

(a) to what extent the consumer has benefited as a result of the agreement made in December, 1960 for reduction and regulation of cloth prices; and

(b) whether it has adversely affected the working of any mills?

The Minister of Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): (a) From the consumer's point of view, the upward trend in prices was halted and there is downward movement in prices. Where the rise in prices was particularly marked, the benefit of reduction has been appreciable. With larger quantities of stamped cloth moving at the retail end, prices are progressively more controlled

(b) A few representations were received from up country mills indicating that the reduction in prices, particularly for the coarse and lower medium varieties, would hit them hard. It is, however, felt that there should be no apprehension of mills making losses when cotton prices are now low.

Indians in Ceylon

- *41. { Shri Rameshwar Tantia:
- { Shri Shree Narayan Das:
- { Shri Radha Raman:
- { Shri D. C. Sharma:
- { Shrimati Ila Palchoudhuri:
- { Shri M. L. Dwivedi:
- { Shri Hem Barua:
- { Shri Kodyan:
- { Shri Prakash Vir Shastri:
- { Shri Ajit Singh Sarhadl:
- { Shri Ragunath Singh:
- { Shri S. M. Banerjee:
- { Shri Naval Prabhakar:
- { Shri Bhakt Darshan:
- { Shri Assar:
- { Shri Ram Garib:
- { Shri Tangamani:
- { Shri Subbiah Ambalam:
- { Shri Muhammed Elias:
- { Shri Achar:
- { Sardar Iqbal Singh:

Will the **Prime Minister** be pleased to state:

(a) whether the problem of Indians in Ceylon came up for discussion with the Ceylonese Prime Minister during her recent visit to our country; and

(b) if so, with what results?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shrimati Lakshmi Menon): (a) and (b). No special discussions were held on this subject during the visit of the Prime Minister of Ceylon to Delhi. Some brief reference was made and it was suggested that the matter be discussed at a later stage.

Cost of Industrial Production

- *42. { Shri A. M. Tariq:
- { Shri Ram Krishan Gupta:
- { Shri Rameshwar Tantia:
- { Shri Pangarkar:
- { Shri D. C. Sharma:

Will the **Minister of Commerce and Industry** be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred question No. 194 on the 17th November, 1960 and state the progress since made in the proposal to set up Study Groups to examine the high cost of industrial production?

The Minister of Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): The matter is being finalised very soon by the National Productivity Council.

Production of Khadi in Bihar

1. **Shri D. C. Sharma:** Will the **Minister of Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of Khadi produced in Bihar State during 1960-61 (month-wise); and

(b) the target fixed for the production of khadi during 1961-62?