

the same question. The first part may be answered.

**Shri Satish Chandra:** It is true that this scheme was given a low priority because we have found out crude oil in Assam and there is a possibility of finding it out elsewhere also. But, as has been stated before in this House by the Prime Minister and also by the Production Minister several times, the setting up of the synthetic oil project may lead to the development various other chemical industries. It is from that point of view that it is considered essential to have some such scheme for further development of chemical industries.

#### Central Silk Board

\*633. **Shri Keshavaiengar:** Will the Minister of Production be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Silk Board has taken up the task of publishing its books and other useful material connected with sericulture in all the regional languages; and

(b) if so the progress made so far in this regard?

**The Deputy Minister of Production (Shri Satish Chandra):** (a) and (b). A publicity branch is being organised in the Board's office to undertake publication of brochures, pamphlets, booklets etc. in English, Hindi and other regional languages.

**Shri Keshavaiengar:** May we know whether Government has also programmed to publish these books in a form suited to serve even as text-books for children in the schools wherein sericulture is introduced as a subject?

**Shri Satish Chandra:** The suggestion will be passed on to the Central Silk Board.

#### Excise Duty on Cloth

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\*634. { **Shri Bansal:**  
**Dr. Rama Rao:**  
**Shri Hem Raj:**  
**Shri M.S. Gurupadaswamy:**  
**Shri M. Islamuddin:**  
**Shri C. R. Chowdary:**  
**Shri D. C. Sharma:**  
**Shri Bibhuti Mishra:**  
**Shri B. K. Das:**

Will the Minister of Commerce and Consumer Industries be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of additional excise duty levied during the last Session of Parliament on cotton textiles that has been absorbed by the mills and passed on to the consumers;

(b) whether the prices of cotton cloth in the retail market are lower or higher than they were on the eve of the imposition of the additional excise duty; and

(c) if so, by what percentage?

**The Minister of Trade (Shri Karmarkar):** (a) to (c). It would be difficult to say with any degree of certainty what portion of the additional excise duty has been absorbed by the mills and how much has been passed on to the consumer. On the whole, however, there has been a fall of about 2 per cent in the prices of cloth since the imposition of additional excise duty.

**Shri Bansal:** For which period and for which varieties of cloth is this fall of 2 per cent?

**Shri Karmarkar:** It is about the average worked out. For different varieties there has been different fluctuation. If my hon. friend wants it and if you permit, I will give the details.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** Not in this House.

**Shri Sinhasan Singh:** The excise duty was levied mostly on fine and superfine cloth. May I know whether those prices also have gone down or gone up?

**Shri Karmarkar:** There has been an enhancement of duty uniformly on all the varieties of cloth. In some cases the prices have gone up; in some cases the prices have gone down.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** Shri Heda... Shri Sharma.

**Shri D. C. Sharma:** Some publicity.

**Shri Heda:** rose.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** When I called the hon. Member, Shri Heda, he did not stand up. Now, he stands up again.

**Shri Heda:** Sir, I did not hear.

**Shri D. C. Sharma:** Some publicity material was issued by the Ministry in connection with the prices of various types of cloth. May I know how far that experiment has been successful and whether that experiment is still in process?

**Shri Karmarkar:** I think my esteemed colleague the Finance Minister discouraged the use of cloth at very high prices and we feel that it has had a salutary effect on the public and the response is quite encouraging.

**Shri Heda:** The hon. Minister stated that there was a fall of 2 per cent. in the prices. May I know whether he has taken into consideration the prices existing before the levy was undertaken or the

possible increase in prices as the trend in those days was towards increase ?

**Shri Karmarkar :** We did not take the possibilities into consideration ; we took actualities into consideration. The 2 per cent. is the actuality.

**Shri G. D. Somani :** May I enquire whether the hon. Minister is aware of the fact that the mills are at present absorbing the full 100 per cent. additional excise duty in the present sales to the dealers ?

**Shri Karmarkar :** May be ; but my answer proper is contained in the original answer.

#### Chadd Bet

\*635. **Shri Gidwani :** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some Pakistani Nationals crossed Pakistan border near Chadd Bet, Cutch, and entered India on 23rd September, 1956;

(b) whether any of them have been arrested; and

(c) what was their intention in entering India ?

**The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shri Anil K. Chanda) :** (a) to (c). A Pakistani national was arrested by the Indian authorities on the 23rd September, 1956 for entering Indian territory near Chadd Bet in Kutch without any travel documents. He was tried under the Passport Rules and sentenced to two months' rigorous imprisonment on the 27th September, 1956.

**Shri Gidwani :** Was it only one person or was he accompanied by some other ?

**Shri Anil K. Chanda :** According to our information only one person was apprehended.

**Shri Gidwani :** Has the Government enquired as to what was his object in coming here ?

**Shri Anil K. Chanda :** Naturally we made enquiries. He seemed to have left his country in order to evade the rigours of law in that country.

**Shri D. C. Sharma :** The Pakistan Government made some claims to this Chadd Bet area. May I know if any correspondence has taken place between the Government of India and the Government of Pakistan.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker :** That is not connected with the present question.

**Dr. Ram Subhag Singh :** Is it true that some person from Pakistan came to this

territory of ours and took away about 14 buffaloes from there and no action has been taken by our Government ?

**Shri Anil K. Chanda :** I have no information.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker :** This was only about the coming over of a national of Pakistan.

**Shri Gidwani :** The hon. Minister said that that person came here with a view to escape the rigours of law there. I did not follow.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker :** There must be something pending against him also

**Shri Anil K. Chanda :** Yes, that is the point.

#### Abducted Persons (Recovery and Restoration) Act

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\*636. { **Shri D. C. Sharma :**  
      { **Shri Krishnaacharya Joshi :**

Will the Prime Minister be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 1245 on the 20th August, 1956 and state:

(a) whether Government of India have decided to extend the life of Abducted Persons (Recovery and Restoration) Act of 1949 which expires by the end of November 1956; and

(b) the total number of abducted women still to be recovered from Pakistan ?

**The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shri Anil K. Chanda) :** (a) Yes, for one year upto 30th November 1957.

(b) It is not possible to give any precise figures indicating the number of abducted persons yet to be recovered in India and Pakistan. This work has been entrusted to the two High Powered Officers whose report is still awaited.

**Shri D. C. Sharma :** May I know if the Government is going to make some efforts to arrive at an approximate assessment of the abducted persons either in Pakistan or in India, and, if so, if it is going to make use of some machinery for it ?

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker :** Why did he not make these suggestions in the debate on this subject just two days back when all the suggestions have been put and answers given ?

**Shri Anil K. Chanda :** I can give him the information, Sir. Two high-powered officers, one from India and another from Pakistan, are engaged in this task.