

(d) The Government has received assurances from the hotel industry that every effort will be made to ensure that foreign nationals pay their hotel bills in foreign exchange. For this purpose special money changing facilities are being extended by the Reserve Bank of India.

**Distribution of coarse cloth through fair price shops**

928. SHRI D. K. PANDA:  
SHRI NAGESHWAR RAO:

Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to distribute coarse cloth through fair price shops;

(b) if so, the total quantity of coarse cloth required for distribution through fair price shops; and

(c) the steps taken to ensure regular supply of coarse cloth to the fair price shops?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE): (a) According to the new scheme which came into force with effect from 1-11-1972 the Government have decided to distribute controlled varieties of coarse and lower medium cloth through mills own retail shops, super bazars, fair price shops affiliated to National Co-operative Consumers' Federation and fair price shops opened by the State Governments.

(b) The entire production of about 100 million metres of controlled cloth per quarter is distributed through the channels stated above.

(c) Every State is allotted a quota of controlled cloth and the State Governments, in turn, arrange distribution of the cloth to consumers through the above mentioned sources.

**Enquiry into clandestine import of woollen clothes**

929. SHRI N. K. SANGHI:  
SHRI RAM BHAGAT  
PASWAN:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether, even though the Customs had the knowledge about the clandestine import of woollen clothes as 'rags' since early 1971 and they had caught many consignments red handed they did not render them unserviceable as is required under the Sea Customs Act;

(b) whether inspite of the positive instructions from the Ministry of Foreign Trade, the Customs authorities released all the confiscated goods against bonds signed by importers that they would mutilate the clothes themselves;

(c) whether the Customs refused to agree to a suggestion for a joint inspection of goods by State Trading Corporation, the Customs and the Textile Commissioner; and

(d) if so, the justification for the attitude adopted by the Customs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI K. R. GANESH): (a) No, Sir. It has been reported to us that Customs have not released any detected case of import of serviceable garments without taking mutilation action. Since early 1971, about 60 consignments were detected by Bombay Customs and rendered unserviceable either in the docks or subsequently under Customs supervision in Bombay except for six consignments which were rendered unserviceable under the supervision of Central Excise officers at Ludhiana.

(b) No confiscated goods were released against bonds for mutilation of the clothes by the importers themselves. In May, 1972 and July, 1972 Ministry of Foreign Trade had suggested the release of garments after

mutilation, but in view of the practical difficulties in undertaking mutilation in the docks and having regard to a procedure obtaining from 1961, mutilation in the factories was permitted under the supervision of Customs/Central Excise officers after taking suitable bonds. This was duly brought to the notice of the Ministry of Foreign Trade.

(c) and (d). The suggestion made by the State Trading Corporation to Collector of Customs, Bombay for joint inspection of consignments of rags was not accepted by the Collector since no expertise was necessary in distinguishing rags from wearable garments and as this step would only have led to delays in clearing the consignments. Further more the Customs had at their disposal the services of technical experts.

**Margin of profit earned by M.M.T.C. on the import and sale of Copper**

930. SHRI N. K. SANGHI: Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the margin of profit now being earned by Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation on the import and sale of Copper has gone up from 4.7 per cent to 22.1 per cent during the last two years;

(b) the landed cost of Copper imported during the last two years and the price realised from the actual users during the period; and

(c) whether the margin between the landed cost and the sale price conforms to the margin laid down under the Scarce Material Order and if the margin is higher, the reasons for the higher mark-up at the cost of the small-scale industries and whether Government propose to nationalise the pricing policy of M.M.T.C.?

**THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE):** (a) No Sir.

(b) and (c). A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [*Placed in Library. See No. LT-3737/72*]. The margin between the landed cost and the sale price conforms to the margin laid down under Scarce Material Order except for actual users who are either not exporting or exporting less than 10 per cent of their production. Such actual users are not eligible to preferential treatment in the matter of allocation of imported raw materials and components.

**Tracma tractors purchased for towing aircrafts rusting at various airports**

931. SHRI N. K. SANGHI: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Tracma tractors worth Rs. 26.90 lakhs and with a foreign exchange component of Rs. 15.90 lakhs purchased for towing aircrafts are rusting at various airports;

(b) whether any enquiry has been made in the matter;

(c) the number of Tracma tractors purchased and the towing capacity of each; and

(d) the reasons why Tracma tractors were preferred over India-made tractors?

**THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (DR. KARAN SINGH):** (a) Except for one which is under repair, all tractors are in serviceable condition.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Seven. The towing capacity with a draw bar pull is 8800 K.G.