

be waived. That is my very question. My question is : since it is higher, will the Government waive the excise duty on the indigenous yarn to make it on par with the imported yarn ?

SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH : The differential is very small. Rs. 175 is the landed cost of imported yarn and Rs. 180 is the indigenous selling price. There is a small differential for the protection of the indigenous industry. It is not an unfair protection.

MR. SPEAKER : One aspect we have to consider. That is whether it is going to have any negative sort of effect on the cotton growers. That should be taken into account.

SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH : We are all concerned about cotton growers and particularly, with you in the Chair, we cannot neglect the farmer. There are alternatives for the cotton growers. The export market is good and always there is pressure for yarn.

MR. SPEAKER : We have got an abundance of it.

PROF. N.G. RANGA : You do not purchase it

Issue of licenses for export of human skeletons

*350 **SHRI KALI PRASAD PANDEY :**
SHRI JAGANNATH PATTNAIK :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of persons in the country who have been issued licences for the export of human skeletons;

(b) the names of States to which these licence holders belong;

(c) whether it has come to the notice of Government that skulls of children have been exported to various countries from Bihar; and

(d) if so, the reaction of Government thereto and the action taken in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) : (a) and (b) A total of 13 firms, all in Calcutta (West Bengal) were granted licences during 1984-85 to export human skeletons and parts thereof.

(c) and (d) No specific instances have come to notice. There are, adequate safeguards to regulate export of this item. The State Governments concerned have also been advised to ensure that there are no malpractices in this respect.

[*Translation*]

SHRI KALI PRASAD PANDEY : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am not convinced with the reply given by the hon. Minister. Sir, you might be aware that there is large scale export of human skeletons from India, especially from Calcutta and Bihar. These exporters of human skeletons export about 50,000 human skeletons every year.

The hon. Minister has replied about Bihar. Only in July last the police have taken into custody one Shri Mullick—The kingpin of this racket alongwith four boxes of human skeletons from Government Hospital compound and Mandiri Road Mohalla in Patna city. About 15,000 children have disappeared from Patna and other cities of Bihar during the last 5 years.

I want to know from the hon. Minister whether it is a fact that the Government of Shrimati Indira Gandhi had imposed a ban on the export of human skeletons in 1976 saying that the honour of the country was more important than the foreign exchange earnings ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMMERCE (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH) : It is a fact that in 1976 when Shrimati Indira Gandhi was the Prime Minister and the Congress was in power, a ban was imposed on it. The Janata Government lifted the ban in 1977 again. Still, with a view to allaying whatever little apprehension is there, the State Governments and the Home Ministry have been asked to order investigations even if there has been a single incident. Now

we have once again decided to impose a ban on such exports

[*English*]

Cotton Production in Maharashtra

*351. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL : Will the Minister of SUPPLY AND TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the production of cotton in Maharashtra has been very good this year :

(b) if so, whether the State Government has requested the Union Government to permit the Cotton Growers' Marketing Federation to export at least three lakh bales since the Maharashtra cotton is gaining foreign market and restricted supply will stop the growth of foreign market and consequent inflow of foreign exchange;

(c) whether the above request has been acceded to and;

(d) if not, the reasons thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SUPPLY AND TEXTILES (SHRI CHANDRASHEKHAR SINGH) : (a) to (d) A statement is given below.

Statement

(a) According to assessment made by the Cotton Advisory Board, the production of cotton in Maharashtra is estimated at 17.05 lakh bales during the current cotton year (1984-85), which is higher than the production in the previous year.

(b) to (d) During the current cotton season, the State Government of Maharashtra had requested for release of a quantity of 3 to 4 lakh bales of staple cotton for export. The Government of India have so far released 2.95 lakh bales of long and extra-long staple cotton for export during the current cotton season. Out of this quantity, a 0.95 lakh bales have been allowed for export from Maharashtra.

[*Translation*]

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL : The hon. Ministers has not made any

mention of the foreign exchange in his reply. The production of cotton in Maharashtra is continuously increasing and the Government continue to export it, but in the absence of a long term policy, we do not always get a remunerative price in the international market and no country comes forward for an agreement. Keeping this in view, is there any proposal under the consideration of Government to evolve a long term policy for cotton export so as to earn foreign exchange ? In there any proposal to frame a policy for the next five years ? If not, the reasons therefor and the amount of foreign exchange we earned last year through cotton exports ?

SHRI CHANDRASHEKHAR SINGH: The suggestion of the hon. Member that there should be a long term export policy is good. But the difficulty in it is that to what extent the export should be done can be decided after making an assessment of the internal demand and availability. It is necessary to see how much is the production in the country.

In order to evolve a long term policy, we must strive for maintaining a balance between the production and internal requirement. These are the only principles which are followed by us to regulate its exports.

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL : How much foreign exchange have we earned ?

SHRI CHANDRASHEKHAR SINGH : I am unable to give details of foreign exchange.

MR. SPEAKER : He will let you know.

SHRI CHANDRASHEKHAR SINGH : But we know that we are exporting 3 lakh bales this year too and we are still considering whether this quantity can be raised further or not ?

MR. SPEAKER : Still, there are 7 lakh bales surplus with us.

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL : Maharashtra has sought permission to export 3 to 4 lakh bales. So far you