

**Shri Velayudhan:** May I know whether this credit will be spread over a certain number of years or will be raised at a stretch?

**Shri K. C. Reddy:** All these details have been given in the statement laid on the Table of the House.

### Indian Cotton

846. { **Shri Kamath:**  
**Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy:**  
**Shri H. N. Mukerjee:**

Will the Minister of Commerce and Consumer Industries be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 2078 on the 12th September, 1956 and state:

(a) the Floor and Ceiling prices fixed for each standard variety of Indian cotton separately in 1955 and 1956;

(b) whether the Floor and Ceiling prices for each variety in any year when once fixed, are unalterable or are subject to modification; and

(c) if they are alterable, in what circumstances and on what grounds?

**The Minister of Consumer Industries (Shri Kanungo):** (a) A statement showing the floor and ceiling prices of Indian Cotton for the Cotton Season 1955-56 and 1956-57 is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix III, Annexure No. 99].

(b) Floor and Ceiling Prices fixed for different varieties of Indian cotton for a particular season apply throughout the season and are not altered during the course of that season.

(c) Does not arise.

**Shri Kamath:** Arising out of the answer to part (b) of the question, may I know whether it is a fact that last year, that is in 1955-56, the ceiling price was altered after the closure of the market for two weeks from Rs. 840 to Rs. 700 per kandy? Is it also a fact that this alteration was referred to by the Minister's colleague, Dr. P. S. Deshmukh, the Minister of Agriculture, in the Rajya Sabha, as not having been in the growers' interest?

**Shri Kanungo:** I have no information at the moment. I would require notice.

**Shri Kamath:** Is it a fact that the Minister has no information about the first part of the question also? For the second part, he said he required notice.

**Shri Kanungo:** For the first part also.

**Shri Kamath:** He does not know for the first part also. It is very strange. His former senior colleague is not here

unfortunately; otherwise, he might have been asked to answer it. Is the Minister of Commerce also ignorant of this matter? He was in Bombay at that time.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** If he had known he might have stood up. Does the hon. Member want to put any other question?

**Shri Kamath:** Is it a fact that on November 29th, only a few days ago, the Finance Minister said that the price of cotton in Bombay, that is to say, of the Vijay cotton—which is one of the varieties referred to in the statement which was Rs. 749 per kandy was reasonably good—whereas last year, he considered the same price exorbitant and reduced it to Rs. 700, though the crop expectation last year was only 43 lakhs of bales while this year, it is 55 lakhs of bales?

**Shri Kanungo:** I am not aware of the statement which the hon. Member has referred to.

**Shri Kamath:** The Minister is absolutely ignorant.

**Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha:** May I know whether in fixing the ceiling and floor prices of cotton, Government are guided by the supply position of foreign cotton, especially Egyptian cotton? If so, what is the present position in regard to the price of cotton, since the supply of Egyptian cotton has been closed?

**Shri Kanungo:** The main question is adequate price for cotton grown in our country, and the prevention of diversion of land from food crops to cotton crops. There are other considerations also.

As far as the import position in respect of long-staple cotton from other countries, including Egyptian cotton, is concerned, the conditions are very hopeful.

**Shri Kamath:** Is the House to understand that once the floor and ceiling prices are fixed for the season they are never altered?

**Shri Kanungo:** They have not been altered so far.

**Shri Kamath:** You will get it in the neck.

### Nuclear Test by Soviet Union

\*847. **Shri C. R. Narasimhan:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether the nuclear test explosion conducted by the Soviet Union on or about 17th November, was detected in India by the arrangements made for the purpose in this country; and

(b) whether any rough or precise idea has been formed as to the range and magnitude of this test?

**The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru):** (a) The radioactivity of the air recorded in Bombay showed an increase of about 40% on 20th and 21st November. It came to the normal level from 23rd November onwards. The increase in radioactivity is presumably due to a nuclear explosion.

(b) On previous occasions, nuclear explosions gave an increase of 400 to 500% in atmospheric radioactivity. It is, therefore, probable that the magnitude of this explosion was smaller than that of some previous explosions.

**Shri C. R. Narasimhan:** Can it be said that the radio-active fall-out is on the increase, as apprehended in Japan? May I also know whether the present increase is dangerous or not?

**Shri Jawaharlal Nehru:** The levels of radio-activity thus far measured are much below danger level. As for the question of its being on the increase, it is not a continuous thing; it is a question of measuring each explosion, and the last one apparently was on a smaller scale.

I might add that arrangements have been made to collect samples of rain-water and dust at Delhi, Nagpur, Calcutta and Bangalore with the help of the Indian Meteorological Department and despatch the same to Bombay daily for test. Similar arrangements are being made at Srinagar and other centres.

**Shri C. R. Narasimhan:** In Japan, it is apprehended that the total accumulation of radio-activity is ever on the increase. I would like to know whether comparative figures are available here or will be made available here.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** The answer to that has been given already.

**Shri C. R. Narasimhan:** What I would like to know is whether it is mounting up during each period or sometimes it is decreasing.

**Shri Jawaharlal Nehru:** I cannot give any answer to that, except to say that thus far it is well below danger level.

#### WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

##### Oil Refineries

\*813. { **Shri Bansal:**  
**Shri Gidwani:**

Will the Minister of Production be pleased to state whether Government have examined the cost structure of Burma Shell

Refinery, Standard Vacuum Refining Company and Caltex Oil Refining (India) Limited?

**The Minister of Production (Shri K. C. Reddy):** This is being done in respect of the Burma Shell and the Standard Vacuum Oil Refineries. The Caltex Oil Refinery is still under construction.

##### Meteorological Observatories in Afghanistan

\*817. **Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad:** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of India have insisted the Government of Afghanistan in setting up meteorological observatories in Afghanistan;

(b) the details of assistance so far rendered; and

(c) how many such observatories have been set up?

**The Minister in the Ministry of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur):** (a) to (c) I lay on the Table of the Lok Sabha a statement giving the requisite information. [See Appendix III, annexure No. 100].

##### Antarctica

\*819. { **Shri Krishnacharya Joshi:**  
**Shri D. C. Sharma:**  
**Sardar Iqbal Singh:**  
**Sardar Akarpuri:**

Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of India have submitted a memorandum to United Nations with regard to Antarctica; and

(b) if so, its nature?

**The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shri Anil K. Chanda):** (a) Yes.

(b) Copy of the memorandum is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix III, annexure No. 101]

I should like to add for the information of the Hon'ble Members that we have since withdrawn our request for inclusion of this item in the agenda of the current session of the General Assembly.

##### Refugees from East Pakistan

\*821. **Shri Gidwani:** Will the Minister of Rehabilitation be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of East Pakistan displaced women and children who were sent to Saurashtra have returned to Calcutta; and

(b) if so, whether they have been provided with accommodation in any Home?