

(e) The Court of Shri Nathu Singh, Revenue Assistant, Room No. 41, First Floor, Tis Hazari, Delhi.

(f) No, Sir.

(g) No such permission has been given by the MES.

Production of controlled cloth

8129. SHRI MOHAN LAL PATEL : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total quantity of controlled cloth produced in the country in public and private sectors during the years 1980-81 and 1981-82;

(b) the quantity out of that reached the rural areas during the said period;

(c) whether it is a fact that the cloth supplied to rural areas is much less than the requirement;

(d) if so, whether any study has been made in this regard; and

(e) if so, what are the findings and what steps are being taken to meet the demand of rural-areas for controlled cloth?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) Production of mill-made controlled cloth by the NTC mills and private mills during the years 1980-81 and 1981-82 (April-December, 1981) is as under:—

Year	NTC mills	Private mills	Total
(Figures in million sq. mts.)			
1980-81	414.69	84.95	499.64
1981-82 (April- Dec.-81)	224.67	5.83	230.50

(b) On the basis of the number of retail outlets in rural areas it is estimated that roughly 80 per cent of controlled cloth is distributed in rural areas.

(c) to (e). Though no study has been made to determine the exact requirement of controlled cloth in the rural areas, Government's ability to provide controlled cloth is limited by resources available for this purpose.

Expansion of trade between India and Iran

8130. SHRI BHIKU RAM JAIN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a special committee has been set up to study the ways of expanding trade between India and Iran; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Decline in production of viscose staple fibre

8131. SHRI R. P. GAEKWAD: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that indigenous production of viscose staple fibre is on the decline;

(b) whether it is also a fact that imports of the viscose staple fibre have increased during the current fiscal year;

(c) whether Government propose to protect the industry from imports and adopt other corrective measures; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) and (b). A statement is attached.

(c) and (d). Government are alive to the responsibility of protecting the domestic industry. However, liberalised imports of Viscose Staple Fibre (including HWM fibre) over past few years do not appear to have affected adversely the indigenous