

[Translation]

Simplification of Procedure for obtaining Ration Cards

5381. SHRI RAM PRASAD
CHAUDHARY:
SHRI JANARDAN TIWARI:

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

(a) whether Government propose to simplify the procedure for obtaining a ration card in Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI NATHU RAM MIRDHA): (a) to (c). Delhi Administration has stated that a simple and rationalised procedure for issue of ration cards is already in vogue. No change in the procedure is, therefore, under consideration.

Higher Prices for Synthetic/Synthetic Blended Fabrics

5382, SHRI SHANTILAL PURUSHOT-
TAM DAS PATEL: Will the Minister of TEX-
TILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the study by the Market Research Wing of the Textiles Committee on consumer purchase of textiles wherein it has been stated that the retail price for synthetic/synthetic blended fabrics are 70 to 200 per cent higher than the ex-mill fabric price inclusive of excise duties at fabric stage;

(b) if so, the step Government propose to take to make available Synthetic/synthetic blended fabrics to the masses at reasonable prices;

(c) whether the higher profits by the textile trade is likely to increase textile smuggling in the country; and

(d) what measures are contemplated to see that the measures to check smuggling are strictly implemented?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES AND MINISTER OF PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) As per information available, no such report is available which attributes about higher retail prices of synthetic/synthetic blended fabrics which ranged from 70% to 200% more than ex-mill prices. Further, as per information available retail (showroom) prices of some sample sorts inclusive of excise duty of the fabrics were higher by 32.3% to 68.1% in March, 1988, between 34.9% to 55.0% in March, 1989 and between 39.2% to 55.1% in February, 1990.

(b) In consonance with Textile Policy, Government has given several excise duty concessions to man-made fibre/yarn so that benefit of duty concessions flows to the consumer in the form of lower prices of synthetic and blended fabrics. In addition, to ensure the availability of man-made fibres/yarns at reasonable prices, all fibres/yarns except Polyester Staple Fibre, have been placed under OGL and import duties are also being reviewed periodically and re-structured when necessary. Apart from this, to make available synthetic/blended fabrics at reasonable prices to the masses, Government has introduced schemes like 'Sulabh', 'Sushman', 'Saubhagya', etc., wherein fibres/yarns are being made available at duty free/concessional rate of duty for the manufacture of cheap fabrics through NTC and handloom sector.

(c) and (d). The indigenous prices of synthetic and blended fabrics are higher than their prices prevailing in international market. This difference may act as an in-