

Prices for fixation of price of over 600 mills which consume different varieties of cotton and produce different varieties of yarn would have been time-consuming. The prices were showing an upward spurt and needed an immediate remedy. After consultations with the State Governments and the Planning Commission and representatives of mill sector and decentralised sector, and with the assistance of technical officers in the Ministry who maintain statistical records about prices of cotton and yarn, the scheme of Control including price fixation formula, as mentioned earlier, was adopted. This formula was applicable on a voluntary basis to only 50 per cent of the free yarn with the introduction of the Control Scheme, it became applicable to the entire quantity of yarn packed for civil deliveries.

3. In the initial stages when speed was of the essence, the allocations were made without waiting for countwise requirements of the State Governments. These requirements change from season to season and with changing fashions or consumer tastes at home and abroad. It was, therefore, necessary to collect this information from individual States. When ad hoc allotments were made for the later half of March 1973, on the basis of information available with the Textile Commissioner, many States pointed out that the latest information available with them showed different countwise requirements and therefore declined to accept allotments made by the Textile Commissioner. Similarly, in the case of textiles mills, the production had been maintained on the December 1972 pattern and there was some delay in receipt of the countwise production pattern of over 600 mills. The mills which defaulted in submitting the countwise production pattern till the end of March 1973, were asked to show cause against prosecution. By 16th April, 1973, all but 12 mills had sent in the requisite information. Textile Commissioner thereupon took suitable measures to prosecute the defaulting mills.

4. The collection of information and rectification of the earlier deficiencies has been completed and firm allocations for quarters April-June and July-September have been made by matching the count groupwise requirements of the States with count groupwise production of the Mills; but a large number of stay orders on writ petitions, over 700 by now, in the Supreme Court and various High Courts, has disrupted the distribution of yarn through the authorised channels. We are taking steps to get the stay orders vacated and are contesting every writ petition.

5. The Yarn Control Scheme was introduced to help the weavers to the maximum extent possible in conditions of acute scarcity and it has helped in easing the situation and in arresting the galloping rise in yarn prices. With the improvement in production due to the restoration of power cuts, distribution control in respect of blended yarn, industrial yarns and of yarns upto counts 40s has been relaxed. The matter is under constant review of Government so that the interests of weavers in the decentralised sector are protected. All the officers in whatever capacity they have been connected with the Yarn Control Scheme have done their best under various constraints and difficult circumstances and there is no reason to question their motives. Considering the facts and circumstances of the case, there is no need for setting up any investigation or internal enquiry into this matter.

12.55 hrs.

STATEMENT RE. FLOOD SITUATION IN UTTAR PRADESH

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Balgovind Verma. He may also lay it on the Table.

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI BALGOVIND VERMA): This morning I have received some further information which I want to share with the House.

MR. SPEAKER: Whatever you have got, you lay everything on the Table.

SHRI BALGOVIND VERMA: Yes, Sir. I lay the statement on the Table. (Placed in Library. See No. LT-4349/A/7331.

12. 56 hrs.

MATTER UNDER RULE 377

ACUTE SHORTAGE OF COAL IN GUJARAT

MR. SPEAKER: Shri P. M. Mehta.

SHRI P. M. MEHTA: (Bhavnagar): Sir, with your permission, under Rule 377, I would like to make the following statement.

Gujarat is facing acute shortage of coal I have received telegrams from Bhavnagar, headquarters of my constituency and also from Baroda. Telegrams are to the effect that they have received very meagre quantity of coal against their requirements of the months of May, June and July 1973. Practically, there is no stock of coal.

A textile unit at Bhavnagar viz., the New Jehangir Vakil Mills has received only 52 coal wagons against 180 wagons of their three months quota since May 1973. Stock with this Mill will hardly last for five days or so. If coal wagons are not rushed, the coal crisis will result into the closure throwing 2500 workers out of employment. This will affect nearly 10,000 souls of my constituency headquarters.

Similarly slack coal required for manufacturing bricks at Baroda is not supplied by Colliery authorities as well as Railways since May, June and July 1973. It is apprehended that two lakhs of workers, mostly Harijans, and Adivasis would be jobless if coal is not supplied and wagons not rushed to Baroda.

I draw the attention of both the Ministers of Railways and Steel and

Mines to this serious situation and demand immediate a rush of coal and coal wagons to Gujarat, specially to Bhavnagar and Baroda.

I may add that some coal has come to Bhavnagar by sea. I do not know to what extent this will solve the problem of shortage of coal. Government should see that because of coal transported by sea, prices do not rise.

12.59 hrs.

The Lok Sabha adjourned for lunch till Fourteen of the clock.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at three minutes past Fourteen of the Clock

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair]

RE STRIKE BY STATE GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES IN RAJASTHAN

SHRI S M BANERJEE (Kanpur): Sir, you are aware there is a complete strike by the State Government employees in Rajasthan and the whole administration in Rajasthan is paralysed.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: How does the Centre come into the picture?

SHRI S M BANERJEE: The leadership of the Central Government employees in Rajasthan has also taken a decision that if the strike is not settled after negotiation the Central Government offices in Rajasthan also will be closed. Even MPs and M.L.As. are not allowed to go inside the jail and see the arrested employees. The Centre should take the initiative in requesting the Rajasthan Government to settle the strike soon.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU (Diamond Harbour): This is the 29th day of the strike. One thousand employees have been demoted and more than 2,000 employees have been arrested and 600 convicted. This is a matter which