

- (i) The five major charges of Bombay, West Bengal, Delhi, Tamil Nadu and Gujarat account for 47.6 per cent of the declarations, 53.6 per cent of the amount declared and 55.3 per cent of the tax payable.
- (ii) The bulk of the declarations (nearly 3/4th) is in the lowest income-range upto Rs. 25,000/-. However, such declarations account for less than half the total amount of income disclosed and only about one-third of the total tax-payable.
- (iii) Declarations involving amounts over Rs. 1 lakh constitute only 1.4 per cent of the total number of declarations but account for 15.8 per cent of the amount of income disclosed and 26.8 per cent of the tax payable.
- (iv) Nearly half the declarations come from persons not hitherto assessed. However, their contribution to the amount of income disclosed is only 39.3 per cent and to tax payable about 34.7 per cent.
- (v) About 50 per cent of the declaration not hitherto assessed consist of ladies and minors. Their proportion is the highest in the lowest income range, viz., upto Rs. 25,000/-.

**Lock-out declared by Premchand Jute Mill in West Bengal**

910. DR. SARADISH ROY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the lock-out declared by Premchand Jute Mill in West Bengal;

(b) if so, the total number of workers affected by the lock-out; and

(c) the steps taken by Government for reopening the mill?

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

(a) to (c): Premchand Jute Mills have been under lock-out since 6th April, 1977. The total number of workers affected by the lock-out is about 3100.

With a view to reopening the mill, a tripartite meeting was convened by Government of West Bengal on 12th May, 1977 followed by a bipartite meeting on 14th May, 1977. The matter is being pursued by the concerned authorities.

**Export Drive**

911. SHRI S. D. SOMASUNDARAM:  
SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD  
YADAV:  
SHRI A. BALA PAJANOR:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION be pleased to state:

(a) the present policy of Government for using export as a strategy for accelerating domestic production;

(b) whether export drive has resulted in non-availability of essential commodities to consumers at reasonable rates; and

(f) if so, the standards proposed to be followed for determining optimal limits for export keeping in view needs of domestic consumers?

**THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND CO-OPERATION (SHRI MOHAN DHARIA):** (a) The Government has no intention of adopting a strategy of export led growth. In selected products which have unutilised installed capacity or which have a high elasticity of supply, exports may lead to acceleration of domestic production.

(b) and (c). Export demand is one of the factors along with domestic demand, money supply and the total availability of an item which determines prices in the domestic market. The Government is aware that the export drive by the earlier Government has adversely affected the availability of certain essential commodities. The Government has therefore taken prompt measures and has either stopped or staggered their exports. Exports of products required for essential mass consumption are now regulated and constant review is kept so that the interests of domestic consumers are safeguarded.

#### **Rise in the Prices of Vegetables**

912. **SHRI D. D. DESAI:** Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that vegetable prices are going up due to inordinate export of raw vegetables including onions and potatoes; and

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

**THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND CO-OPERATION (SHRI MOHAN DHARIA):** (a) and (b). Export of raw vegetables including potatoes and onions has not been inordinate as the total quantity exported during 1975-76 and April—December 1976 have been 1.50 lakh tonnes and 1.63 lakh tonnes respectively against an estimated production of 216 lakh tonnes. Exports of vegetables have been regulated with a view to ensure that the domestic supply and prices of these items are not adversely affected. Export of onions and potatoes has been stopped for the present.

#### **Import of Cotton**

913. **SHRI D. D. DESAI:** Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Cotton Corporation of India is finding demand for imported cotton rather poor;

(b) if so, whether textile mills are being given further price preference in imported cotton; and

(c) if so, whether Government propose to reconsider import of cotton and help local farmers fetch a better price?