

[A. C. George]

Corporation Mills, have been representing that these prices need upward revision in view of the currently increased cost of production. Government also have been anxious to increase the quantum of the controlled varieties of cloth.

Government have now formulated a revised policy to this end. The main features of this policy are that the quantum of controlled cloth will be increased from the present level of 400 million metres to 800 million metres per annum, and the varieties will now include the medium 'A' category of cloth also in the commonly used five varieties of sarees, dhoties, drill, shirting and longcloth. Even though costs of production have risen much higher it has been decided that an increase of only 30% over the May 1968, prices will be allowed. In order to safeguard consumer interests, selvedge printing of prices on every meter of cloth will be progressively introduced and the distribution machinery will be strengthened. The distribution margin has been provided at 20% of ex-mill prices to meet currently increased costs of transport and distribution. The penalty for non-fulfilment of controlled cloth obligation will be enhanced from the present level of Re 1/- per metre to Rs 2.50 per metre.

In the light of this enhanced obligation on textile mills to produce controlled cloth, suitable provision is being made in the Scheme to sustain the requisite export effort.

The revised policy will be brought into effect from the 1st of April, 1974.

MR. CHAIRMAN: We now take up the Private Members' Business, Mr. Gomango.

16.10 hrs.

COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

THIRTY-EIGHTH REPORT

SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO (Koraput): I beg to move:

"That this House do agree with the Thirty-eighth Report of the Committee

on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions presented to the House on the 27th March, 1974."

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That this House do agree with the Thirty-eighth Report of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions presented to the House on the 27th March, 1974."

The motion was adopted.

16.11 hrs.

RESOLUTION RE: POLICY IN RESPECT OF PRICES AND AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION—contd.

MR. CHAIRMAN: We now resume further discussion on the Resolution regarding prices and agricultural production, Mr. Madhu Limaye.

SHRI MADHU LIMAYE (Banka): The Resolution which I have already moved reads as follows:

"This House is of opinion that the Government should recast its policy with regard to prices and agricultural production in such a way that—

- (a) essential articles of consumption sell at 1½ times the cost of production, including transport charges, taxes and profits;
- (b) there shall prevail parity between the prices of industrial goods and agricultural produce;
- (c) fluctuations in foodgrain prices of more than 15 per cent shall not be permitted;
- (d) the Government shall take the responsibility of purchasing cotton, sugarcane, raw jute, foodgrains and other produce at support prices which may take into account the cost of production plus a reasonable margin for the farmers;
- (e) electricity rate per unit for agricultural purposes shall not be more than ten paise; and
- (f) fertilisers shall be made available to the Khasis with land holdings of less than ten acres at subsidised rates and the irrigation rates shall be reduced by 25 per cent."