

The Minister of Steel, Mines and Heavy Engineering (Shri C. Subramaniam): I think we are now importing to the extent of Rs. 4.5 crores now.

Shrimati Savitri Nigam: May I know what is the annual capacity of production of ball-bearings, whether any new capacity has been licensed and, if licences have been given, what would be the target of production and the date when that production will start?

Shri P. C. Sethi: The annual capacity of production today is about 60,38,500 units. With regard to further licences, 12 to 13 more licences have been issued out of which foreign exchange and collaboration have been cleared in respect of seven, the capacity of which is about 1,00,62,000 units.

श्री सिद्धेश्वर प्रसाद : बाल बेरिंग के प्रमुख निर्माता कौन कौन हैं और वे हमारी मांग के कितने प्रतिशत का उत्पादन कर रहे हैं ?

श्री प्र० चं० सेठी : इस समय तीन कम्पनियाँ उत्पादन कर रही हैं। नेशनल इंजीनियरिंग इण्डस्ट्री, जयपुर, भारत बाल बेरिंग कम्पनी लिमिटेड, रांची और एण्टी-फ्रिक्शन बेरिंग कम्पनी लिमिटेड, लोनावाला। जयपुर वाली ३२ लाख ३६ हजार का उत्पादन कर रही है, रांची वाली २५ लाख का उत्पादन कर रही है और लोनावाला की ३ लाख २ हजार ५०० का उत्पादन कर रही है।

Prices of Cloth and Yarn

+

*1007. {
 Shri M. L. Jadhav:
 Shri Jedhe:
 Shri Lonikar:
 Shri Ramachandra Ulaka:
 Shri Dhuleshwar Meena:

Will the Minister of **Industry** be pleased to state:

(a) the period for which the system of voluntary price control allowed to the textile mill sector on prices of cloth and yarn is in vogue;

(b) whether the system has failed as cloth and yarn are being sold in black-market above the voluntary price control; and

(c) if so, the steps taken to stop such malpractices and how the price indices compare with the prices of yarn and cloth during the last five years, showing the annual break-up?

The Minister of Industry (Shri Kanungo): (a) to (c). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

(a) Since September, 1960.

(b) and (c). No, Sir. The overall supply and price position of various counts of yarn and different categories of fabrics since the introduction of the voluntary price control scheme has been fairly satisfactory. By and large, cloth is generally available to the consumers at the marked prices and the prices for yarn are also fairly in keeping with the schedule of ex-mill prices prescribed under the scheme. With a view to holding the price-line for cotton textiles in the emergency, direct supplies of cloth at ex-mill prices to consumer cooperatives and fair price shops have been arranged and a number of State Governments have already availed themselves of this assistance. The working of the Voluntary Price Control Scheme is being reviewed at present by a Committee set up with Textile Commissioner as Chairman and including representatives of industry, trade, labour and consumers and economists. Its report is expected shortly. The present figures of wholesale price indices for cloth and yarn as given below show only a marginal increase as compared to the price

indices at the time of introduction of the voluntary price control scheme.

Average for the year	Yarn	Mill Cloth
	(Base 1952-53 —100)	
1960	126.0	131.8
1961	127.9	130.8
1962	132.2	131.7
1963	135.7	131.9
1964 (January to March 21st only)	139.4	132.7

Shri M. L. Jadhav: What steps have been taken to enforce the voluntary price control?

Shri Kanungo: It is a contradiction in terms. It is a voluntary price control.

Mr. Speaker: How could steps be taken to enforce it?

Shri Jedhe: May I know whether the voluntary price control has affected the exportation of this cloth?

Shri Kanungo: No, Sir.

Shri Ramachandra Ulaka: May I know whether it is a fact that the minimum price for yarn is available only to the members of some co-operative societies and that members other than co-operative societies are not getting this advantage?

Shri Kanungo: Yes, some of the co-operative societies which are running very well indent and get their yarn supplies at a price which is certainly cheaper than that in the market.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: This statement says that the prices for yarn are also fairly in keeping with the schedule of ex-mill prices. Is it known to Government that yarn is sold in very large quantities in the black market and that the ordinary weaver does not get it at the fair price?

Even in the indices which have been given over here, it is in the case of yarn that there is a big leap; from 126 in 1960 it has gone up to 139.4 this year. What steps do Government propose to take to see that this is stopped?

Shri Kanungo: Basically there is a shortage of yarn of above 80 counts and that is one of the reasons why these indices have been so. Essentially there is preference for some quality of yarn of some of the favoured manufacturers. It cannot be helped because it is a question of consumer preference. Even 40 or 60 counts yarn manufactured by a group of particular manufacturers is favoured by the consumers whereas the same yarn exactly of the same quality is not demanded. The shortage has been felt in the sphere of 80 to 100 counts and it is due to the lack of supply of long-staple cotton. We are trying to correct it as best as we can.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: May I point out to the hon. Minister that even in the case of yarn of much coarser variety, that is even yarn which is used for making bandage cloth and mosquito nets, the weavers find it very difficult to get it at the controlled rate which itself is higher than what it was five years ago?

Shri Kanungo: I just now said that the particular manufacturer's yarn may not be available but other yarns will be available. It might happen in a particular State somewhere, where the co-operative movement is weak.

Shri P. R. Patel: The price of cotton is compulsorily controlled and all other things are controlled. Then, may I know the reason why compulsory price control is not put on yarn and cloth?

Shri Kanungo: As I said, yarn above 80 counts requires long-staple cotton which has to be imported. It has not been imported in sufficient quantities and therefore there is the shortage.

Shri Harish Chandra Mathur: Is it not a fact that the hon. Minister had a conference with all the people in the trade and industry for cloth? It is accepted not only in the open but by the industry also that this voluntary control has completely failed and cloth is nowhere available at the stamped price. If so, what are the suggestions which were made and how has the hon. Minister reached to them?

Shri Kanungo: I did not have any conference but the Federation of the Millowners' Association have represented that it is difficult for them to maintain voluntary price control.

Shri Harish Chandra Mathur: What are the suggestions made and what is his reaction?

Shri Kanungo: We are trying to find out ways and means as to how to keep the price under control.

Shri Ranga: In view of the fact that in every State there is a central weaver's co-operative society, whether you call it wholesale or otherwise, why is it that Government has not tried to make yarn available to weavers through that society? Even if it does not have any co-operative branches in the consuming centres, that is, weaving centres, there must be some effort made in order to make it available to them.

Shri Kanungo: That is what is happening. Where the central societies are efficient, it is all right; but in many places it is not so.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTION

Constitution of Cardamom Board

*997. **Shri M. Malachami:** Will the Minister of **International Trade** be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to constitute a Cardamom Board; and

(b) if so, when it is likely to be constituted?

The Minister of Industry (Shri Kanungo): (a) and (b). The matter is under Government's active consideration.

Newsprint

*1002. **Shri D. C. Sharma:** Will the Minister of **Industry** be pleased to state:

(a) whether the shortage of newsprint continues to persist for the past 20 months on account of foreign exchange difficulties; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to increase the indigenous production of newsprint to meet the demand?

The Minister of Industry (Shri Kanungo): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The following steps have been taken to meet the situation:—

- (i) Two private parties have been licensed to manufacture 90,000 tonnes of newsprint per annum.
- (ii) The existing newsprint mill has been licensed to expand from their present capacity of 30,000 tonnes to 75,000 tonnes per annum.
- (iii) A 'Letter of Intent' has been issued to one other private party to establish a Paper-cum-Newsprint plant.
- (iv) 5,000 tonnes of Writing and Printing Paper have been permitted to be utilised for newspapers.

Setting up of Ancillary Industries

*1005. { **Shri P. C. Borooah:**
Shri Maheswar Naik:

Will the Minister of **Steel, Mines and Heavy Engineering** be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to offer facilities to the private sector to set up ancillary industries to cater to the component require-