

On information, all the four consignments were intercepted and re-examined by customs authorities and they were found to contain ready-made garments made out of cotton fabrics of Indian origin mixed with ready-made garments made out of imported polyester fabrics. Some of the zip fasteners fitted on the garments were of Indian origin. The goods contained in the four consignments valued at Rs. 16.15 lakhs were seized under the provisions of the Customs Act, 1962.

Investigations conducted revealed that the unit clandestinely removed and disposed off a part of the polyester fabrics and zip fasteners in the open market. In this connection, four persons including the Inspector of Customs, incharge of Bond were arrested under the Customs Act and their residential premises have also been searched. Polyester fabrics, cotton night dresses polyester ladies night dresses and zip fasteners valued at Rs. 41.75 lakhs were also seized from the factory premises of the firm.

The Inspector of Customs concerned has also been placed under suspension and departmental proceedings are being initiated against him.

Reduction in Import Levy on Pakistani Basmati Rice by EEC

*131. PROF. RAMKRISHNA MORE : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the European Economic Community (EEC) proposes to reduce the import levy on basmati rice much to the advantage of Pakistani exporters;

(b) if so, the reasons there for and its impact on the import of Indian rice by the E.E.C. Countries; and

(c) the reaction of Government and the steps in view to maintain the exports of Indian rice ?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER) : (a) to (c). It is understood that a proposal

to reduce the existing import levy on basmati rice by 50 per cent for imports upto a total quantity of 15,000 tonnes per annum, regardless of the country of origin is under consideration of the European Economic Community (EEC). The proposed reduction will improve the competitiveness of basmati rice in the Community market. Since our current interest is more in the export of husked basmati rice, we have requested for deeper reduction of levy in respect of husked basmati rice. We have also sought abolition of the quantity limit to which the reduced levy will apply.

Closure of Textile Mills in Gujarat

*132. SHRI MOHANBHAI PATEL : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the number of textile mills which have been closed down in Gujarat;

(b) since when these mills have been closed down;

(c) the main reasons for the closure of these mills;

(d) the number of workers rendered jobless due to the closure of these mills;

(e) whether Government have taken any decision that in future no mill will be nationalised; and

(f) if so, the steps being taken by Government to restart these closed mills for the welfare of the workers ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN) : (a) to (d). As per available information 16 textile mills in Gujarat were lying closed as on 30-6-1986. The dates from which they were closed down, the main reasons for the closure of these mills and the number of workers unemployed as a consequence of the closure of these are as given in the statement given below.

(e) and (f). The New Textile Policy of June, 1985 envisages that where a unit has no expectation of becoming viable in a reasonable period of time, there may be no

alternative but to allow the unit to close down provided the interests of the workers are protected. Take over by the Government or nationalisation of such sick units does not provide solution to the problems of sickness and the Government would not, as a rule, intervene in such cases.

A Nodal Agency as envisaged in the New Textile Policy has been set up to evolve and manage Rehabilitation Packages in

respect of such textile units that are found to be potentially viable.

The New Textile Policy envisages the formulation of a scheme to provide relief for an interim period in addition to payment of statutory dues to workers who might be displaced by permanent closure of units. Towards this end a Rehabilitation Fund has been created.

Statement

S. No.	Name of the Mill	Date of Closure	No. of Workers Affected
1	2	3	4
1.	The Fine Knitting Co. Ltd. Ahmedabad.	10-7-70	191
2.	Manekchowk and Ahmedabad Mfg. Co. Ltd. Ahmedabad.	14-12-76	1345
3.	Bhalkia Mills Co. Ltd. Ahmedabad.	12-3-82	1726
4.	Marsden Spg. and Mfg. Co. Ltd. Ahmedabad.	19-10-82	2296
5.	Kailash Mills Pvt. Ltd. Umbergaon.	31-1-83	72
6.	Maharana Mills Pvt. Ltd. Porbandar.	13-2-83	2049
7.	Sri Mandvi Spg. Mills, Mandvi, Kutch.	2-9-83	310
8.	Navjyot Mills Ltd. Kadi,	18-12-83	887
9.	Tarun Commercial Mills Ltd. Ahmedabad.	7-3-84	2033
10.	Abhey Mills Ltd. Ahmedabad.	1-4-84	1423
11.	Gujarat Spinning Mills. Ahmedabad.	6-4-84	600
12.	Ahmedabad Cotton Mfg. Co. Ltd. Ahmedabad (No. 1) (Bagicha Mill).	1-6-84	1408
13.	Ahmedabad Cotton Mfg. Co. Ltd. (No. 2) (Himabhai Mfg) Ahmedabad.	1-6-84	1427
14.	Sree Bansidhar Spg. and Wvg. Mills Ltd. Ahmedabad.	16-9-85	1001

1	2	3	4
15.	Commercial Ahmedabad Mill Co. Ltd. Ahmedabad.	20-10-85	2154
16.	Gaekwar Mills Ltd. Billimora	11-6-86	2031

The above mentioned mills were closed for a number of reasons such as financial difficulties, technical obsolescence, labour trouble, etc.

Import of Rubber

*133. PROF. K. V. THOMAS :
DR. D. N. REDDY :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the quantity of rubber to be imported during 1986-87;

(b) whether the import of rubber would adversely affect rubber growers in India; and

(c) the steps being taken to keep the price of rubber in the internal market at a reasonable rate ?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER) :
(a) During 1-4-1986 to 18-7-1986 S.T.C. contracted for import of 40,000 Tonnes of rubber. Further imports would depend on price situation prevailing in the domestic market.

(b) Imports and release of rubber are so controlled as to safeguard the interest of both consumers as well as growers.

(c) Government have introduced a buffer stocking scheme so as to keep the prices of rubber in the internal market at a reasonable level.

Demonetisation of One Rupee Note

*134. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL :
SHRI C. MADHAV REDDI :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether his statement as reported in the Hindustan Times dated 10 June, 1986

about Government's thinking to demonetise rupee one currency note is correct;

(b) whether he is also reported to have stated that the life of one rupee note is not more than six months;

(c) if so, the additional expenditure involved in substituting one rupee currency note by one rupee coin;

(d) what is the average life of the notes of other denominations;

(e) how far this decision is for the convenience of the public as even now coin shortage is persisting; and

(f) the steps taken/proposed by Government in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) to (f). Yes, Sir. In view of the continuing public preference for the one rupee notes, complete replacement by one rupee coins within a short period is not considered desirable. Efforts are, therefore, being taken not only for augmenting coin production but also for increasing printing of one rupee notes. The additional expenditure involved in the substitution of the one rupee currency notes by one rupees coin has to be seen against the considerably longer life of the coin.

While a one rupee currency note is expected to last for about six months and a two rupee note for about eight months, notes of higher denominations have a comparatively longer life period. Precise life periods of these notes have not been scientifically worked out.