

प्रामोण शिल्पियों में, खासतौर से  
सैदपुर, वाराणसी, जहाँ से मँ चुना गया  
है, वहाँ बहुत बड़ा असंतोष है।

(V) SUPPLY OF INFERIOR QUALITY  
BLANKETS FOR THE USE OF ARMY, BOR-  
DER SECURITY FORCE ETC.

SHRI RATANSINH RAJDA (Bom-  
bay South): The Government of India  
is presently buying blankets for the  
use of Army, Border Security Force,  
Home Guard, Police etc., from various  
manufacturers based in Panipat, the  
blankets for our security forces should  
be purchased in a way which would  
ensure that the quality of the blankets  
is as per specification and that the gov-  
ernment is not duped with regard to  
the quality and the price of these  
blankets.

It is said that on the average about  
1.5 million blankets are purchased  
every year by the government from the  
above stated manufacturers for the  
last two to three years. Government  
have laid down new specifications  
stating that the wool used in these  
blankets should be of 40 S micron.  
Previously when the quality of wool  
was not specified these blankets used  
to be supplied by the suppliers at the  
rate of Rs. 70 per piece. With the  
change in specification of wool the  
prices of these blankets have now  
touched between Rs. 100 and Rs. 115  
per blanket. Thus the government is  
paying about Rs. 48 per blanket more  
in the purchase of these blankets which  
in terms of money amounts to a sum  
of Rs. 5 to 6 crores per annum.

It has come to light that the blankets  
which are produced and supplied to-  
day are from the old type of wool  
which is of much coarser micron which  
means that the blankets of inferior  
quality are supplied while the samples  
that are shown are made from 40 S  
micron wool. There is a great differ-  
ence between the samples that are  
shown, tested and found to be in order  
than the actual blankets supplied. In  
this way the central exchequer is be-

ing duped to the tune of several crores  
of rupees per annum.

It is highly essential to institute an  
inquiry at the hands of some compe-  
tent agency which should investigate  
and see the samples of wool yard and  
blankets from the suppliers/manufac-  
turers/factories. Samples should also  
be drawn from actual supplies, if any,  
lying at the depot or in the forward  
area canteens. This should be sent  
for checking in independent laborato-  
ries like that of wool Research Associa-  
tion of Bombay, Samir, Bombay and  
General Superintendent's Co., of Bom-  
bay. Samples should also be sent to  
the Textile Commissioner's office for  
investigation. It appears that in order  
to keep genuine and large scale manu-  
facturers out of bounds these manufac-  
turers who have become vested inter-  
ests quote such low prices that genu-  
ine manufacturers cannot get into this  
business. The inference easily could  
be drawn is that they afford to quote  
low prices because inferior and low  
quality wool is utilised by them which  
is other than the specification in collu-  
sion with inspecting agencies.

In the larger interest of the country  
some methods should be devised so  
that no rejected blankets are again re-  
tendered for acceptance by the sup-  
pliers and all those manufacturers such  
as Shoddy Wool Industries who sup-  
plied blankets by working their facto-  
ries day and night during the Indo-Pak  
and Indo-China war should also be  
asked to come forward to supply the  
blankets to the government. The Shod-  
dy Wool Industry in the country em-  
ploys about 50,000 people and is con-  
sidered to be a small scale industry in  
which women folk especially from the  
backward classes are earning their  
bread through the sweat of their  
brow. This aspect should also be taken  
into consideration by the Government  
and after taking a comprehensive view-  
point the Government should remove  
the vested interests who formed car-  
tels and are monopolists. It is high  
time that the Government should ap-  
ply their minds keeping in view all the  
above constructive suggestions.