

## LOK SABHA DEBATES

2043

### LOK SABHA

Monday, 27th May, 1957

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair.]

#### ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

##### Cotton Shortage

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\* 375 Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha:  
Shri Bibhuti Mishra:

Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) the steps Government are taking to meet the shortage of cotton in the country; and

(b) the expected shortage in the year 1957-58?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Kanungo): (a) and (b): A statement is laid on the Table of Lok Sabha. [See Appendix III, annexure No. 1.]

Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha: May I know whether this shortage has been due to the shortfall in the production of cotton or whether it is due to the peak that has been reached in the off-take of cotton by the mills?

Shri Kanungo: There is not very great shortage as it is. But the small shortage is due both to the higher intake of cotton by the mills and to the bad weather conditions, resulting in the fall in production.

Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha: May I know how much cotton was imported—I mean raw cotton—from the U.S.A. under the U.S. Agricultural Surplus Commodities Act Programme, and whether any additional cotton is

2044

expected to be imported from U.S.A. under the International Co-operation Administration programme?

Shri Kanungo: We expect to import on the whole, 160,000 bales under the P.L. programme of the United States. We may not require the whole of it. In any case, we do not propose to import any additional cotton from the U.S.A.

श्री बिभूति मिश्र : क्या यह सही है कि काटन की मात्रा प्राइम को सप्लाय बढ़ाने जा रही है।

श्री कानुंगो : जी नहीं, कोई ज़रूरत नहीं है।

Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha: May I know whether it is a fact that an Egyptian delegation recently visited this country and negotiated a deal in regard to the export of raw cotton to India and whether that negotiation fell out, because the Egyptian exporters asked a very high price for the cotton?

Shri Kanungo: The Egyptian delegation came along to discuss various other trade proposals. We are one of the traditional buyers of Egyptian cotton which is interchangeable with Sudan. The numbers vary; at the moment, we hope to buy a little more of Egyptian cotton next year.

##### Nuclear Tests

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\* 376 { Shri H. C. Mathur:  
Shri Sadhan Gupta:  
Shri Bharucha:  
Shri Bibhuti Mishra:

Will the Prime Minister be pleased to lay on the Table a statement showing the details of Nuclear Test explosions held from September, 1956

to date, the places where the tests were held, the country by which they were made, and the fall-out and the radioactive effects recorded in respect of each of these tests?

**The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru):** Government have no precise information on this subject as there are no instruments which instantaneously record nuclear and thermo-nuclear test explosions as is the case with earthquakes. The radioactive fall-out from these test explosions is, however, being measured continuously in Bombay, and although investigations made so far show that the natural radiation level has increased due to fall-out of fission products from the nuclear explosions, the radioactivity reported so far is still much below danger level.

**Shri H. C. Mathur:** May I know whether this question was discussed with the Prime Minister of Japan and whether any agreement has been reached for some joint effort or action in this matter to prevent explosions of this kind?

**Shri Jawaharlal Nehru:** This question, Sir, relates to the measurement of the fall-out. Well, this question was not discussed, but, as the hon. Member might know, in the joint statement issued on behalf of the Prime Minister of Japan and me, very clear reference was made to the desirability of putting an end to these test explosions.

**Shri Sadhan Gupta:** May I know whether any protest has been sent to Britain about the Christmas Island test to be held shortly in view of the fact that these tests might cause very grave danger to our country?

**Mr. Speaker:** That is a different question altogether. Only the nature of explosions, their effect, etc., may be asked. I think they have been recorded.

**Shri Sadhan Gupta:** I had sent notice of a question on this very subject and it was disallowed on the ground that

notice of this question had been received.

**Mr. Speaker:** Anyhow, the hon. Member will confine himself to this question.

**Shri Hem Barua:** I also wanted to ask whether the Government considered the nuclear test in the Christmas Island as a violation of international conduct and if so, whether the Government wanted to bring it to the knowledge of the U.N.O. for appropriate action. That was what was racking our minds.

**Shri Jawaharlal Nehru:** The Government of India and those connected with the Government of India have expressed themselves repeatedly and forcibly and, in fact, something more than the Government of India, this hon. House has expressed itself very forcibly, about these matters. There can be no stronger evidence of the strong feeling in India than the unanimous resolution of this House and, in fact, of the Rajya Sabha also. There is no doubt about it. If the hon. Member wants to know if we sent a formal protest to the United Kingdom Government, we have not and we do not propose to do so. We have, of course, discussed these matters informally and informed them about our views on several occasions. But, we have not sent any particular special protest on this occasion. As for reference to the United Nations, a special body of the United Nations called the Disarmament Conference, a sub-committee thereof, is considering this. We have placed our viewpoint in the long note which, if the hon. Member wants, is available to him; it is printed and published and it specifically deals with these points.

**Shri B. S. Murthy:** May I know what steps have been taken to watch the explosions and also to measure the radio-active effect? A similar question was put last year by me and the hon. Prime Minister was pleased to state that steps are being taken.

**Shri Jawaharlal Nehru:** My answer says that a very careful watch is kept in Bombay especially, and, as a matter of fact, there are at least half a dozen other places in India where also this record is kept. I believe there are a number of universities, apart from these, which also keep these records.

#### Jute Mills in Bihar

\*377. **Shri L. N. Mishra:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of Bihar has asked for the provisions of some jute mills in Bihar;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Union Government to the proposal; and

(c) the number of jute mills proposed to be provided in Bihar and their location?

**The Minister of Commerce (Shri Kanungo):** (a) The Government have not received any such request from the Government of Bihar.

(b) and (c). In view of (a) above parts (b) and (c) do not arise.

**Shri L. N. Mishra:** May I know whether they have made any request as regards the expansion and modernisation of the existing plant in Bihar.

**Shri Kanungo:** No, Sir; there is no chance of it, because the hon. Member knows that the Jute Enquiry Commission have recommended that we have got much more surplus capacity than the demand for jute products.

**Shri L. N. Mishra:** In view of the provision made in the second Five Year Plan to have a plant in Assam, may I know whether any step has been taken in that direction?

**Shri Kanungo:** Not much of a step has been taken. The licences have been granted, but not much of progress has been made.

श्री विभूति मिश्र : क्या माननीय मंत्री मालूम है कि उत्तर बिहार में बहुत

ज्यादा ज्यूट की खेती होती है और वहाँ के किसानों को ज्यूट को कलकत्ता भेजने में बहुत दिक्कत होती है ? इस चीज को देखते हुए क्या सरकार उत्तर बिहार में कोई ज्यूट मिल स्थापित करने की किसी योजना पर विचार कर रही है ?

श्री कानूनगो : मैं ने अभी कहा है कि नई ज्यूट मिल स्थापित करने का कोई प्रस्ताव नहीं है और जो स्थिति है वह कमिशन की रिपोर्ट देखने से माननीय सदस्य को मालूम हो जायेगी ।

**Shri Ranga:** I also understand that India is self-sufficient in jute production. Does it mean that India will not be able to export jute products any more?

**Shri Kanungo:** India has to export 80 per cent. of its production. But we have got surplus capacity more than what is required.

**Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha:** May I know the reason for the decision of the Government not to have any expansion of the jute industry programme in the coming future? Is it because the American demand for jute has fallen or because world demand for Indian jute has fallen?

**The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Morarji Desai):** The existing capacity of the mills is more than what is required and what can be exported. If you want to sell more, these mills can produce even more than the present production. Therefore, there is no question of any expansion.

#### Compensation to Displaced Persons

\*378. **Shri D. C. Sharma:** Will the Minister of Rehabilitation and Minority Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons who have been paid compensation out of the claimants from West Pakistan who applied for the same during the period from the 1st of November, 1956 to the end of April, 1957; and