

turers to base their industries in the Caribbean Basin so that they can make full use of their industry ?

SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN : Sir, in the first instance, I would like to say that we have been utilising our quota to the maximum in the United States and actually we also hope that this year we will achieve 85 per cent utilisation in the EEC countries where it was only 69 per cent in the past.

As regards encouraging the exporters to go outside and settle down there, we would prefer them to produce here and export from our own country.

[*Translation*]

SHRI DILEEP SINGH BHURIA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to tell the Hon. Minister that many countries get raw materials from us, manufacture the finished products themselves and export to the other countries. Thus, they have monopolised it and as a result of it, we get low price. What steps he has taken to check it ?

SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN : It is not that any country has imposed restriction on us. There is always a competition in business and trade. A number of countries are in competition with us and we too can compete with them.

[*English*]

**Distribution and price control of
Viscose Fibre**

***231 SHRI RAM BHAGAT PASWAN :** Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government proposes to bring Viscose Staple Fibre under price control and take the distribution of Viscose Fibre in its hand; and

(b) if not, the reasons thereof ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI
KHURSHID ALAM KHAN) :** (a) No, Sir.

(b) The availability of regular viscose staple fibre through indigenous production and imports under OGL is considered adequate to meet the requirements.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAM BHAGAT PASWAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, my question is about bringing the Viscose Fibre under price control and bringing its distribution in Government's hand and not about its availability and requirement. I would like to tell the Hon. Minister that today Viscose Fibre is monopolized by only one capitalist and hence there is no control over its price. Crores of rupees are being earned through its black marketing. Goods worth Rs. 10 are being sold Rs. 30. The Excise Act is also being violated in this regard. Therefore, will the Government take its distribution in its own hands with a view to controlling its price and making proper distribution ?

SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN : As I said earlier, availability of Viscose Fibre in the country through indigenous production is adequate to meet our requirements and hence there is no shortage. The prices in the market have also not risen considerably. This is true that there is only one factory at present which is engaged in the production of Viscose Fibre. The most important thing is that supply should be from more than one sources; some people have applied for licences and we have recommended issue of licences to them. This will result in increase in the sources of supply to more than one and will help in breaking the present monopoly.

SHRI RAM BHAGAT PASWAN : I have a glaring example in mind. There are a number of small industries based on Viscose Fibre and thousands of people are engaged in it. Today they cannot afford to buy Viscose in black-market and as a result of it, many small industries have closed down. I would like to know from the Hon Minister whether he has taken any steps to re-open those industries ?

SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN : Now, it is difficult for me to sit on a spinning wheel, but I must say that we have made arrangement to supply duty-free Viscose to

the handlooms so that the people could manufacture blended cloth. When they manufacture blended cloth, they are sure to get higher remuneration as well as a higher price.

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL VYAS : As stated by the Hon. Minister, there is only one factory in the country which produces Viscose Fibre and it stops distribution at will leading to stoppage in production. You might have been that sometime back, the people did not get Viscose Fibre for 6 months as a result of which small textile industries had to close down leading to stoppage of cloth production. I do not want it to be brought under control. What I want to know from the Hon. Minister is will they make arrangement to make proper distribution of Viscose Fibre produced by this factory ?

SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN : Sir, the distribution is being made smoothly. As I said earlier, there has not been any substantial price increase in the market. This is true that at present there is only one factory which remained under strike for 45 days sometime back as a result of which the difficulty was experienced. At that time, the Finance Ministry was requested to permit its import; they too were ready to permit its import but in the meantime the strike had ended and the matter was resolved.

[*English*]

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH : I would like to know whether Government have fixed any limit on the use of viscose and other synthetic fibre in the production of textiles in the mills in the country ? To what extent does the Government propose to increase the production capacity of synthetic fibre in the country in the Seventh Plan and whether the proposed increase in the capacity would directly effect the price of cotton because of lower consumption of cotton within the country ?

SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN : Sir, now it is a fact that the man made fibre has come to stay all over the world and there is a demand in this country also. But, at the same time, in our country we have just last year given the fibre flexibility and the use of man-made fibre is hardly 11 per cent of the

total consumption in this country. Percentage has been fixed.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[*English*]

Plan to enhance exports to African Countries

*228. **PROF. RAMKRISHANA MORE :** Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have formulated an "African Plan" with a view to augmenting exports to African countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the extent to which the "Plan" has enhanced exports to the African countries ?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER) : (a) to (c). A programme for coordinated effort to promote exports to selected African countries was evolved some time ago which took account the trade linkages with India, the potential for exports and development programmes of these countries. It contemplated activities such as participation in exhibitions and fairs, interaction between trade bodies etc. While such activities have been selectively carried out, the balance of payment crises in many of those countries, continued adverse whether conditions and political uncertainties in some areas have stood in the way of giving it a firm shape and implementing it.

Seizure of narcotics

*232. **PROF. K. V. THOMAS**
SHRI C. MADHAV REDDI :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state the quantity of heroin and other narcotics seized during the period 1983-84, 1984-85 and 1985-86 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : A statement is given below,