

pect of import of some scarce items in the domestic market like mutton tallow, stainless steel, palm oil, brass scrapes, black centres and pharmaceutical chemicals under the so called Export Promotion Scheme; and

(b) if so, the nature of action taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND CO-OPERATION (SHRI MOHAN DHARIA): (a) and (b). Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Findings of Export Panels on Caravelle Crash at Santa Cruz Airport

2998. SHRI VASANT SATHE: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received report from the expert panels on the caravelle crash at Santa Cruz Airport on 12th October last year; and

(b) if so, the details of the findings of panels and the action taken or proposed to be taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PURUSHOTTAM KAUSHIK): (a) A Court of Inquiry headed by Shri Justice S. B. Bhasme has been appointed to investigate into the accident to Indian Airlines' Caravelle aircraft at Santa Cruz Airport on 12th October 1976. The report of the Court of Inquiry is awaited.

(b): Does not arise.

जाली फर्मों को आयात लाइसेंस जारी किया जाना

2999. श्री हुकम देव नारायण यादव :
वाणिज्य तथा नागरिक पूर्ति और सहकारिता

मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) वर्ष 1975-76 के दौरान ऐसे मामलों का ब्योरा क्या है, जिनमें आयात लाइसेंस जाली फर्मों को दिये गये थे और आयातित सामान की चोर बाजारी की गई थी ; और

(ख) क्या सरकार का विचार इस बारे में जांच करने और दोषी व्यक्तियों को दण्डित करने का है और यदि हां, तो उन्हें किस प्रकार का दण्ड देने का प्रस्ताव है ?

वाणिज्य तथा नागरिक पूर्ति और सहकारिता मंत्री (श्री मोहन धारिया) : (क) और (ख). जानकारी एकत्र की जा रही है और सभा पटल पर रख दी जाएगी ।

Crisis in Textile Industry due to Cotton Prices

3000. SHRI RAMACHANDRAN KADANNAPPALLI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry is aware of the crisis in the textile industry due to the cotton prices;

(b) whether Government have taken any steps to check the rise in cotton prices; and

(c) if so, the progress made in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND CO-OPERATION (SHRI MOHAN DHARIA): (a) and (b). A Statement is attached.

(c) As a result of the measures taken by Government, cotton prices have either come down marginally or have displayed steadiness.

Statement

(a) and (b). Due to shortfall in cotton production, cotton prices have shown rising trend and are higher than that of previous year's prices. A number of measures have been taken by the Government to contain cotton prices, which include:—

1. The import of cotton from abroad.

2. Cotton textile mills have been permitted to import man-made fibres on O.G.L. basis up to 31-10-1977.

3. It has been made mandatory on cotton textile industry to use at least 10 per cent non-cotton fibres of their total consumption from 1-1-1977.

4. Stock restrictions have been placed on mills and traders in order that available cotton could be available equitably to all mills.

5. As a mid-term measure, the recommendations of the Special Committee constituted to maximise the production of cotton during the forthcoming Kharif and Rabi seasons is being implemented through the State Governments.

6. As a long-term measure, efforts are being made by Government to increase the production of cotton within the country.

Problems of the Spinning Mills Employees in Kerala

3001. SHRI RAMACHANDRAN KADANNAPPALLI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to the problems of the Spinning Mills employees in Kerala; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION (SHRI MOHAN DHARIA):

(a) and (b). A number of workers have remained idle as a result of closure of 5 out of 22 spinning mills in Kerala. Two of these mills have reopened last month and another is in the process of reopening shortly. In the remaining two cases efforts are being made at the State level to reopen the mills. If a viable proposal is received, the Central Government would give all necessary assistance to the State Government.

Production of Crepe in Tamilnadu

3002. SHRI RAMACHANDRAN KADANNAPPALLI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Textile Commission by a notification has reserved certain items of cloth to be produced exclusively in the Handloom Sector;

(b) whether even now crepe produced in certain areas in Tamilnadu is coming to Cannanore in very large quantities which undergoes final processing at Cannanore and is being sold out in the form of Handloom Crepe; and

(c) if so, the reaction of Central Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION (SHRI MOHAN DHARIA):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Some instances of small quantity of crepe being manufactured on powerlooms in some areas of Tamilnadu which may be going as handloom products have been reported. However, no large scale crepe production on powerlooms in Tamilnadu has been reported by the State officials.

(c) State Government is taking necessary steps for effective implementation of crepe ban on powerlooms. They have so far booked about 100