

tributes to the various aspects of the exports. So at this moment, Government does not consider it necessary to set up a separate Corporation.

So far as competing in world markets is concerned, the Government is taking all necessary measures and in respect, I may mention that though there has been a phenomenal growth in Pakistan's exports of carpets, it should not be forgotten that much of the exports of Pakistan is dependent on imported wool also but we are dependent on our indigenous wool. We are taking Persian designs—220 designs have been got by the HHEC—and they are being supplied to our designers.

Participation in Poznan International Fair in Poland

*363. SHRI JAGANNATH MISHRA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state

(a) whether Government have decided to participate in the Poznan International Fair in Poland; and

(b) if so, the estimated expenditure involved?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH):
(a) Yes Sir

(b) The estimated expenditure is Rs. 4.25 lakhs.

SHRI JAGANNATH MISHRA: May I know from the hon. Minister whether a fair was organized in Poland previously also in which India was a participant and if it is so, who was the organizer from India and what went wrong with him? Has the Government taken sufficient precautions this time that those wrongs may not be repeated? In this connection I would also like to know what was the loss or profit from the fair?

SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH: This is a question pertaining to the coming fair. We did participate in the last fair but I would need notice for the details of the last fair.

SHRI JAGANNATH MISHRA: I would like to know as to when this fair is going to be held in Poland this time and who is the organizer from India and whether it has been ensured by the Government that no wrong would be committed and the proposed fair would brighten the image of India in international fairs.

SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH: This fair is going to be held from 6th to 17th June 1976. We are sure that it will brighten the image of India.

Opening of Depots of Controlled Cloth

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*364. SHRI N. E. HORO:
PROF. NARAIN CHAND
PARASHAR:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state

(a) whether National Textile Corporation has opened any depots to supply controlled cloth to the poorer sections of people in rural and urban areas; and

(b) if so, the number of depots so far opened in the country particularly in the States of Bihar and Madhya Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (PROF. D. P. CHATTOPADHYAYA): (a) and (b). National Textile Corporation has not opened any exclusive depots for supply of controlled cloth. However, it has already opened 9 godowns and 46 retail showrooms there its products, including some quantities of controlled cloth are put on sale. These are in addition to over 250 single mill outlets operated by NTC subsidiaries. One godown is located in Madhya Pradesh and 3 retail

showrooms in Bihar. NTC has also started sale of Jhata cloth at moderate prices which is intended to benefit the poorer sections of the population.

SHRI N. E. HORO: The rural people are not getting cloth at the controlled prices and cheaper cloth is not supplied to them because the programme intended to engage the educated unemployed for opening Cloth shops has almost failed as the banks have not supplied credit to these people as their policy is not to give loans to persons who live beyond 5 miles from the location of the banks. I would like to know from the Minister whether the Government will utilise the NTC in opening distribution points in all the Panchayats especially in Bihar and within a stipulated period.

PROF. D. P. CHATTOPADHYAYA: I have already said that the NTC has at present 250 outlets. Its subsidiaries have another 268 outlets and some other public sector companies like the oil Corporations, Defence canteens, State Civil Supplies Corporations also have 500 outlets distributing the cloth produced by the NTC. So, the total number of the outlets is likely to be one thousand. But I cannot assure at this stage of our programme implementation which is at its initial phase, that all Panchayats will be covered. You will appreciate it will take some time. But already some of the units having outlets are catering to the needs of the panchayats.

SHRI N. E. HORO: You will kindly appreciate that the figures and the picture given by the Minister are not correct because the distribution points that he has mentioned are confined to urban areas. I am interested in rural areas. How would you ensure that the rural people, the poor people get cheaper cloth, cloth at controlled price in their areas and they need not come to the cities to get cloth at cheap rates? I want to know from the Government in their areas and they need not come

ernment if they are not able to utilise NTC's services, what other methods will they adopt to supply cheaper and controlled cloth within a stipulated period in the villages and in Panchayats? This is a vital point in 20-point programme. If the Government is not able to do, will they accept their failure to implement the 20-point programme?

PROF. D. P. CHATTOPADHYAYA: I would like to inform the House that for the time being NTC because of its very bad financial condition has been exempted from the obligation of producing controlled cloth. Therefore, NTC is not producing controlled cloth at the moment. The question of distribution of its controlled cloth does not arise. But, however, I would like to inform the hon. member that NTC did not have its own distribution outlets in the rural areas because the programme is now i.e., exclusive outlet for the distribution of production of the NTC is a new proposition. But formerly, the controlled cloth produced by the NTC used to be distributed by the general outlets including the State Government approved shops, cooperative shops. Therefore, the production of the NTC did reach the villages when it was producing controlled cloth for the rural areas. But, however, I agree with him that further initiative and more number of outlets are required to cater to the needs of the rural areas and that is being taken care of. That is what I mentioned in my answer.

SHRI N. E. HORO: The latter part of my question has not been answered. If you are not able to do, I want to know what Government is thinking in this regard.

MR. SPEAKER: What is the other alternative?

SHRI B. V. NAIK: In the year 1976 Mahatma Gandhi would have advocated rather than expensive khad-

der common janta cloth for the common masses. I hope the hon. Minister does not brush it aside as a suggestion for action. Since we have in this country a very wide network of Khadi Bhandars, who except for ideological and such other ritual reasons refuse to distribute mill cloth, will come as a positive answer to Mr. Horo's question, please make use of the existing proliferated khadi distribution centres all over the country in small towns, big towns and sometimes even in villages. This organisation is particularly assisted by the Government for the purpose of distribution of controlled janta cloth for the masses of this country

PROF. D. P. CHATTOPADHYAYA: It is a suggestion which will be taken care of.

SHRI B. V. NAIK: If it is a suggestion may I know whether it is acceptable to Government or not?

PROF. D. P. CHATTOPADHYAYA: This suggestion is constructive and considering the spirit in which it was offered, it will be considered. But I would like to bring to the attention of the hon Member that there is a distinction between what we call controlled cloth and what he is now saying janta cloth. Now the NTC has a project of its own to produce Janta Fabrics different from controlled cloth. Although the NTC units have been exempted from the obligation of producing controlled cloth, yet NTC has taken up a project of producing janta fabrics which it will distribute at a cheaper rate. It will distribute this at a cheaper rate directly through its outlets so that it can reach the consumer at a comparatively lower price

SHRI S M BANERJEE: I am glad that the hon. Minister has accepted the suggestion for which I congratulate him. What I would like to know is this. Has any amount been sanctioned for modernisation? I ask this

question because some of these mills are very old and for modernisation there is no fund.

MR. SPEAKER: Modernisation is a separate question. This is only about opening of depots. You may ask question on distribution.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: Quite apart from modernisation, is the cloth distributed sufficient enough to cater to the needs of the ordinary people and in the case of janta cloth will help be given towards modernisation also?

PROF. D. P. CHATTOPADHYAYA: As I have already said, because of poor finance, NTC is not in a position to undertake this. Regarding modernisation, money is allotted. A portion of that money will also go to NTC. Some of its older units could be modernised. Thus they will be in a better position to produce not only controlled but also janta fabrics as I have already stated

Disbursement of Loans by L.I.C. for Housing Schemes

*366 **SHRI P. GANGADEB:** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state—

(a) whether LIC has disbursed loans during January, 1976 for several housing schemes; and

(b) if so the total amount thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI-MATI SUSHILA ROHATGI): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) The L.I.C. has disbursed loans amounting to Rs. 15.08 crores during this period

SHRI P. GANGADEB: In view of the fact that the interest rate charged by the LIC for loans given to house-builders is comparatively