

(d) In Karnataka, public distribution of cement has been taken over by the State Government from 1-10-1978 and sale of cement is now made only by dealers licensed by the State Government. The State Government has been requested to be vigilant against antisocial activities like blackmarketing and hoarding and to use their powers under the Essential Commodities Act to curb such activities.

**Schemes implemented to raise Standard of People Living below Poverty Line**

9236 SHRI K GOPAL: Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether any schemes were implemented during the last two years to raise the standard of living of those living below the poverty line;

(b) if so, details thereof; and

(c) the impact these schemes produced on the living standards of the poor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI FAZLUR RAHMAN). (a) and (b). Various measures and programmes for achieving the objective of reduction of poverty are spelt out in the draft Five Year Plan (1978-83). The highest priority has been accorded to agriculture and allied sectors, irrigation and village and cottage industries which have the greatest capacity to absorb surplus labour. An expanded minimum needs programme has also been provided for so that the living standards of the poor people can be directly supplemented by the provision of certain minimum basic amenities. The Annual Plans for 1977-78 and 1978-79 were formulated keeping these priorities in view.

(c) It is too early to assess the impact of these plans on the living standards of the poor.

**Import and Export of Cotton**

9237. SHRI IQBAL SINGH DHILLON: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in previous years Government used to import cotton;

(b) if so, since when the import of cotton has been stopped;

(c) whether it is also a fact that now India is in a position to export the cotton; and

(d) if so, the target fixed for the export of cotton during the year 1979-80?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Following improvement in the availability position of domestic cotton, no imports on commercial scale have been contracted during 1977-78 and 1978-79.

(c) and (d). During 1978-79, cotton season (September, 1978-August, 1979) Government have allowed export of 4.40 lakh bales of cotton. No target has been fixed for 1979-80; this will be possible only after the varietal crop size and the demand are known

**Supply of Controlled Cloth to Orissa**

9238. SHRI K. PRADHANI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details regarding the quota of controlled cloth which was supplied to the State of Orissa during the last three years; year-wise; and

(b) whether there has been any demand from the State Government to enhance the quota of controlled cloth and if so, the reaction of Central Government thereon?