

Dhoties AND Sarees (PRICES)

*319. **Shri Barman:** (a) Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state the factors that are considered in fixing the controlled price of dhoties and sarees?

(b) How do such factors vary in 1952 as compared to those in 1939 in the case of coarse, medium, fine and super-fine dhoties and sarees?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): (a) The factors that are considered in fixing the control prices of dhoties and sarees are:—

- (i) Prices of cotton.
- (ii) Manufacturing charges.
- (iii) Processing charges.

(b) As there was no control on cloth prices in 1939, it is not possible to make a comparative study of the costings of these factors in 1939 and 1952.

Shri Barman: May I know whether the cotton that is imported into this country is given to the mill owners at a price that is equalised, that is, at an equal price to all the mills or whether the mill owners purchase their cotton from outside countries at their own price and debit it to the cost?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: There are no pool prices. The mill owners have certainly to pay the prices which are charged for.

Shri Barman: In case there is large variation in the purchase price of cotton from other countries, varying from mill to mill, do Government take that into consideration while fixing the cost?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. I think this is a mere suggestion for action or a hypothetical question.

Shri Barman: I was asking for this information from the Government to ascertain whether the cloth that is produced in Indian mills is costed on an equitable basis in case the price of cotton purchased by the different mill owners varies at different stages or at different times.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: The position is very complex. Foreign cotton is only used in the case of fine and superfine cloth. Naturally, when the price of fine and superfine cloth is fixed, the price of foreign cotton is taken into account. With regard to purchase by mills at various times and

at varying prices, it presents a problem. The Textile Commissioner did suggest to the mill trade generally that they should accept a scheme of weighted averages in determining prices. At the last meeting of the Advisory Committee, the mill owners by and large preferred what is called the Tariff Board formula about which I mentioned in answer to another question. The question whether there should be weighted averages or we should go only by the Tariff Board formula is a matter which has to be decided by the mills themselves. We take into consideration generally the majority view in this matter.

Shri K. G. Deshmukh: May I know what percentage is allowed to the mill owners when fixing the prices and what percentage to the agents?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: The Tariff Board formula is framed on the basis of 6 per cent. margin on gross block; so far as margin to the trade is concerned, it is 14 per cent. for cloth and 12½ per cent. for yarn.

Shri E. K. Chaudhury: Has the Government, as an economy measure, issued any instruction to the mill owners that the length of the dhotis and sarees should be restricted to 4½ and 5 yards respectively?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: Undoubtedly, very rigorous standards are laid down in regard to dhotis and sarees not merely in regard to the type of yarn to be used, but also in regard to reeds and picks as also in regard to the counts used for warps and wefts. The instructions are so complex that with a fortnight's study I have not been able to master them. My hon. friend can rest assured that Government are taking every precaution to see that the mills observe all the production standards.

Shri Gurupadaswamy: May I know how the prices of dhotis compare with the prices of sarees?

Mr. Speaker: He means to say in terms of yardage if he is serious about the question?

Shri Gurupadaswamy: I am serious.

Mr. Speaker: We will proceed to the next question.

FLATS FOR M.L.'s.

*321. **Sardar Lal Singh:** Will the Minister of Works, Production and Supply be pleased to state:

(a) the total cost of constructing flats meant for Members of Parliament