

**The Minister of Planning and Labour and Employment (Shri Nanda):** (a) Yes.

(b) No.

**Shri Oza:** May I know whether this seminar has appointed a sub-committee to go into the question of defining the minimum living standards and the time during which they are to be achieved?

**Shri Nanda:** Yes, Sir.

**Shri Oza:** May I know whether the decisions of this sub-committee will be binding to the Government because members of the Government are also represented on this committee?

**Shri Nanda:** No, Sir.

**Shri Thirumala Rao:** With regard to the hon. Minister's reply to part (b) of the question, may I know whether in the opinion of Government nothing useful has come out of this seminar to make them alter their opinion about planning?

**Shri Nanda:** No, Sir, that is not so, because the Seminar has appointed a committee. The committee's report is to come within a few months. When it comes certainly it will be looked into and we can up our mind as to what to do about it.

**Shri Morarka:** What are the main modifications, if any, suggested by the Seminar in our Third Five Year Plan?

**Shri Nanda:** As I indicated, they thought there was not enough material available with them to suggest any change. So they have appointed a committee which will go into this question.

#### Prices of Jute

\*353. { **Shri Yallamanda Reddy:**  
**Shri Indrajit Gupta:**  
**Shri Dinen Bhattacharya:**  
**Dr. Saradish Roy:**  
**Shri Sarkar Murmu:**  
**Shri Karjee:**

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

(a) whether there is any proposal with the Government to fix minimum prices for jute;

(b) if so, from when; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

**The Minister of International Trade in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah):** (a) and (b). No, Sir. But all care is being exercised to ensure reasonable prices to the growers.

(c) the objective of assuring a fair economic price for jute to the growers is sought to be achieved through buffer stock operations conducted by the Jute Buffer Stock Association.

**Shri Indrajit Gupta:** Since the sowing season is now well under way, has the Government any intention of making any official announcement about the minimum price which can be expected by the growers, so that there may be no diversion of the jute acreage?

**Shri Manubhai Shah:** As the hon. Member knows, the ruling prices are quite conducive to a larger crop in the future.

**Shri Surendranath Dwivedy:** Is it not a fact that in spite of the buffer stock scheme, the growers have not got even reasonable prices?

**Shri Manubhai Shah:** That is not so in the last season

**Shri Mohammad Tahir:** May I know whether it is a fact that the Central Jute Committee at its meeting unanimously decided that minimum prices for jute be fixed and, if so, why Government has not taken any action on that?

**Shri Manubhai Shah:** This matter has been debated several times. What I want to assure the House is that all steps are being taken to see that not only reasonable prices but rather higher prices are being given to the growers, so that we get more and more bumper crops. The House will appreciate that the ruling price is between Rs. 30 to Rs. 32.

**Shri P. R. Patel:** In view of the fact that an assurance was given in the Third Plan to fix remunerative minimum prices at the time of sowing, may I know whether Government are thinking of fixing remunerative prices?

**Shri Manubhai Shah:** Without naming a particular price, as long as the ruling price is what is more than remunerative in the opinion of Government, I would suggest to the hon. Member that there is no reason for fixing a minimum price.

**Shri Rameshwar Tantia:** May I know whether Government is aware of the bumper crop of jute and mesta and, if so, whether they will allow the jute mills to work for longer hours, so as to produce more jute for which there is demand from abroad?

**Shri Manubhai Shah:** I am glad the hon. Member has raised this point. We have already issued instructions to the IJMA to allow spindles to work to full capacity to cover the 12½ per cent looms which had so far been sealed.

**Shri H. P. Chatterjee:** Is the hon. Minister aware that the cultivators in West Bengal have been hard hit because they did not get the parity price of jute in relation to paddy—'parity price' means that it will be at least three times?

**Shri Manubhai Shah:** There is no question of parity. Those lands which are fit for jute growing are getting a better return now than at any time in the past. And the proof of it is that last year's crop was about 6.2 million bales.

**Shrimati Renu Chakravarty:** In view of the fact that in 1960 the prices were ruling very high there was a big crop in 1961. May I know whether it is the policy of the Government in a planned economy to put forward the minimum price for the cultivator—not the price at Calcutta but minimum price for the cultivator in the field—and whether that price

for the cultivator in the field—and whether that price will not be announced at the time of the sowing season in order to keep the acreage and the production at a steady stable level?

**Shri Manubhai Shah:** We are on common ground. The aim of the hon. Member is the same which we are trying to secure through the buffer stock agency. And I can assure the House that if this agency does not work well, Government will not hesitate to build buffer stocks of their own.

**Shri Indrajit Gupta:** Has the hon. Minister's attention been drawn to the fact that the Chairman of the last Indian Central Jute Committee's annual meeting has stated that since July last the prices of raw jute have been below, what may be considered, a reasonable level?

**Shri Manubhai Shah:** That is not so. The present price, by all accounts, is very fair and conducive to larger and larger crops.

**Shri Dasaratha Deb:** May I know whether Government has received any representation from the cultivators of West Bengal, Tripura and Assam to fix minimum price for jute at Rs. 40 and, if so, what are the reactions of the Government?

**Shri Manubhai Shah:** Currently we have received no representation. But, in the past it is true that when prices were slumping, we continued to receive so many representations. The very fact that prices today are reasonable has ensured them a fair return.

**Shri H. P. Chatterjee:** Is the Minister aware that the T. C. Krishnamachari Report has definitely recommended that the rock bottom prices of all commodities should be fixed?

**Shri Manubhai Shah:** I am not contesting so many reports that have gone into this matter. As a matter of fact, the Government fully believe and it is written in the Third Plan Chapter on Prices that reasonable prices to the grower should be en-

sured by stock-piling, buffer stocks and various other devices in the hands of the Government to see that the growers get a fair return.

#### WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

##### Small Scale Industries in Under-developed Regions

**\*345. Shri Vidya Charan Shukla:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to grant special concessions and privileges to small scale industrial units in under-developed regions;

(b) what are these special concessions and privileges;

(c) the basis on which the eligibility of the areas to be called backward for this purpose would be determined; and

(d) whether any list of such backward areas has been made?

**The Minister of Industry in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (Shri Kanungo):** (a) to (d). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

#### STATEMENT

(a) With a view to promoting the dispersal of small scale industries to hitherto undeveloped and underdeveloped areas, the Small Scale Industries Board set up a Committee to examine the question of industrialisation of rural areas and industrially under-developed areas through small and medium scale industries. The recommendations of the Committee are now under the consideration of Government.

(b) to (d). These particulars are in the report of the Committee copies of which have been placed in the Library of Parliament.

#### Khadi Clothes

**\*350. Shri E. Madhusudan Rao:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have reduced the rebate on the Khadi Woollen clothes and Khadi Silk from 19 nP. to 10 nP. with effect from 1st April, 1962;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government have received any representation on the same; and

(d) the action taken thereon?

**The Minister of Industry in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (Shri Kanungo):** (a) The Khadi and Village Industries Commission has reduced the rebate on Silken and Woollen Khadi from 19 nP. to 10 nP. with effect from 1st April, 1962.

(b) Unlike Cotton Khadi, Woollen and Silken Khadi are luxury items which are usually purchased by the economically well placed section of the community, who can afford to purchase them without the incentive of the rebate. It was, therefore, felt that the rebate on these items of Khadi should be gradually reduced.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Since the decision of the Khadi and Village Industries Commission to reduce the rebate on Silken and Woollen Khadi was a step in the right direction, no action has been taken by the Government on the representation against this reduction.

#### Extension of Kerala Agrarian Relations Act to Mahe

**\*352. Shri A. V. Raghavan:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether any representation was received to extend the Kerala Agrarian Relations Act to the former French territory in Mahe; and

(b) what action the Government of India is taking to carry out agrarian reforms in Mahe as envisaged by the Planning Commission

**The Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs (Shrimati Lakshmi Menon):** (a) Yes, Sir.