

SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT : This question relates to...

MR. SPEAKER : Something else.

SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT : Anyway, I will answer this question. This question related to the seminar on tourism, but...

MR. SPEAKER : No.

SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT : I will answer his question.

MR. SPEAKER : Why do you answer irrelevant questions ?

SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT : We have received some...the hon. Speaker has allowed it.

MR. SPEAKER : I have disallowed him.

SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT : That is all right. The Assam Government...

MR. SPEAKER : Now Prof. Narain Chand Parashar.

PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR : In the statement, infra-structural difficulties have also been pointed out as one of the difficulties for Japanese tourists visiting India. Earlier, there was a special train known as the Great Indian Rover which started from Calcutta and went round places like Patna, Bodh Gaya, Rajgir, Sarnath and Gorakhpur. Now, that has been discontinued. May I know whether the train would be reintroduced; and places of Buddhist interest like Riwalasar in Himachal Pradesh, Sanghol in Ludhiana district of Punjab, Ladakh in Jammu and Kashmir as also Ajanta and Ellora in Maharashtra Nagarjun Kadna of Andhra Pradesh would also be covered by the provision of these facilities for these Japanese tourists, because ordinarily only places in the States of U.P. and Bihar are considered suitable, for these tourists, for the purpose of provision of these facilities ? May I know if the places I have suggested in States other than these two States would also be included for this purpose ?

SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT : We would very much like the Japanese tourists not only to come to places connected with Lord Buddha or with Buddhism. We would like them to visit almost all the attractive places in India, as many as possible, and as much as they can... That is our intention. We would like them not to confine themselves to those places.

As far as this particular train is concerned, it was mentioned to me. So far, I have not made any enquiry. Now that the hon. Member has mentioned it too, I shall make enquiries and find out from the Ministry concerned.

Incentives for Cotton Export

*892 **SHRI DIGVIJAY SINH :** Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that largely due to the replacement of natural cotton fibre by man-made fibres there is a gult in the production of cotton crop in India often bringing the price below support price levels;

(b) whether competition in World market is difficult despite ex-port controls having been relaxed by Government; and

(c) whether Government are contemplating to give export incentives for effectively competing in the World market to procure better price for the cotton producers ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN) : (a) to (c). A statement is given below.

Statement

(a) to (c). No, Sir. The fall in the prices of cotton during the current cotton seasons is due to the shortfall of demand over supply of cotton in the country. The production of cotton during this year is now estimated at about 107.00 lakh bales as against the production estimates of 101.5 lakh bales during the last cotton season.

(b) and (c). India is facing stiff competition in export of cotton during the current cotton year due to easy cotton supply position in the world market. The Government of India have released 10.00 lakh bales of long and extra long staple cotton for export during the current year. With a view to increasing exports, the condition of minimum export price for export of cotton has been withdrawn by the Government. Further, unlike in the past, export quota has also been released in favour of Private trade. Government have also announced liberalised long term policy for export of cotton yarn.

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINH : The statistics given are 107 lakh bales of production in India this year as against 101 lakh bales of consumption. That means there is a glut. But I don't see why they have accepted this stand of mine which I have asked in my question—whether replacement of natural cotton fibre by man made fibre is the main reason for this because if you accept it, then it is a continuous process, if it is a continuous process, they have to think about it in a long term policy. Therefore, I asked a very specific question that merely relaxing export of cotton will not suffice. You cannot compete in the world market because this situation of over-production of cotton, because of man made fibre replacing cotton is exiomatic throuout the world. Therefore, the only way we can compete in the world market is, if you have a cash compensation support scheme and, if you include this as a cash compensation support (CCS scheme) only then it can compete in the world market. Will government think of it ?

SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN : I would like to explain that the mill consumption of cotton this year is 87 lakh bales, and this is slightly higher than what was last year. Although, last year, the full fibre flexibility has been allowed, but I don't think it would be possible for the commodity of the type to recommend any CCS at the present moment.

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINH : Which other subsidy can be given to facilitate this product to stand in the world market especially in relation to what are the announced libera-

lised long term policies of export which are mentioned in the answer ?

SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN : In the first place, various facilities and the concessions are provided by the State Government and their Agriculture Department. Apart from that, we are also in touch with the Agriculture Ministry of the Central Government so that they try to help as much as possible. Now, as regards long-term policy, this year, we have allowed 10 lakh bales for export, I have given an assurance to the exporters that even in the next two years term, next year and year after, at least a guarantee of 5 lakh bales will be available for export purposes so that the importing countries have confidence that they will be able to import this country on a regular basis.

SHRIMATI BASAVARAJESWARI : Has it come to the notice of the government that the huge quantity of cotton both in Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh has been damaged in fire and whether it has been assessed ? If so, what action the government propose to take to find out the total loss in the recent fire accident ?

SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN : A fire accident has taken place and an enquiry has been ordered. Unless I receive an enquiry report, I would not be able to say anything about it.

SHRI KADAMBUR JANARDHANA : Is it a fact that owing to the new textile policy with regard to excise duty reduction of synthetic fibre, the cotton consumption has been reduced considerably in our country, particularly in this over-production year and whether that mainly causes glut of cotton in the market ?

SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN : It is not a fact that the consumption of cotton has been decreased, in fact, it has slightly increased as against last year's consumption.

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER : Then why the price is falling ? Why are there no buyers of farmers Cotton ?

[English]

SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN :
The only problem is that there has been over production. Besides there were more than 24.40 lakh bales of carry-over from last year; and this is not only in this country but there has been over production in China, in Pakistan and there is a glut of cotton in the international market.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : What steps have you taken to save the farmers ?

[English]

SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN :
We have been buying it on the support price; about 50 lakh bales we have been buying. That is, the Cotton Corporation of India has been buying.

[Translation]

SHRI DILEEP SINGH BHURIA :
MR. Speaker, Sir, through you, I want to know that duty on polyester fibre has been reduced as a result of which import of polyester fibre has become cheaper...

MR. SPEAKER : Do you want the import to be reduced ?

SHRI DILEEP SINGH BHURIA : As a result thereof, cloth based on polyester fibre is being manufactured more. This in turn has resulted in fall in the price of cotton being grown by the farmers and there are no buyers for that. Today, there is no buyer of cotton even at Rs. 250 a quintal. Due to this, the farmers are suffering a lot. Therefore, I would like to know whether keeping in view the interests of the farmers, the hon. Minister will formulate a clear cut policy ?

[English]

SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN :
If the announcement for export of 10 lakh bales was not made, then there would have been further depression in the prices of cotton in the domestic market. Therefore, this has been done for the first time in order to help the farmers so that they get better prices in the domestic market.

[Translation]

SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to know from the hon Minister whether he would consider afresh the entire import policy in respect of the items you import against cotton ?

SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN :
There is no barter system in respect of cotton export; the cotton is only sold.

SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI : I have asked whether he would consider giving a fresh thought to the entire import policy ?

[English]

SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN : It is not linked with imports.

[Translation]

**Curb in Import of Indian Garments by
U. S. A.**

*893 **SHRI BALWANT SINGH
RAMOOWALIA :**
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**SHRI P. R. KUMARA-
MANGALAM :**

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the USA introduced quota system in order to reduce import of garments from India;

(b) if so, the facts in this regard;

(c) whether Government have held any talks with the USA in this regard; and

(d) if so, the outcome thereof ?

[English]

**THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE
MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI
KHURSHID ALAM KHAN) :** (a) to (d).
A Statement is given below.

Statement

The exports of garments from India to U. S. A. are governed by the Indo-US Textile Bilateral Agreement valid from 1st