

**Shri Tridib Kumar Chaudhuri:** The answers should also be informative.

**Mr. Speaker:** They should not be brief in the sense that they do not reveal the information that is needed. They should give the information that is required by Members. But they should be brief and to the point.

Some Hon. Members rose—

**Shri Tyagi:** No more discussion on this.

**Shri H. N. Mukerjee:** It might be necessary in regard to certain questions to have a fairly large number of supplementaries answered. It depends upon the nature of the question. I take it that you will exercise your discretion and not have a hard and fast rule that you would have only two or three minutes per question including the time taken for supplementaries.

**Mr. Speaker:** I entirely agree with the hon. Member there.

**Shri Jaipal Singh:** There is one way of economising time. It is that when several names are bracketed together over a question, the Chair need not call the names one after the other. Whoever is present may get up and put the question.

**Mr. Speaker:** That is already there. If the Member whose name appears first is not present, the Chair can call any of the other names, not necessarily the second or the third.

Now, we shall take up Questions.

## ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

### Price of Cloth

\*1. **Shri Harish Chandra Mathur:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have considered the question of fixation of

prices of cloth and yarn keeping in view consumer's interest in the matter; and

(b) what is the present procedure in fixing and marking prices and what change is contemplated?

The Minister of International Trade in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): (a) and (b). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

### STATEMENT

(a) and (b). The several aspects affecting the problem of cotton textiles and prices were referred to the Tariff Commission in December, 1960 for a full enquiry and report. Under their terms of reference, the Commission will have to recommend *inter-alia* fair ex-mill prices of cloth and yarn. The matter will be considered further by Government after receiving the Commission's report.

According to the revised scheme of voluntary price regulation effective from 1st January, 1961 mills are not to charge prices higher than 20 per cent for coarse, 17 per cent for medium 'B', 13 per cent for medium 'A', 8½ per cent for fine and 6 per cent for superfine over August, 1959 contract rates. However, in regard to 'Popular Varieties', which would constitute 25 per cent of the mills' production for internal consumption, the above percentages would be reduced by 3 per cent for coarse, medium B, and Medium A and 2 per cent for fine and superfine categories. Wherever the prevailing prices were lower, these prices are to continue. The retail prices are fixed at 18 per cent over the stamped ex-mill price. Prices for various counts of cotton yarn have also been prescribed.

Pending the report of the Tariff Commission, Government are keeping under constant review the current system of voluntary price control.

**Shri Harish Chandra Mathur:** In the statement it is said that 'pending the report of the Tariff Commission,

Government are keeping under constant review the current system of voluntary price control'. May I know what is the result of the review and what are their conclusions?

**Shri Manubhai Shah:** We feel that voluntary price control has worked to the satisfaction of all concerned. But I cannot say that in every case it has been fully observed.

**Shri Harish Chandra Mathur:** Is the hon. Minister not aware that even the trade and industry have admitted that there are quite a large number of mills which have introduced a number of varieties which have not circumvented the system of voluntary price control?

**Shri Manubhai Shah:** That is not precisely our information. What has happened is that in regard to some varieties which are in popular demand, there is an acute shortage and the voluntary price control system has not worked as satisfactorily as we had hoped for.

**Shri Nath Pai:** Is the hon. Minister aware of the statement made by spokesmen of the textile industry that because of the inadequate supply of cotton, prices are likely to increase? If so, what is the reaction of Government to their proposal to import some cotton from abroad?

**Shri Manubhai Shah:** This question would not arise out of the main question, but with your permission, I may say that I am going to deal with that question later on.

**Shri S. M. Banerje:** Has the attention of the hon. Minister been drawn to the fact that during Dusserah, Diwali and Holi, prices of cloth, both medium and fine, went up by 10—25 per cent in certain cases? If so, what steps are being taken by Government to see that prices do not go up like that?

**Shri Manubhai Shah:** If the hon. Member goes through the statement, he will find that I have said that we are awaiting examination and report

of the Tariff Commission. As soon as their Report is received, Government will deal consider it and announce their decision.

**Mr. Speaker:** Question No. 2—Shri Bhakt Darshan.

**Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath:** May I request that Questions 21 and 22 may be taken up along with Question No. 2 and answered together, as they relate to the same subject?

**Mr. Speaker:** I have received a note here saying that they can be taken up together. If the Minister is agreeable, they may be taken up together—These questions will be answered together.

बीनियों द्वारा भारतीय प्रदेश का अतिक्रमण

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क्या प्रधान मंत्री १३ मार्च, १९६२ के तारांकित प्रश्न संख्या २ के उत्तर के सम्बन्ध में यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या उत्तरी सीमा पर चीन द्वारा भारतीय प्रदेश के अतिक्रमण की कोई ताजी घटनायें घटी हुई हैं ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो क्या उन अतिक्रमणों पर प्रकाश डालने वाला एक विवरण मभा पटल पर रखा जायेगा ; और

(ग) इस प्रकार के अतिक्रमणों की भविष्य में रोकथाम करने के लिये कौन सी विशेष कार्यवाही की गई है ?

**The Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs (Shrimati Lakshmi Menon):** (a) Yes, Sir. A fresh instance of Chinese incursion into Indian territory has recently come to the knowledge of Government. A new Chinese post has been set up at MR 7834 E 3501 N, 6 miles west of SUMDO.

(b) Copy of the Government of India's protest note in this connection