

(b) if so, the causes of such decline; and

(c) what steps are being taken to increase the export in handloom cloth?

**The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari):** (a) and (b). There has been a decline in export of handloom cloth during the last two years owing to lack of demand and restrictions in foreign markets.

(c) The Government of India Trade Representatives abroad have been furnished with samples of Indian handloom textiles for exhibiting in their show rooms and have been especially asked to give wide publicity to Indian handloom cloth. In Trade Agreements also the Government of India make provision for the export of handloom cloth as far as possible. Further measures to stimulate export are under consideration.

#### COMPETITION BETWEEN MILLS AND HANDLOOMS

\*1784. **Shri S. V. Ramaswamy:** (a) Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state whether it is a fact that there is unrestricted competition between Mills and Handlooms in the production of all categories of cloth?

(b) Have representations been made to Government to define the field of production of cloth by Mills?

(c) Have representations been made to Government to prevent the Mills from producing coarse varieties of sarees and dhoties.

**The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari):** (a) There is no such unrestricted competition.

(b) Yes. Certain items of textiles have already been reserved for production exclusively by the handlooms.

(c) Yes.

**Shri S. V. Ramaswamy:** Are Government aware that two concrete suggestions were made at the Handloom Weavers' Conference held at Salem in April, namely, that the Central Government should help the handloom industry firstly by starting a Handloom Export Finance Corporation and secondly by sending out a trade delegation to those countries to which we have been exporting our handloom goods, so that we may study on the spot the reasons for the

decline and suggest remedies for improving the trade?

**Shri T. T. Krishnamachari:** I think the matter was brought to my notice by the hon. Member himself.

**Shri S. V. Ramaswamy:** Do Government contemplate sending out a trade delegation for the purpose of studying the position at first hand?

**Shri T. T. Krishnamachari:** There has been some suggestion from the Madras Government that they should send out people to various countries, or to the countries nearby. This matter was mentioned to me by the representative of the Madras Government when I visited Madras last. I do not know how far the matter has progressed.

**Shri S. V. Ramaswamy:** Are Government considering the other suggestion regarding the starting of a Handloom Export Finance Corporation?

**Shri T. T. Krishnamachari:** Not in the terms that my hon. friend seems to have in mind.

**Shri S. V. Ramaswamy:** Are Government aware that owing to lack of control over quality our export has fallen, and are Government taking any steps to ensure that only quality products are exported from our country?

**Shri T. T. Krishnamachari:** To ensure that only quality products are exported in the matter of handlooms means some kind of quality control in the matter of production. At the moment, I am afraid it is rather too big a step for the Government even to contemplate.

**Shri S. V. Ramaswamy:** Are Government aware that there is large scale unemployment and acute distress among the handloom weavers and thousands and thousands of people have gone out of the trade and are begging even in the streets of Delhi?

**Shri T. T. Krishnamachari:** Subject to a certain amount of exaggeration in the news that is usually put out, Government are aware that there is distress among the people engaged in this industry.

**Shri S. V. Ramaswamy:** The hon. Minister said that there was no unrestricted competition. May I know what is the restriction? Are there defined spheres as between the mills and the handlooms.

**Shri T. T. Krishnamachari:** Yes, Sir. Mills are not permitted to produce sarees with borders exceeding 2

inches and there are various other restrictions in regard to the production of saris. Similarly, as regards dhotis, mills are not permitted to produce dhotis with borders exceeding  $\frac{1}{4}$  of an inch width. I can place on the Table a copy of the entire restrictions. It is a whole page actually. That is why I said that there is no unrestricted competition.

**Shri A. M. Thomas:** May I know whether Government, in view of the mounting stocks, have issued any directions for the purchase of Government requirements from handloom shops?

**Shri T. T. Krishnamachari:** So far as the State Governments are concerned. I understand that the particular State in which my hon. friend is interested, namely, Madras, is making determined and strenuous efforts to make people take more of handloom cloth—I mean, not merely Government purchases but purchases by private people also, as far as possible.

So far as the Central Government is concerned, I think that my hon. colleague on my right has taken the initiative in this matter and has given directions that stores purchases by Government should not be merely determined on the basis of price preference but that handloom cloth must necessarily be given some kind of preference in the matter of purchases.

**Shri A. M. Thomas:** May I know whether the Government have called for any statistics concerning the stock now in hand?

**Shri T. T. Krishnamachari:** This is a matter primarily within the competence of the State Government. I might assure my hon. friend that I am in touch with the position. I have had discussions, as I said before, with the representative of the Madras Government when I went to Madras. I have sent out the Deputy Secretary who is in charge of textiles in my Ministry recently to Madras to have a first-hand study of the position along with an expert from the Textile Commissioner's office. We are in touch with the Madras Government so as to find out what the position is and also to assist them in some measure, to the extent possible.

**Shri Damodara Menon:** May I know, Sir, whether in defining the respective limits of production of handlooms and mills, Government have taken into consideration the demand in foreign markets of handloom products?

**Shri T. T. Krishnamachari:** Sir, these restrictions were laid down some time back and I can tell the hon. Member that we propose reviewing these restrictions. It is my intention to appoint a small committee at expert level to review these restrictions to find out whether something more cannot be done. When that is done, the point that has been mentioned by the hon. Member would be taken into account.

**Shri Venkataraman:** Are the Central Government aware of the recommendations of the Handloom Enquiry Committee appointed by the Government of Madras that cloth of the width of 36 inches and less should be manufactured in mills and cloth of the width of over 36 inches should be left to the handloom? Has Government taken any decision on that?

**Shri T. T. Krishnamachari:** I would like to know when that Handloom Enquiry Committee was appointed. There have been various committees appointed—I do not know which committee the hon. Member has in mind.

**Shri Venkataraman:** The Committee over which Dr. B. V. Narayanaswami Naidu presided.

**Shri T. T. Krishnamachari:** That is rather.....

**Shri Venkataraman:** Then I shall write a letter to him.

**Shri S. V. Ramaswamy:** Do Government contemplate starting a 'Buy Handloom' movement in order to help this industry?

#### ACCIDENT IN SINGARANI COAL MINE

\*1785. **Shri Vittal Rao:** Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state:

(a) the causes for the accident resulting in the death of two workers and serious injury to another in the Birley Pit of Singarani Collieries, Kothagudum, during the early hours of the 15th April, 1952;

(b) whether any enquiry was instituted;

(c) if the reply to part (b) above be in the affirmative, who conducted the enquiry; and

(d) whether Government propose to lay on the Table of the House a copy of the findings?

**The Minister of Labour (Shri V. V. Giri):** (a) The accident was due to a mass of coal which fell off a slip in the corner of a pillar.

(b) Yes.

(c) **Shri B. M. Bhat**, Junior Inspector of Mines.

(d) It will not be proper to lay on the Table of the House a copy of the report as it contains information which has been acquired by the officer in the course of his investigation and which, under section 10 of the Mines Act, 1952, has to be regarded as confidential.

**Shri Vittal Rao**: Is it a fact that the practice of lending support to loose roofs and loose coal seams by means of logs of sawn timber has been given up in order to economise expenditure?

**Shri V. V. Giri**: I do not think so.

**Shri Vittal Rao**: Is it a fact that the accident could have been avoided if there had been proper inspection of mines by the pit manager and the assistant pit manager?

**Shri V. V. Giri**: There has always been a proper inspection and the supervising officials are generally careful.

**Shri Raghavaiah**: Was any compensation given to the families of the deceased workers?

**Shri V. V. Giri**: I am sure, it would have been given.

#### WORKERS OF SINGARANI COLLIERIES

\*1786. **Shri Vittal Rao**: Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state:

(a) how many workers of Singarani Collieries, Kothagudium, have been provided with quarters;

(b) the number of those living in the huts; and

(c) the number of those who are not provided either with quarters or huts?

**The Minister of Labour (Shri V. V. Giri)**: (a) 4,500.

(b) 6,500.

(c) 500 as they stay in villages outside the colliery area.

**Shri Vittal Rao**: May I know the amount set apart for housing for the year 1952-53?

**Shri V. V. Giri**: I have not got that information here. But I may say that after the integration of Hyderabad State was effected and the welfare fund was taken over by the Central Government the colliery owners have been promised a subsidy for building houses and today 320 of them have been completed up to the basement level. A request for subsidy for these houses is under consideration.

**Shri Vittal Rao**: Out of the sum of Rs. 20 lakhs earmarked for housing in Hyderabad State, how much has been allocated for housing in mine areas?

**Shri V. V. Giri**: I will be glad to have notice of that question and I shall answer it exhaustively.

**Shri B. S. Murthy**: May I know whether the mine-owners have any scheme for housing of labourers and if so, how many houses on a permanent basis are to be constructed annually?

**Shri V. V. Giri**: That depends upon the funds available.

**Mr. Speaker**: But have they got any scheme of regular housing—that is his question.

**Shri V. V. Giri**: They are considering a regular scheme. This committee is only functioning just now after integration.

**Shri K. K. Basu**: Is the Government in a position to tell us when these 6,000 labourers who are living in huts will be provided with living room?

**Shri V. V. Giri**: As soon as possible.

#### DISPLACED PERSONS TRAINED IN VOCATIONAL TRADES

\*1787. **Shri Vidyalankar**: Will the Minister of Rehabilitation be pleased to state:

(a) the number of displaced persons trained in vocational trades up to 31st March, 1952;

(b) the number of those proposed to be trained in the year 1952-53, and the expenditure to be incurred for this; and

(c) the number of displaced persons so trained, who are gainfully employed in the same line, and the number of those, who are employed in any other line, and number of those who are still unemployed?

**The Minister of Rehabilitation (Shri A. P. Jain)**: (a) 59,673.

(b) (i) 23,642.

(ii) Rs. 1,35,09,200.

(c) The information is not available.

**Shri Vidyalankar**: Does Government keep any records to find out how far the refugees have really been benefited by this technical training?

**Shri A. P. Jain**: During the course of the Budget Debate I said that we have not much information about these trainees. When a trainee leaves the