

Saurashtra port. The Japanese presumably seem to like the Saurashtra salt.

COARSE AND MEDIUM CLOTH (SALE)

*297. **Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Government of India have decided to permit mills to sell coarse and medium cloth to buyers of their own choice up to 80 per cent. of the cloth packed?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): Yes, Sir. The mills have been granted this concession in respect of cloth packed during April and May 1952 for the present.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: May I know whether a proposal for the downward revision of the prices of coarse and medium cloth has been discussed for the next month?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: The price of cloth is fixed from time to time by the Textile Commissioner in consultation with the interests concerned. I believe at the moment the Textile Commissioner is engaged in attempting to fix the prices for the month of June and thereafter the procedure followed is what is called the Tariff Board formula, which is rather a difficult thing to explain in answer to a question. But it is undoubtedly a fact that prices are reviewed from time to time, taking into consideration all the relevant factors that have come into being, when the review is undertaken.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: May I know whether Government propose to end the frequent revision of cloth prices in favour of a price policy for a longer duration?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: If conditions in this country are of such a nature that the Government is able to project into the future and estimate the position in the future correctly, we will probably follow the suggested policy but as things are at present I am afraid the Government cannot commit itself to any definite answer in this regard.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Could the Minister tell us the position of the demand for handloom coarse cloth?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: The question of handloom cloth is not quite the direct concern of the Textile Commissioner who operates the cloth control but that of State Governments.

We are collecting information regarding the position of handloom cloth. We know that the position is not very good at the moment but I am not able to commit myself to any definite answer.

पंडित सी० एन० मलवीय : क्या माननीय मंत्री जी यह बतलाने की कृपा करेंगे कि मिलों को जो अस्सी फी सदी कपड़ा बेचने का या डिस्कोज करने का अस्वियार है, वह मुकामी व्यापारियों को ओवरलुक करके बाहर भी बेच सकते हैं, और क्या गवर्नमेंट उन पर कोई इसके लिये पाबन्दी लगा सकती है ?

[Pandit C. N. Malviya: Will the hon. Minister be pleased to state whether the Mills, which have been authorized to dispose of 80 per cent. of cloth, can overlook the local dealers and sell it outside; and whether Government would impose any restriction on them in this connection?]

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: The position is that the control that was operating hitherto was one that was arrived at in consultation with the State Government. The States appointed nominees to lift the goods from the mills and a large percentage of production was earmarked for that purpose. What has happened is that since the beginning of the year the State nominees have not taken up their goods and the States have been addressed asking them to persuade their nominees to take up the goods. If they do not take it up naturally we have to allow the mills to dispose of it according to their own convenience.

पंडित सी० एन० मलवीय : क्या माननीय मंत्री महोदय के इत्तम में यह बात आई है कि भूपाल में वहां के कपड़ा व्यापारी ऐक्स मिल प्राइस पर कपड़ा लेने को तैयार हैं, इस पर भी वहां के जो सेल एजेन्ट्स हैं, वह कपड़ा बाहर भेजते हैं तो क्या इस सिलसिले में कोई रिप्रेजेंटेशन हुआ है ?

[Pandit C. N. Malviya: Is the hon. Minister aware that in spite of the fact that cloth dealers in Bhopal are prepared to purchase cloth at ex-Mill prices, the Sale Agents are exporting it? Has any representation been received in this connection?]

Mr. Speaker: That is a matter for the State Government.

Dr. S. P. Mookerjee: Has the hon. Minister considered how far the removal of the restrictions on inter-state movement will facilitate better distribution?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: The presumption at the moment is that it will facilitate better movement of cloth but our decision is very tentative and I am probably on the same footing as my hon. friend in estimating the reactions of trade in regard to the removal of these restrictions.

Dr. Jaisooray: Have the State nominees refused to take coarse cloth and if so, why?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: It is a fact that the State nominees have not lifted their quota of coarse and medium cloth. The reasons were given in answer to a question on a previous day. All that we could do is to presume certain reasons. The definite reason why they will not take it must be left largely to conjecture and to an appraisal of particular conditions in particular parts of the country.

INDIAN MISSIONS ABROAD

*298. **Shri S. C. Samanta:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state the names of countries where posts of the Heads of our Missions are lying vacant at present?

The Prime Minister (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): Czechoslovakia, Egypt, Italy, Portugal, South Africa and the U.S.S.R.

Shri S. C. Samanta: How many heads of missions abroad are concurrently accredited as representatives in certain other countries?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I am afraid I will not be able to give the correct number. For instance, our Minister in Switzerland is a Minister to Austria and also to the Vatican. Our Minister in Egypt is accredited to some other Arab countries. There are several other cases like that but I could not give their number.

Shri S. C. Samanta: How much economy has been effected by this arrangement?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: How can I give the figures? These arrangements

were original arrangements, no doubt with a view to economy but also with a view to convenience.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know whether any new Missions have been opened in 1950-51 and 1951-52?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I imagine one or two must have been opened.

Shri Nambiar: Is it with a view to economy that our Ambassadors are not sent to Czechoslovakia and the U.S.S.R.?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I mentioned five places. One of them is South Africa, where we have not had any representative for the last seven years, obviously due to political reasons. Then there is the case of Portugal, where also we have no intention to have our representative, not merely on grounds of economy but due to other reasons too. The others are more or less interim periods, when one ambassador comes back and another takes his place later. Meanwhile of course the missions go on. There is a charge d'affaires there. It is not as if the missions are not functioning. The head of the Mission comes and No. 2 takes charge till a new one takes over.

Shri Gurupadaswamy: May I know whether any qualification is fixed in appointing Ambassadors?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: Well, Government has not fixed any qualifications because the qualifications required are not minimum qualifications but, if I may say so, something approaching a maximum if possible.

Shri P. T. Chacko: May I know whether in view of the South African Government's attitude towards Indians we intend to continue the diplomatic relations with South Africa?

Mr. Speaker: It is not a question of continuing them—they are not there.

Shri Shivananajappa: May I know how many Indians are working in the higher cadres of U. N. Secretariat?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: As a matter of fact, that question has nothing to do with this, and it has been answered repeatedly and charts have been placed on the Table about the number of