

[श्री० मधु दण्डवते]

नहीं हुए और जॉर्ज फर्नाण्डिस साहब ने जो टोटल फीयर्स दिये हैं, उन का बैंक धूप में रेलवे मंत्री की हस्तियत स यहाँ पर देना चाहता हूँ।

Selection Grade for Class IV employees, 50,000 posts, for the first time in 125 years Rs. 1.50 crores; restructuring of Class III posts, 41,000 posts Rs. 10.5 crores; revision of incentive bonus rates for workshop staff Rs. 10 crores; revision of running allowance for loco staff from 25 per cent to 40 per cent Rs. 14 crores; sanction of 2,700 posts for implementation of 10-hour rule for loco staff, which was violated by the previous Government, Rs. 23 crores; sanction of 10,000 additional posts for implementation of Miabhoj Award Rs. 8 crores carriage and wagon staff, upgradation of posts in ratio of 50:10:40. Rs. 6 crores, Railway workers' Classification Tribunals' Interim Report, Benefit to Artisan Staff, Rs. 10 crores Absorption of commissioned bearers as regular employees (1,012 posts) Rs. 0.3 crores; adjustment of 1974 strike absence against leave due Rs. 6 crores; 40 per cent promotion quota for Class II officers instead of 33 1/3 per cent; all temporary officers confirmed; Cadre review for Class I undertaken; dearness allowance three additional instalments; recently another instalment has been sanctioned the cost is Rs. 66 crores; Special Grant for Staff amenities Rs. 15 crores; revision of night duty allowance rates Rs. 6.8 crores; increase in rates of payment for work on National Holidays Rs. 1.23 crores; Upgradation of 7,000 Class III posts Rs. 1.75 crores.

एक खुशी की खबर मैं और देना चाहता हूँ। 90 साल पहले शिकागो में मजदूरों का एक जुलूम निकला था कि 8 घंटे से ज्यादा काम नहीं लेना चाहिए, नौ उम्र बबल उन पर गोलि चली थी और उन के खून से एक नया इतिहास बना और सारी दुनिया के मजदूर बन्तारों ने कहा था 1 मई को कि 8 घंटे का दिन शुरू करें, 8 घंटे की इयूटी करो और इन्ही 1 मई को अहमदाबाद में सर्वोदय एक्सप्रेस का उदघाटन करते हुए, मैंने जोषणा की थी कि सब से निम्न जोषणा का जो गैरसन है, जिन की सादाव 2 लाख 12 हजार है, उन के लिए 1 मई से 8 घंटे का दिन रहेगा।

13.34 hrs.

COMMITTEE ON PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

NINETEENTH REPORT

SHRI KANWAR LAL GUPTA (Delhi Sadar): I beg to present the Nineteenth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on Papers laid on the Table.

STATEMENT RE. REDUCTION IN PRICES OF COTTON CLOTH AND COTTON YARN

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): Sir, Government has been viewing with concern the trend of rising prices of cotton cloth and yarn in recent months, particularly in the context of the falling prices of cotton. This was first brought to the notice of the industry which in its defence pointed out that while cotton prices have, no doubt, fallen, costs of other inputs like wages, dyes and chemicals, fuel and other overheads have been increasing at the same time, which has made up for the fall in prices of cotton. The industry also drew Government's attention to the power cuts which have been imposed in various parts of the country and wage increases which have been negotiated in some major textile concentrations.

Claims of the industry were cross-checked with the experience in the National Textile Corporation and it was found that the escalation in prices was not justified by any means, I, therefore, held discussions with representatives of the textile industry in a meeting convened by me in Bombay on 10th March 1979. I urged upon the industry that they should take immediate steps for bringing down the prices of cotton cloth and cotton yarn.

Consequent upon this meeting, the Indian Cotton Mills' Federation res-

ponded on April 2, 1979 with the following three alternatives:—

(i) To roll back to the level of cloth prices prevailing in December, 1978, or

(ii) To freeze price of cotton cloth at the levels prevailing prior to 16th March, 1979, or

(iii) To reduce ex-mill prices of cotton cloth to the extent of 2 per cent of the invoice rates obtaining prior to 16th March, 1979.

The above proposals of the ICMF were found to be unacceptable in the context of the sharp decline in cotton prices. Accordingly, the matter was discussed further with the Indian Cotton Mills' Federation who have now come up with proposals for more substantial reductions in the prices of cotton cloth and cotton yarn. We have decided to accept the proposals.

All composite mills will roll back domestic ex-mill prices of cotton fabrics (except industrial fabrics) to the levels that obtained as per invoices made in October, 1978. Simultaneously, all mills selling cotton market yarn will roll back prices of cotton market yarn including hanks, cones, pirns, beams and hosiery yarn to the invoice prices that prevailed in October, 1978 in respect of counts upto and including 59s. The price reduction in respect of counts 60 to 89s will be 5 per cent on April, 1979 invoice prices. No reduction will be made in respect of counts 90s and above. Different formulae are being applied to different count ranges because of the sharp differences in the price movements of the corresponding varieties of cotton. The differential treatment accorded to different counts of yarn may have been justified in the case of cloth also, but since it will be difficult for consumers to distinguish between different counts of yarn used in cloth, the roll back in respect of cloth has been made uniform in respect of all cloth.

The decision with regard to roll back or reduction of prices shall remain in

force till 1st September, 1979, the beginning of the next cotton season, by which time a review would be made, taking into consideration the expected size of the cotton crop and the expected cotton price situation. If any unforeseen circumstances develop before September 1, 1979, an earlier review could be undertaken.

The roll back in the prices of cloth and the roll back and reduction in the prices of cotton yarn are being done on the basis of discussions between the Indian Cotton Mills' Federation and the Industry Ministry. It has however been decided that monitoring of these price decisions should be done by the Indian Cotton Mills' Federation, which they have agreed to do through verification of invoices of mills through their regional associations. Significant changes in sorts of cloth would be monitored through Vigilance Committees to be organised in suitable places with a representative of the Textile Commissioner, and the roll back/reduction decisions in respect of cotton yarn would be monitored through Vigilance Committees in different regions which will include representatives of the Textile Commissioner and the Development Commissioner (Handlooms).

Any system of reduction of prices at the ex-mill stage in a situation of brisk demand will be of no avail unless steps are taken simultaneously to ensure that the benefits in the reduction in prices are demanded and received by consumers. With this in mind, the Indian Cotton Mills' Federation will take a number of steps which should go a long way in ensuring that the reductions being effected at the ex-mill stage are passed on to the ultimate consumers of cloth or to the weavers in the decentralised sector who use market yarn. For cloth, leading mill groups to be identified by the ICMF will give wide publicity about their ex-mill prices and also about the suggested retail prices or actual retail prices for their standard products as obtain in their own retail shops. This will be publicised through

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both National and Regional newspapers. The ICMF will also broadcast over the radio cloth prices in the same manner as for foodgrains and other essential commodities. In respect of cotton yarn leading spinning mills will publicise the rolled back ex-mill prices and the rolled back offtake prices in stock depots where these are maintained by them.

Apart from publicising the reduced prices of cloth and market yarn, steps are also being taken to improve the public distribution system for cloth and yarn. It has been agreed that the Textile Mills will raise their allocation to the National Cooperative Consumers' Federation from the existing level of 10 per cent to a level of 20 per cent of the cross-section of their production at ex-mill rates. The public distribution system will be strengthened so that the NCCF is enabled to effectively indent for larger percentages progressively so as to reach 20 per cent level as early as possible. In respect of cotton yarn, there is not public distribution at present. After a suitable public distribution system has been evolved for market yarn by the Development Commissioner (Handlooms) in consultation with the State Governments, the ICMF shall offer 10 per cent of their production of market yarn at ex-mill rates for sale through such a public distribution system. Simultaneously, after identification of suitable areas for setting up new stock depots, the ICMF and the NTC (through their member mills) will organise additional stock depots in these areas and will also ensure that counts of yarn required in particular regions are continuously available in stock depots.

I am happy to announce that the National Textile Corporation will also effect reduction in the prices of cloth and yarn along the same lines as offered by the ICMF.

After announcement of the Textile Policy by me in Parliament on August 7, 1978, the Textile sector has been able

to revive from its sluggishness of the earlier years, and the overall situation has led to the textile industry turning the corner from one of continuous accumulation of losses to that of generation of cash profits. It was necessary that the prosperity of the Textile Industry should be shared in reasonable measure by the workers in the industry and the consumers of cloth and yarn. Wage revisions have already taken place in West Bengal and Bombay and similar wage claims are pending in other parts of the country. The present package of price decisions will be in the direction of the prosperity being shared by the consuming public. I am happy that the Textile Industry has also shown some awareness of its social responsibility and I hope they will make a sincere effort in ensuring the implementation of these decisions.

13.41 hrs.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

**THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMEN-
TARY AFFAIRS AND LABOUR**
(SHRI RAVINDRA VARMA):
With your permission, Sir, I rise to announce that Government Business in this House during the week commencing 14th May, 1979, will consist of:—

1 Discussion on the Goa, Daman and Diu Budget for 1979-80.

2 Discussion and voting on the Demands for Grants on Account in respect of the Goa, Daman and Diu Budget for 1979-80.

3. Consideration of any item of Government Business carried over from today's Order Papers.

4. Consideration and passing of the Constitution (Forty-Sixth Amendment) Bill, 1978.

5. Further consideration and passing of the Constitution (Forty-Seventh Amendment) Bill, 1978.

6. Consideration and passing of the Lokpal Bill, 1977, as reported by the Joint Committee.