

Shri Anthony Pillai: Have Government investigated the allegation that our exports are facing unfair competition in South-East Asian markets? If so, what are the results of such investigation?

Shri Satish Chandra: There has been acute competition from China, Japan and Hongkong in the South-East Asian markets. The incentive scheme is designed to improve our competitive position in those markets.

Mr. Speaker: Since those measures were adopted, how far has the position improved? That is the question.

Shri Satish Chandra: These measures, as I said just now, were adopted in the month of May, figures for which I have given. The figure for July shows an increase, according to provisional figures, of about 20 million yards in one month.

Shri Ramanathan Chettiar: May I know whether China is a serious competitor in the field of export of textiles to foreign countries? If so, what steps are being taken by Government to meet that competition?

Mr. Speaker: That is exactly what he has been saying in regard to the South-East Asian markets.

Shri Ramanathan Chettiar: It is not only in South-East Asian countries, but in other countries also.

Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri: The Deputy Minister has already answered those questions. We have taken steps. Of course, China and any other country would like to compete with India. They also want to increase their exports. But we are taking steps and it seems that there has been a distinct improvement. We hope the position will improve better in future.

Shrimati Parvathi Krishnan: Is it not a fact that one of the reasons why our textile exports were going down was the complaint that some of the goods that were being delivered were defective and, therefore, competition from other countries came to play a more important part? What steps are being taken to see that the goods we sent out are of an improved quality?

Shri Satish Chandra: There are no general complaints of this nature. There might have been an individual lapse here or there. These are not general complaints. If these complaints were there, our exports would not show an improved trend, as they are doing now.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: The hon. Minister has said that there is now practically no accumulation of cloth. Are Government in a position now to run those mills which were producing coarse and medium cloth? What steps are being taken in that direction?

Shri Satish Chandra: It hardly arises out of this question.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: It does.

Indians in South Africa

*714. { **Shri Ram Krishan Gupta:**
Shri Mahammed Elias:

Will the Prime Minister be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 969 on the 6th March, 1959 and state:

(a) whether the South African Government have since made any approach to open negotiations with India and Pakistan on the treatment of people of Indian and Pakistani origin in South Africa; and

(b) if so, when the negotiations are expected to start?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shrimati Lakshmi Menon):

(a) and (b). No, Sir.

Shri Ram Krishan Gupta: In view of the violation of the U.N.O. Resolution by South Africa, have Government made any request to U.N.O. to take action against South Africa?

Shrimati Lakshmi Menon: I do not understand what action the hon. Member contemplates?

Mr. Speaker: What is the suggestion of the hon. Member?

Shri Ram Krishan Gupta: In view of the violation of the U.N.O. Resolution by South Africa, will Government urge upon U.N.O. to take action

against South Africa so that they may approach the Indian and Pakistan Governments to open negotiations on this matter?

Shrimati Lakshmi Menon: That is exactly what we have been doing during the last twelve years.

Shri Hem Barua: Is it a fact that India has asked for the question of the treatment of people of Indian origin in South Africa to be inscribed on the agenda of the forthcoming General Assembly session? If so, what is the reaction of the Government of South Africa to this proposal made by India?

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): I can only presume what the reaction is. The reaction is likely to be adverse. They do not tell us what they feel about it.

Shri Hem Barua: Is it a fact that the Prime Minister of South Africa made a statement in their Parliament recently to the effect that the responsibility for the Indians was on the shoulders of those who were anxious to take or help them? If so, does it mean an open invitation to India to interest herself more and more in the affairs of Indians in South Africa? If so, what is the reaction of our Government to this statement of the Prime Minister?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: Presumably, the South African Government would very much like all these people of Indian descent—that is, their own nationals—to leave South Africa. I suppose the idea is that they should go and others should help them to go. Others are not going to help them to take away South African nationals to other countries. It is their duty to look after them properly.

Shri Hem Barua: May I know whether in view of this statement, our Government want to bring this matter specifically before the General Assembly for discussion?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: What matter? There is nothing new in this. This has been said for years and years. We are discussing this whole question of these people. What else are we to bring before the General Assembly?

Shri Hem Barua: Is it a fact that a specific reply has not been received to any of our communications on this matter?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. The Question Hour is not meant for making suggestions.

Shri Hem Barua: I am not making any suggestion.

Mr. Speaker: I have been noticing that all his three questions are nothing more than suggestions.

Shri N. R. Muniswamy: With whom does the initiative to open negotiations lie? Is it with South Africa or with India?

Shrimati Lakshmi Menon: Both the Governments of India and Pakistan have already requested their respective High Commissions in London to get the South African Government to move in the matter. After all, negotiations can take place only if the South African Government agrees to it. We are trying our best, but we have not received any reply except an acknowledgement.

Synthetic Rubber Plant in Bareilly

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*715 { **Shri S. C. Samanta:**
Shri Ram Krishan Gupta:
Shri Subodh Hansda:
Shri Bhakt Darshan:
Pt. Munishwar Dutt
Upadhyay:
Shri M. L. Dwivedi:
Shri Mohan Swarup:
Shri Assar:
Shri S. A. Mehdi:

Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made so far in setting up a synthetic rubber plant at Bareilly (U.P.); and