sold at lesser than control rates?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: It is a very happy position. Sir, if our rates are not followed, and the rulling prices are less than controlled rates.

Seth Govind Das: Under these circumstances, is there any proposal to remove the control on yarn, when prices of these are going down?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: If prices have gone down below the limits fixed by Government, as I said, that is a position which we welcome. But that does not mean that we should lift controls because there is no guarantee that the prices will stay at that level. My information is that in the case of many categories of yarn and cloth, the prices are moving a little upward.

BHAKRA DAM

*1772. **Shri S. C. Samanta:** (a) Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state how far the construction of the two Diversion Tunnels of the Bhakra Dam had progressed upto the 31st March, 1952?

(b) What are the diameters of the Tunnels?

(c) What is the estimated cost of these two Tunnels?

The Minister of Finance (Shri C. D. Deshmukh): (a) A statement show-

ing the progress of work on each of the two Diversion Tunnels at Bhakra upto 31st March 1952 is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix VIII, annexure No. 41]

(b) When completed inside diameter of the two Diversion Tunnels will be 50 feet each while the excavated diameter upto rock is about 58 feet.

(c) Rs. 3-26 crores approximately.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know from the hon. the Minister as to how these two tunnels will be utilised when the Bhakra dam will be completed?

Shri C. D. Deshmukh: They are there for diversion while the work is being completed. After carrying the cables, one of the channels will not be needed.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know the surface of inner diameter of the tunnels, has been constructed, whether with gravity type concrete or anything else?

Shri C. D. Deshmukh: I want notice.

Shri B. R. Bhagat: May I know whether the work on these tunnels is according to schedule or whether there has been any delay?

Shri C. D. Deshmukh: I do not think it is very much behind hand. There was a little damage last year on account of floods, which delayed matters a bit.

Shri B. K. Das: May I know whether the cost mentioned by the hon. Minister is the recent estimate, or whether it is previous one?

Shri C. D. Deshmukh: The latest estimate, Sir.

TRADE WITH U.S.S.R.

*1773. **Shri S. C. Samanta:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) what quantities of jute and tea were exported to U.S.S.R. in 1948-49, 1949-50 and 1951-52;

(b) whether it is a fact that no jute, tea and castor oil were exported to U.S.S.R. in 1950-51;

(c) if so, what are the reasons; and

(d) the extent to which the imports from U.S.S.R. have increased since 1948-49 (year by year and item by item)?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): (a) A statement giving the required information is placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix VIII, annexure No. 42]

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) There was no export of raw jute due to short supply in the country.

The other items were apparently not needed by the Soviets during these periods.

(d) A statement giving the required information is placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix VIII, annexure No. 43]

Shri S. C. Samanta: Sir, the statement shows that our export to U.S.S.R. is decreasing year by year. May I know what are the main reasons for this and why raw jute was not exported in 1950-51?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: Sir, in regard to decline of trade, as the hon. Member knows, the normal trade factors do not operate in this particular instance. It is a question of two Governments acting and the only surmise I would make at this moment is that the Soviet Government does not wish to import the articles which they were importing in the past. So far as raw jute is concerned, I have already said it is in short supply in this country and the policy of this Government is not to encourage the export of raw jute.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know, Sir, the sort of arrangement or agreement on trade with the U.S.S.R.?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: It is on a Government to Government basis and very largely on the barter basis.

Shri Raghavaiah: There was an offer made by the Soviet representative at the Bombay exhibition. Have the Government considered the possibility of enhancing trade with the Soviet Union on the basis of the offer of the U.S.S.R. to supply goods and accept payment in Indian currency?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I am not at the moment able to recollect the offer. If the hon. Member puts down a question, I will make an attempt to answer.

Shri Nana Das: May I know, Sir, the principal articles that we imported from U.S.S.R.? Is there any possibility of importing capital goods?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: In regard to the first part of the question, I would invite the hon. Member's attention to the statement laid on the Table. In regard to the second part, I have no information.

Shri Punnoose: Has it come to the notice of the Government that the U.S.S.R. offered to supply us with food, and not only with food, but also machinery, provided we are prepared to give our articles in return?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I can take that information from the hon. member.