

(i) A circular requiring Thana Officers to report on the extent, nature and source of influence of certain members of the minority community;

(ii) Circular orders to certain commercial firms requiring them to obtain the approval of District Magistrates before giving employment to non-Muslims; and

(iii) A circular order said to have been issued to District Magistrates instructing them to stop restoration of properties to returning Hindu migrants and to distribute the properties among the refugees.

The circular to commercial firms is a measure discriminating against the minorities. It constitutes a breach of the Agreement of 1950. The Government of India lodged a protest when this circular was issued, and in March 1951, the two Central Ministers for Minority Affairs agreed that the Government of East Pakistan should be requested to withdraw or to revise the circular. Correspondence is still in progress about this matter between the two Governments.

The circular said to have been issued about non-restoration of properties would also amount to a breach of the Agreement of 1950. Necessary enquiries about this circular are being made from the Government of Pakistan. Several representations have already been made to the Government of Pakistan about restoration of houses and properties of returning Hindu migrants.

As regards the circular to Thana officers, no specific action has been taken by the Government of India, but they have been in correspondence for some time past with the Government of Pakistan about discriminatory measures in general, directed against the minority community.

Shri B. K. Das: In regard to the second circular, may I know whether there has been any modification made by the Pakistan Government or whether it stands as it was?

Dr. Keskar: The position is that the circular stands as it was. But in a discussion between the two Minority Ministers, the Pakistan Minister for Minorities agreed in principle that the circular should be withdrawn and he agreed that he would recommend to his own Government to get the circular withdrawn.

Shri B. K. Das: Regarding the third circular, may I know how far the property clause in the Agreement has

been affected by that—I mean whether Government have any information regarding the number of persons affected by that circular?

Dr. Keskar: It will not be possible for me to find out how far the restoration of properties to minorities has been delayed or held up on account of this particular circular. Our information is that a very large amount of property belonging to the minority community has not yet been returned to them.

Shri B. K. Das: Have complaints to that effect come to the Government from the affected persons?

Dr. Keskar: Yes, Sir.

Shri B. K. Das: May I know the number of such complaints?

Dr. Keskar: I would require notice for answering that.

CLOTH (PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION)

*193. **Shri S. N. Das:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) the extent to which restrictions on production and distribution of cloth have been removed or relaxed; and

(b) the extent to which the removal or relaxation of these restrictions has helped the production of cloth?

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

(a) Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

(b) Government action in removing and relaxing the restrictions has resulted in clearing accumulation of stocks with the mills and has had a good effect on production.

STATEMENT

The following relaxations have been made in the production and distribution controls over cloth:—

(1) With effect from 1st May 1952 mills have been permitted to employ a minimum of 40 per cent. looms of reed space between 48" and 58" for the production of dhoties and sarees instead of 50 per cent. of such looms required to be so employed previously.

(2) The mills have been allowed to sell to licensed buyers of their own choice all fine and superfine

cloth, and 80 per cent. coarse and medium cloth, for the months April and May, 1952 for the present. The balance of coarse and medium can also be sold to buyers of their own choice on one rejection by State nominees.

(3) The control on the movement of cloth by post has been lifted with effect from the 10th May, 1952.

(4) Inter-state movement of cloth is being allowed freely on permits. Movement control has also been relaxed considerably within States.

(5) Licences for the export of fine and superfine cloth are being granted freely to all permissible destinations with effect from the 1st April, 1952, for shipment upto the 30th September, 1952.

(6) Similarly, licences for export of coarse and medium cloth are being given freely with effect from the 17th May, 1952 for shipment upto the 31st August, 1952.

(7) State Governments have been asked to licence wholesale and retail dealers freely and many of them have already proceeded to do so.

Shri S. N. Das: May I know whether as a result of the removal of these restrictions the consumers' difficulties have been mitigated?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: The reaction of these relaxations on consumer offtake is being studied. It is too premature to make any statement on the subject.

Shri S. N. Das: May I know whether the various State Governments have been asked to report about the reactions of the removal or relaxation of these restrictions on the cloth market?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: Presumably that is the only method by which the Government of India can study the reactions on consumer offtake.

Shri S. N. Das: Arising from para. (1) of the statement laid on the Table, may I know whether Government have taken precautions regarding the availability of *dhoties* and *sarees* so that they may not become scarce in the market?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: That consideration was given due weight by Government before these relaxations were made.

PROPERTIES FOR MISSIONS ABROAD

***194. Shri S. C. Samanta:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) in how many countries properties have been acquired up to date in pursuance of the established policy adopted by the Government of India to purchase properties for housing India's Missions abroad and what is the cost of acquisition in each case;

(b) in which countries houses have been constructed on acquired lands; and

(c) what is the programme of acquisition and construction in 1952-53?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister (Shri Satish Chandra):

(a) A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix II, annexure No. 3.]

(b) Malaya and British East Africa. Land has also been acquired at Karachi and the construction of buildings there will start soon.

(c) So far a sum of only Rs. 10 lakhs has been made available for expenditure on such projects in 1952-53. This amount will be utilized as follows:—

(i) Construction work at Karachi (part cost)	Rs. 4,00,000
(ii) Construction work at Nairobi (part cost)	Rs. 4,00,000
(iii) Repairs and alterations to a newly purchased house at Tokyo.	Rs. 9,900
(iv) Construction of a house at Singapore for the Secretary to the representative	Rs. 65,100
(v) Purchase of furniture for newly acquired or newly constructed buildings.	Rs. 1,25,000
	Rs. 10,00,000

Shri S. C. Samanta: From the statement laid on the Table I find that a gift has been received from the Ghadar Party in San Francisco. May I know