

**Shri T. T. Krishnamachari:** I accepted the Short Notice Question because there was a mis-apprehension in the minds of the public that the recent announcement of an increase of 0.7 to 2.59 per cent. in the price of cotton goods owing to increased manufacturing costs was an ad hoc increase in the prices of coarse and medium varieties. Actually, that is not the case. In May, prices were substantially reduced,—as I said, from 5 to 24 per cent. Therefore, the reduction in the prices effected in May was substantial and that was due to the reduction in the price of cotton. In this case, the slight increase was due to the taking into account of the increased manufacturing costs, largely due to increased wages and dearness allowance, and this increase happens to be almost a microscopic increase.

**Shri Sinhasan Singh:** What was the precise reason for this increase? He has said it is not due to increase in cotton prices. Is it then due to increase in labour charges?

**Shri T. T. Krishnamachari:** I have said that the further revision that had been promised to the mill industry in May was an enquiry into the manufacturing costs, and it is as a result of this enquiry that this small increase of 0.7 to 2.59 per cent. has been given.

**Shrimati Renu Chakravarty:** May I know what exactly is the increase in labour wages?

**Shri T. T. Krishnamachari:** The enquiry was conducted by the Textile Commissioner attached to my Ministry and I think he has taken into account the increase in wages. Actually, I have not asked him to work out these figures separately, but assuredly there has been a slight increase in dearness allowance and has led to the rise in prices.

**Shrimati Renu Chakravarty:** But the cost of living index is the same.

**Mr. Speaker:** I do not think any useful purpose will be served by pursuing this question. The hon. Minister has stated that he accepted the Short Notice Question, because he wanted to explain or make a statement regarding the increase. Obviously, from his reply it appears he is not prepared to supply all those details.

**Shri Velayudhan:** He may give them during the discussion. This matter also may be raised then.

**Mr. Speaker:** During the discussion, all points can be raised provided they are relevant and within limits.

## WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

### FERTILISERS PRODUCED AT SINDRI

\*885. **Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** Will the Minister of Production be pleased to state:

(a) what is the rate at which the fertilizers produced in Sindri Factory are made available to the cultivators;

(b) what would be the rate in Madhya Pradesh;

(c) what was the amount of fertilizers imported into India in each of the months November 1951 to April, 1952; and

(d) what was the price paid for the imported fertilizers per ton?

**The Minister of Production (Shri K. C. Reddy):** (a) The Sindri fertilizers are at present released to the State Governments at a uniform pool price of Rs. 380 per long ton f.o.r. Sindri through the Central Fertilizer Pool of the Ministry of Food and Agriculture. The distribution within the States of the supplies so released is the sole concern of the State Governments who fix the retail price for the supplies after adding to the pool price freight and other incidental charges. The retail prices in different States will thus vary according to the freight and other charges paid by them.

(b) About Rs. 440.

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|-----------------------|------------|
| (c) November 1951 ... | 6,451 tons |
| December ..           | 15,380 ..  |
| January 1952 ...      | 6,552 ..   |
| February ..           | 13,785 ..  |
| March ..              | 9,344 ..   |
| April ..              | 12,452 ..  |

(d) About Rs. 400 per ton on an average, f.o.r. at port.

### COTTON (PRODUCTION AND IMPORT)

\*886. **Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** (a) Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state the total number of bales of cotton produced in India in the years 1946-47 to 1951-52?

(b) What was the total quantity of short staple cotton imported into India in each of the above years?

(c) What was the quantity of cotton waste exported in each of the above years?