

चालित करघों के लिये परामिट जारी करना नहीं है।

(ग) हथकरघा उद्योग के संरक्षण के लिये जो ष के बाद सबसे अधिक व्यक्तियों को रोजगार प्रदान करता है, शक्तिचालित करघों को और बढ़ाने की व्यवस्था नहीं है।

बिहार शरीफ में रेशम उद्योग का विकास

5548. श्री वजय कुमार यादव : क्या वाणिज्य मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार को जानकारी है कि बिहार राज्य, के नालंदा जिले में बिहार शरीफ मे रेशमी कपड़े का उत्पादन होता है ; और

(ख) यदि हां तो क्या सरकार का विचार वहां के रेशम उद्योग का विकास करने का है और यदि हां तो उसका ब्यांरा क्या है ?

वाणिज्य तथा इस्पात व खान मंत्री (श्री प्रणब मुखर्जी) : (क) तथा (ख) जानकारी एकत्र की जा रही है और यथाशीघ्र सभा पटल पर रख दी जायगी।

Handloom Industry in Kerala

5549. SHRI M. M. LAWRENCE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any representation from the Kerala State Handloom Joint Action Council, Trivandrum regarding large scale unemployment being faced by the handloom industry in Kerala due to non-availability of cotton yarn to the handloom industry at fair prices i.e. the rates prevailing in 1978; and

(b) if so, what steps Government have taken or propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) This was the subject of the Calling Attention Motion in Rajya Sabha on 19th June, 1980 and a copy of the statement made by Commerce Minister is enclosed. Since that date, power cuts have been relaxed in Tamil Nadu and other States, and yarn prices are showing a downward trend.

Statement

Statement by Shri Pranab Mukherjee, Minister for Commerce in Rajya Sabha on 19th June, 1980 in regard to the Calling Attention Motion regarding proposed strike by handloom workers of Kerala from June 30, 1980.

Hon'ble Chairman,

The Government have received a letter dated 30th May, 1980 addressed to the Prime Minister from the Kerala State Handloom Joint Action Council, Trivandrum stating that in the event of Government of India failing to concede to the following two requests, the workers would strike work on 30th June, 1980 and picket all Central Government offices:—

- (i) Cotton hank yarn should be made available to the handloom industry at the rates prevalent in October, 1978; and
- (ii) Uniform minimum wages should be introduced for handloom workers throughout the country.

The prices of yarn have been raising since the later part of 1978. The price ruling at present is, on an average 25% higher than those ruling in October, 1978. During this period, there has also been an increase in costs of production especially on wages and fuel. The situation has been further aggravated by the severe power cuts imposed in some States. However, from April, 1980 there has been some stabilisation in the prices. With relaxation of power cuts expected in July, the prices of yarn are likely to come down. Government are keeping

a close watch on the situation, and have been taking necessary steps to ensure the availability of yarn for the handloom industry. Arrangements have been made with the Indian Cotton Mills Federation to make available 23,000 bales every month in hank form at ex-mill rates to State Handloom Corporations and Apex Societies for further distribution to the weavers and their associations.

Regarding fixation of uniform minimum wages for the whole country, such minimum wages are determined at the State level taking into account the local conditions obtaining in different areas. It would not be feasible to have such a uniform wage fixed for the country in a decentralised industry like handlooms.

Production of Cheap Cloth

5550. SHRI R. K. MHALGI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the target for the production of

cheap cloth in the year 1979-80 and the actual production of the same achieved during the year (quarterly):

(b) whether it is a fact that both private as well as public sector textile mills have failed to produce required quantity of such cloth;

(c) the reasons for the failure of the scheme; and

(d) what steps Government have taken or propose to take to increase the production of cheap cloth in the coming months?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (d) Under the cheap cloth scheme, introduced on a voluntary basis in September 1979, a total quantity of 1000 million sq metres is expected to be produced both by the NTC mills and private sector mills. Target and actual production during the year 1979-80 i.e., from September 1979 to March 1980 is as under:—

(in million metres)

| Period | N.T.C. Mills | | Private Mills | | Total | |
|-------------------|--------------|--------|---------------|--------|--------|--------|
| | Target | Actual | Target | Actual | Target | Actual |
| September '79 | 42.00 | 16.55 | 42.00 | 30.30 | 84.00 | 46.85 |
| Oct. December '79 | 125.00 | 82.15 | 125.00 | 108.99 | 250.00 | 191.14 |
| Jan March '80 | 125.00 | 80.79 | 125.00 | 82.40 | 250.00 | 163.00 |
| | 292.00 | 179.49 | 292.00 | 221.69 | 584.00 | 401.14 |

Total production of cheap cloth during September, 1979 to March 1980 was of the order of 401.18 million metres as against the target of 584 million metres, and the short-fall is mainly due to power-cuts and load shedding imposed by certain States during this period. Since the scheme is voluntary in nature, no statutory instructions

can be issued to the mills for producing such cloth. However, the National Textile Corporation and the Indian Cotton Mills' Federation have been impressed upon to step up the production of cheap cloth so that the annual target of 1000 million metres is achieved.