

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