

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). Details are being ascertained and, together with the reasons for each category, will be laid on the Table of the House.

Loss incurred by Hindustan Steel Works Construction Ltd.

2401. **SHRI A. K. M ISHAQUE:** Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Hindustan Steel Works Construction Limited, Calcutta incurred any financial loss;

(b) if so, the amount thereof; and

(c) the reasons for incurring the loss ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SUBODH HANSDA): (a) This company has not incurred any financial loss upto date including the financial year 1972-73 for which audited profit and loss statements are available.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Tea processing Factories in Tripura

2402 **SHRI S. N. SINGH DEO:** Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) the number of tea processing factories running in Tripura State at present;

(b) the minimum wages and dearness allowance paid to the employees working in these factories; and

(c) whether the Factories Act is not applicable even to such factories as are run by power and steam and labourers there are not paid minimum wages ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI BALGOVIND VERMA): (a) to (c). The requi-

site information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha in due course.

Trouble at the time of commissioning of Steel Melting Shop at Bokaro

2403. **SHRI SWARAN SINGH SOKHI:** Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) the reasons for creation of some trouble at the time of Commissioning of the Steel Melting shop at Bokaro by the Planning Minister;

(b) whether this was entirely due to rivalry between the officials of the Plant and not by the labour union; and

(c) if so, the action contemplated by Government after enquiry ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SUBODH HANSDA): (a) to (c). The matter has been referred to independent Government agencies for investigation. Their report is awaited.

12.00 hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE
Acute shortage of yarn supply to weavers

SHRI NARSINGH NARAIN PANDEY (Gorakhpur): Sir, I call the attention of the Minister of Commerce to the following matter of urgent public importance and I request that he may make a statement thereon:—

"A serious situation arising out of the acute shortage of cotton yarn and staple yarn supply to weavers in Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab and other States."

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (PROF. D. P. CHATTOPADHYAYA): Mr. Speaker Sir, the Calling Attention Notice has made reference to cotton and staple yarn.

As regards cotton yarn, the present position is that there is no price or distribution control, on cotton yarn upto 80s counts. In respect of counts above 80s also, there is no price control; however distribution control over such yarn continues.

With the removal of these controls, the normal trade channels have started functioning. In view of the fact that in the recent months, the production of cotton has been satisfactory, the supply position is expected to be normal. There has been some set back on account of the strike in Bombay and Coimbatore mills in the months of January and February, but now that these mills have resumed full working, the level of production is expected to be normal. While lifting controls, it has been provided that the State Governments may sponsor Associations of Cooperative Societies of Handloom Weavers for direct allotment of yarn from the Textile Mills and powers for making these allotments are vested in the Textile Commissioner. The State Governments would have to satisfy themselves about the genuine need of the weavers and their financial capability to lift the allotted stocks. This provision is intended to promote the growth of a satisfactory distribution infrastructure at the State level so that in due course of time, direct supply from mills may be made to the handloom weavers.

We have received no specific complaint of shortages of cotton yarn from any of the State Governments mentioned in the Notice in the recent past.

In so far as staple yarn (viscose staple fibre spun yarn) is concerned, there has been a decline in the production during 1973 due to prolonged strike and lock out in the wood pulp plant of M/s. Gwalior Royons for 145 days. The requirements of this yarn for different States in Northern India is met by the Members of the Man-made Fibre Spinners Association and for the South Indian States by the Southern India Millowners' Association. The

distribution is governed by a voluntary agreement only in respect of northern India entered into between the Man Made Fibres Spinners Association and the Weavers' Associations. The distribution of yarn is canalised through the State directors of Industries. The shortfall in supplies of yarn was brought to the notice of the Government by various weavers' Associations and the problems distribution of yarn have been looked into in a series of meetings with the weavers and spinners' representatives. The quantity of backlog has been worked out by the Textile Commissioner and steps are being taken to ensure that this backlog is made up as early as possible. An officer of the rank of Joint Textile Commissioner has been specially assigned to supervise production of yarn and its despatches not only against the existing allocations but also against the backlogs. The production of viscose staple fibre has been restored to normal level from 15th January 1974 and it is expected that the yarn production would also be restored to its normal quantities. With the constant supervision of the Textile Commissioner, the problems of distribution of yarn would also be minimised.

It is expected that with improvement in availability, the supply of yarn to the weavers would also improve in the next few months.

श्री नरसिंह नारायण पांडे अध्यक्ष जी, जब भी यहाँ लोन्गमा का मेशन होता है काटन यार्न के बारे में और स्टीपल यार्न के बारे में यहाँ पर बहस होती है। करीब 75 लाख ओं हमारे हैंडलूम धोवर्म हैं और करीब दो करोड़ जो सारे देश में फैले हुए हैं उनकी स्थिति दिन प्रति दिन काटन यार्न और स्टीपल यार्न न मिलने की वजह से बढ़ी गम्भीर होती जा रही है। आज स्थिति यह है कि 688 जो हमारे देश में कम्पोजिट मिले हैं जोकि यार्न पैदा करती हैं जिनका टोटल प्रोडक्शन 460 मिलियन किलोग्राम होता है जिनमें 20 मिलियन किलोग्राम का प्रोडक्शन हमारे हैंडलूम और पावरलूम सेक्टर में जाता है लेकिन इसका डिस्ट्रीब्यूशन मिस्टम इनका कारण है जिसके

कारण आज सारे देश में वीवर्स जो हैं, खास तौर पर हैडलूम वीवर्स, जिनका इस देश में दूसरे नम्बर का उद्योगघटा है उनको बड़ी कठिनाइयों का अनुभव हो रहा है। इसके बारे में बहुत सी कमेटियाँ बनाई गईं और कमेटियाँ बना करके गवर्नमेन्ट के सामने कुछ प्रपोजल्स रखे गए कि आखिर हैडलूम वीवर्स जिनकी सारे देश में आज इतनी खराब स्थिति हो रही है उनकी मदद कैसे की जाये। इस बारे में सबसे बाद में जो कमेटी बनी वह प्रमोक् मेहता कमेटी थी। प्रमोक् मेहता कमेटी ने इस बात को कहा है कि पावरलूम इंडस्ट्री 1963 के बाद हमेशा हैडलूम इंडस्ट्री के ऊपर रही थी कि एक्साइज्ड इयूटी को पावरलूम का छूट मिलती थी और हैडलूम को नहीं मिलती थी और इसको लेकर एक "प्रोप" हुआ सारे देश में तथा पावरलूम इंडस्ट्री, सारे मिल मालिकों व उनके एजेन्ट्स ने सारी जगहों पर खोलना शुरू की। इससे हैडलूम इंडस्ट्री पर बड़ा बुरा प्रभाव पड़ा जिसका नतीजा यह है कि हमारी हैडलूम इंडस्ट्री जो है जाकि इस देश में दूसरे नम्बर की इंडस्ट्री है उसके लिए एक बड़ी समस्या पैदा हो गई। हम उस प्रदेश से आते हैं जहाँ पर 11 हजार बेस्स यार्न की जरूरत है और उममें केवल 1 हजार बेस्स यार्न की ही उत्तर प्रदेश में सप्लाई की जाती है। यही हालत पंजाब की है, मद्रास की है और दूसरे प्रदेशों की भी है। आज कहा जाता है स्टेट गवर्नमेन्ट ने हमको इस बात में कोई सिकायत नहीं दी। बराबर स्टेट गवर्नमेन्ट इस बात के लिए सेंट्रल गवर्नमेन्ट पर दबाव डाल रही है और मैंने स्वयं, जबकि कांग्रेस पार्लामेन्टरी पार्टी के, एग्जीक्यूटिव कमेटी ने एक कमेटी का निर्माण किया तो कामर्स मिनिस्टर को एक सस्तुति दी और उस सस्तुति की नकल मैंने स्वयं श्री डी० पी० धर साहब को भी जोकि प्लानिंग मिनिस्टर है। मैं प्लानिंग मिनिस्टर श्री डी० पी० धर साहब के पत्र के उस पार्शन का पढ़कर बताना चाहता हूँ जिसमें वे स्वीकार करते हैं कि आज हैडलूम इंडस्ट्री की हालत खराब है। वे कहते हैं कि कामर्स मिनिस्टर से उनकी बातचीत हुई है और स्टेट गवर्नमेन्ट से भी बात चीत हुई है

और वे इस नतीजे पर आये हैं कि एक कमेटी बनाई जाये जोकि हैडलूम इंडस्ट्री के हानात को देखे। मैं उम पत्र को पढ़ देना चाहता हूँ। कामर्स मिनिस्टर साहब ने जो बयान यहाँ दिया है उममें उमसे ऐसा लगता है जैसे किसी सूती मिल मालिक ने एक बयान तैयार कर दिया हो और उमको इन्होंने यहाँ पर पढ़ दिया है। इस समय जो वास्तविकता है उममें बिल्कुल परे यह बयान दिया गया है। इस बयान से यह साफ होता है। आज घर माहब जो प्लानिंग मिनिस्टर हैं, जोकि आप से स्वयं बातचीत कर चुके हैं उनके पत्र में जो जवाब दिया गया है वह मैं पढ़ देना चाहता हूँ। मैंने ज० उनको रिपोर्ट भेजी ता उन्होंने लिखा

'You may probably be aware that the All India Congress Committee had also sometime back set up a Cotton Yarn Committee with which I was closely associated. Since then controls have been imposed on production, prices and distribution of cotton yarn of all counts, although the control on distribution of yarn upto 40 counts has recently been lifted. Since you are concerned with the problem of weavers, you will be glad to know that my colleague, Shri B Sivaraman, Member, Planning Commission, has had discussions on certain important points connected with the formulation of the development programme for the handloom industry under the Fifth Five-Year Plan with the representatives of the concerned Ministries and some of the States. Recently, the Minister for Commerce has also discussed some of these points with the representatives of all the States and the Union Territories as well as those of the weavers. It is now proposed by the Minister of Commerce to appoint a high-level Study Team on the handloom industry to go into these matters further'.

मैं मंत्री जी को बताना चाहता हूँ कि स्थिति यह है कि सारे देश में काटन यार्न का भाव किस तरह से बढ़ रहा है उस को धर देखेंगे तो पायेंगे कि हैडलूम इंडस्ट्री अपना उत्पादन बढ़ा सके

और देश के अन्दर पावरलूम और मिल क्लाय का मुकाबला कर सके, यह विचाराणीय है। इस के बारे में बहुत सी कमेटियो ने रिपोर्ट्स दी हैं, मैं चाहता हूँ कि मंत्री जी, हमारी पांच, सात बातों की तरफ ध्यान दें और इस इंडस्ट्री को बचायें।

पहली बात तो यह है कि आप बकिंग कैपिटल फाइनेंस स्टेट बैंक के द्वारा हैडलूम इंडस्ट्री के कोऑपरेटिव बना कर, फाइनेंस मिनिस्ट्री से बात कर के, दिलाये क्यों कि उन के पास फाइनेंस की कमी है। दूसरे यह कि क्या आप का डिफरेंशियल इन्टरेस्ट रेट स्कीम इडिपेंडेंट बीवर्स के लिये लागू करने का विचार है? क्या आप साडी रिजर्वेशन आर्डर जो केन्द्रीय सरकार का है उस को सक्ती से लागू करेंगे, और इन्सेन्शियल कमेडिटीज ऐक्ट में सूत को ले कर के उस के वितरण पर अपना कंट्रोल करेंगे। ऐक्साइज ड्यूटी आप ने काटन पावरलूम पर लैबी की है वही व्यवस्था आप हैडलूम के बारे में भी करेंगे? जो 60 नम्बर के सूतों पर ऐक्साइज ड्यूटी लगी हुई है उस को खत्म करेंगे जिस से हैडलूम इंडस्ट्री के लोग उस का लाभ उठा सके और अपने प्रोडक्शन को बढ़ा सकें? क्या साडी के बारे में जो बशोक मेहता कमेटी रिपोर्ट 'है' और दूसरी रिपोर्ट्स हैं कि इसको स्टैंडर्डाइज कर दिया जाय जिस से इस का ऐक्सपोर्ट हो सके, उस पर भी विचार करेंगे?

अध्यक्ष महोदय - अब आप खत्म भी कीजिए।

श्री नरसिंह नारायण पांडे : मैं खत्म कर रहा हूँ। क्या आप ऐक्सपोर्ट इंसेंटिव हैडलूम क्रीविकस पर देने की व्यवस्था करेंगे? अगर यह व्यवस्था हो जाती है तो हैडलूम इंडस्ट्री जो मर रही है उस को कुछ विकल्प मिलेगा और अपने पैर पर खड़ी हो सकेगी और लाखों लोगों को रास्ता मिल सकेगा कि वह अपना प्रोडक्शन बढ़ा सकें।

PROF. D. P. CHATTOPADHYAYA :
My friend, Shri Pandeyji has raised several points and some questions. We thought

that when there is production shortage, there was a point in introducing control and when the production has reached the normal level, I think, by continuing the control, we will not be helping the weavers. The plight of the weavers is very much in our mind and that has influenced our thinking.

As the hon. Member has himself mentioned, the Sivaraman Committee is the first of its kind. No committee with such wide terms of reference has ever gone into the problems of the weaving community in all their complexity and enormity. As you will appreciate, to take a correct and scientific decision for the handloom industry as a whole, the necessary thing is correct information. We do not have a loom census and the first step has to be taken and it has been taken. Money has been allotted to see how many people are actually engaged so that information is being organized and we can have long-term and correct decisions in the matter.

To meet the problem of the weavers more spinning mills should be set up and we have suggested to the State Governments to come up with proposals for additional number of spinning mills. We have stated very clearly that preference could be given to public sectors and failing that to the cooperative sectors. It is well known to State Governments that the Central Government's policy is to encourage the setting up of more spinning units so that the large quantity of yarn is available to the decentralised sector. So the best answer to this problem cannot be provided only by the policy of the Central Government; but it is to be adequately backed up by the State Governments as well. I can say that some State Governments have come up with proposals for additional spinning units and we are favourably considering those things. He referred to excise duties. The Budget of this year shows that excise on powerloom is increased but on the handloom it has not been increased. Because of the hardship referred to by him, it has not been increased.

SHRI NARSINGH NARAIN PANDEY
It should be abolished

PROF D P CHATTOPADHYAYA
This is a suggestion for action and I will bear it in mind

श्री मधु लिखते (बाका) अध्यक्ष महोदय, मंत्री महोदय ने अपने बयान में कहा है कि चूंकि जनवरी और फरवरी में बम्बई और कायम्बटूर में सूती मजदूरों की हड़ताल हुई इस के चलते उत्पादन में कुछ कमी आयी और सूत का अभाव उत्पन्न हो गया। ता मंत्री जी जरा बताते कि हड़ताल करने की नीवत मजदूरों पर क्यों आयी? मैं उन की जानकारी के लिये कहना चाहता हू कि बम्बई में महिलाओं की जा ममिनि है दाम वृद्धि के खिलाफ जो आन्दोलन करते हैं, उम ममिनि व सदस्यों में जब मिल धोनर्म एसोसियेशन के नेताओं स मुलावत की ता उन्होंने उन महिलाओं को स्पष्ट शब्दा में कहा हम लाग 1 करोड़ ६० देने के लिये तैयार थे मजदूरों का लेकिन 8 करोड़ ६० पर रजनी पटेल ने सेंटिलमेंट करवाया और यह कह कर करवाया कि 12 करोड़ देने की क्या आवश्यकता है, 65 लाख रुपये कांग्रेस के बन्दे में दे दीजिये। यह महिलाओं के सामने मिल धानर्स एसोसियेशन वाला ने कहा। और इस में सत्यता है कि जब मजदूरों ने जबरदस्त हड़ताल की, जिस का नेतृत्व वहाँ के बाभपन्धी दल और यूनियन्स कर रहे थे तो घंटे में भाई० एन० टी० यू० सी० की जो यूनियन हैं उस के साथ जो करार हुआ था उस को ठुकरा दिया गया और मजदूरों को दो करोड़ ६० अधिक मिल धानर्स एसोसियेशन के द्वारा दिलाया गया। तो आप अपनी जिम्मेदारियों के बारे में अगर सफाई देते तो इस तरह की छीटाकशी करने का काम मजदूरों के ऊपर नहीं करते। इसलिये क्या आप बम्बई की हड़ताल के कारणों की जांच करेंगे और ऐसे लोगों के खिलाफ कोई कार्यवाही करेंगे जिन्होंने बन्दे की राजनीति के लिये बम्बई के मजदूरों पर यह हड़ताल लायी? अभाव की स्थिति उत्पन्न की और बुनकरों को भी भूखा मारने का प्रयास किया?

दूसरी बात यह है कि मंत्री जी ने अपने पूरे बयान में अभाव की स्थिति के चलते शर्मो में जो जो वृद्धि हुई है उम की चर्चा तक नहीं की। पिछले साल मैंने यह बताया था जब यहाँ पर चर्चा हुई थी जो सूत 10 ६० किलो के हिसाब में बिकता था उम का दाम विगत माल में बढ़ने बढ़ने 24 ६० हा गया अब इन दिनों दाम की स्थिति क्या है विभिन्न किस्म के सूत के जो काउन्टर्स हैं उम के बारे में खुलासा मंत्री महोदय करें।

जहा तक स्ट्रेपिल यार्न का मवाल है उन्होंने कहा केवल उत्तरी भारत के लिये स्वेच्छा वाला करार किया है। ता इसके बारे में दामो में क्या परिवर्तन हुआ है इस की जानकारी भी मंत्री जी दें और यह भी बतायें कि केवल उत्तरी भारत के लिए यह करार क्या है? हिन्दुस्तान के अन्य इलाको में इस करार की शर्तों को लागू क्या नहीं किया गया। और चूकि यह यार्न का मामला है इसलिए मैं उन में जानना चाहता हू उन्होंने इस सदन में पिछली बहस के समय वायदा किया था कि दूसरे जो हैं, हालांकि स्ट्रेपिल और मूत तक ही सीमित है, लेकिन इस का भी जवाब दें कि जो कारखानेदार नायजोन और पॉनियेस्टर के स्वेच्छा वाल करार के नहत नहीं आते हैं रेयान वाले नहीं आते हैं, उन के बारे में मंत्री महोदय ने कौन सा निर्णय किया है। क्या यह स्वेच्छा वाला करार दूसरे जो यूनियन्स है जैसे सेंचुरी ऐका और श्री सिन्धेटिक्स, जो अनाप अनाप मुनाफा कमा रहे हैं उन के बारे में लागू करने की दिशा में कोई कदम बढ़ायेंगे और अपने आश्वासन की पूर्ति करेंगे?

मैं मंत्री महोदय में एक और बात कहना चाहता हू। उन्होंने तो कहा है कि यह राज्यो की जिम्मेदारी है। और, राज्यो की जिम्मेदारी तो बटवारे के बारे में है, लेकिन क्या केन्द्रीय सरकार राज्यो से हर महीने की कोई रपट मांग रही है और उन से इस बात की जानकारी हासिल कर रही है कि वितरण का काम सन्तोषजनक ढंग से हो रहा है। मैं विशेषकर भागलपुर जिले के बारे में

[श्री मधु लिमये]

जानकारी चाहता हूँ। धानसपुर और बांका के बुनकर अक्सर शिकायत करते हैं कि उन्हें न स्टेपल धागा मिलता है न ही उन्हें सूत मिलता है। एक बांका मंत्री महोदय ने स्वयं कहा था कि बिहार के अक्सर सभासदों में धागे ही नहीं, हम लोग क्या करें। क्या बिहार सरकार के अक्सरों और मुख्य मंत्री से वह कहेंगे कि इन तरह बिहार के हितों की रक्षा करने की जो जिम्मेदारी उन की है उस जिम्मेदारी को वह क्यों नहीं पूरा कर रहे हैं? क्या इस का भी ब्याल बढ़ करेंगे?

मैं मंत्री महोदय से इन सारी बातों का स्पष्टीकरण चाहता हूँ।

PROF. D. P. CHATTOPADHYAYA: Limayeji has raised four or five points. I will briefly touch upon each.

When I referred to the strike, I did not cast any reflection, still less make any criticism. I just mentioned it as a fact, nothing else.

SHRI MADHU LIMAYE: Implied reflection.

PROF. D. P. CHATTOPADHYAYA: No implied reflection even. Labour has every right to go on strike. It is a lawful right. So I have nothing to say critically or implicitly against it. Let us be very clear about it. They have every right to strike.

About the price of yarn I can give the information. But it is lengthy. I can pass the whole thing on to him because it will be lengthy.

श्री मधु लिमये : मदन की जानकारी के लिये भी बतलायें।

PROF. D. P. CHATTOPADHYAYA: I can tell you the price of cotton yarn in hanks in the Coimbatore market. These are the February 1974, prices:

4.45 kg	Counts	10	minimum Rs.	39.00,	maximum Rs	47.00
	"	20	"	62 00	"	66.00
	"	40	"	84.00	"	88.00
	"	60	"	116.00	"	120.00
	"	80	"	159.00	"	167.00

This is the detailed information. Shri dustries, we have no objection. But the Limaye is an assiduous student of this question which will be of interest to the subject. I will give him more literature. House is this. It might be of use to him.

MR. SPEAKER: It might be laid on the Table.

PROF. D. P. CHATTOPADHYAYA: He referred to the voluntary agreement. I have said that that is in Northern India. The agreement is between the Man-Made Fibres Spinners' Association and the different associations of weavers. This quantity is canalised through the State Governments' Industries Directorates. In the southern region, the consumers take direct delivery from the spinners. They have opted for it. We have not a very strong view about it. If they want it to be canalised through the State Directorate of In-

One of the reasons for the complaint is that there are many more unauthorised looms demanding such scarce raw materials. That is why I was referring to the fact, in the context of the handlooms, that a loom census is absolutely necessary for assessing the correct situation regarding the problem. So, there is a lot of unauthorised, unregistered looms demanding the materials which are not in adequate supply. That is also adding to the problem.

The other thing he has raised is about the Century Enka and Shree Synthetics. I have answered this question last time. That is yet to be done. I said on the floor of

the House that they would also be brought under this voluntary agreement requirements. I have talked to them. I am looking into the arithmetics and economics of the production. That will be done; I said it will be done, and I say it will be done. But the only thing is, since they have come into the production sphere rather late, their economics and arithmetics are of a peculiar nature. I say, and I repeat that an obligation will be put on them. There are no two opinions about it.

About the Bihar Government officials, I think with the change of Government there will be a bit more interest, and that they will respond to the calls I often send to them.

श्री मधु लिखये : आप ने बम्बई के बारे में सफाई नहीं दी?

PROF. D. P. CHATTOPADHYAYA

It was unfounded, Unwarranted, unjustified and incorrect.

MR. SPEAKER: When any gentleman outside the House is brought into the picture, the Minister should be given advance notice.

Now, Shri Ram Gopal Reddy—absent.
Dr. Laxminarayan Pandey—absent. Then,
Shri Shyam Sunder Mohapatra,

SHRI SHYAM SUNDER MOHAPATRA (Balasore) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the learned Professor, Shri Chattopadhyaya, knows that the East India Co.'s first job in West Bengal and Orissa was out the fingers of the weavers. The present sad plight of the weavers in our country is tantamount to almost that, because they are under starving conditions.

Prof. Chattopadhyaya told this House on 28-2-1973 that the "Government was seriously considering a credit squeeze to stop hoarding and blackmarketing of yarn." He also said that the allotment of yarn to the authorised spun yarn weavers will be difficult. Prof. Chattopadhyaya said that the Government has no

information as to how many handlooms we have in our country, and how many weavers are there working. The figures show that there are 10 million, or one crore weavers in our country. It may be one-fiftieth or one-fiftyfifth of the total population of our country, and we cannot close our eyes and ears to their sad plight.

For the last three years in this House we have discussed this question and every time the Government has come forward with the plea that they are looking into the matter. We want to know from the learned Minister very specifically as to what the Government has done in this matter tangibly so that once and for all we can solve this problem.

Is he considering the nationalisation of the spinning mills? Is he considering to have at least some control, socialisation, of all these sectors, so that the poor weavers will be given some benefits?

As far as my own State of Orissa is concerned, it was famous not only here but also in the Buckingham Palace for producing beautiful cloth. But now thousands of weavers are in a sad plight, and what is more, though they have deposited money with the Director of Industries they have been asked to take back the money because the Government cannot give them yarn. This is the condition not only in Orissa or West Bengal or Maharashtra or Tamil Nadu. This is the condition of weavers all over the country. Is the Government also seriously thinking as to how to check hoarding and blackmarketing and how to supervise the distribution system which has become corrupt beyond all measure?

I want to know whether the industrial sector, the category sector, has adopted certain measures for voluntary discipline of yarn prices and if so, what are they? Since any measure taken in this regard is bound to be upset by a rise in cotton prices and since there has been a rise in cotton price in the last two months, what steps do the Government propose to take

[Shri Shyam Sunder Mohapatra]

to stabilise cotton prices and the price of clothes? Lastly, the Government should take a positive decision in this matter so that the weavers who comprise one of the important sectors of the minority community and backward community in our country may have a place in our society and economy.

PROF. D. P. CHATTOPADHYAYA : I have already said that for evolving a rational policy we need more information and that the first step had been taken and money has been set apart for a very exhaustive loom census so that the magnitude of the problem is known, in the light of which you can take appropriate measures. My hon. friend wants to know the measures we have already taken. I have submitted that the Sivaraman Committee has been set up with wide terms of reference and it is going into all aspects of the handloom industry. I mentioned that the main problems here are ancillary to the shortage and therefore more spinning mills should come into being. We are encouraging and helping the State Governments to set up more and more spinning mills and as I have said priority consideration is being given to the public sector undertakings failing which the co-operative sector, and it is for the State Government to take the initiative. We are here to help them.

Production situation has slightly improved and therefore the question of hardship is not there. Between July and November 1972, yarn production was 414.5 million kg. and for the same period for this year, production went up to 429.4 million kg. There is substantial improvement in the production situation and that has eased the burden of the weaver considerably. Cotton price rise is engaging our attention. There are two types of problems. If the growers get a fair price we should not mind it but undue rise is to be checked and we are looking into the matter.

12.33 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

PROTOCOL, TRADE & PAYMENTS AGREEMENT AND EXCHANGE OF LETTERS BETWEEN INDIA AND BULGARIA

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH) : I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following documents signed on the 6th March, 1974 :—

- (1) Protocol on Economic, Technical and Scientific Cooperation signed by Shri C. Subramaniam, Minister of Industrial Development and Science and Technology and Eng. Toncho Chakarov, Minister of Machine Building and Metallurgy of Bulgaria. [*Placed in Library. See No. LT-6342/74*]
- (2) Trade and Payments Agreement signed by Minister of Commerce, Prof. D. P. Chattopadhyaya and Mr Ivan Nedev, Foreign Trade Minister of Bulgaria. [*Placed in Library. See No. LT-6343/74*]
- (3) Exchange of Letters for the mutual abolition of *visas* signed by Shri V. C. Trivedi, Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs and Mr. Nenko Chendov, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Bulgaria. [*Placed in Library. See No. LT-6344/74*].

REVIEW & ANNUAL REPORT OF HINDUSTAN ZINC LTD., UDAIPUR FOR 1972-73

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SUKHDEV PRASAD) : I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:—

- (1) Review by the Government on the working of the Hindustan Zinc Limited, Udaipur for the year 1972-73.