

LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Tuesday, November 17, 1987
Kartika 26, 1909 (SAKA)

The Lok Sabha met at
Eleven of the Clock

[MR. SPEAKER in the chair].

[English]

SHRI H. A. DORA : To day it is very thin, Sir.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : I do not know what you have done.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Use of homespun khadi

*145. SHRI ANIL BASU :

SHRI AJIT KUMAR SAHA :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of general decline in the use of homespun Khadi; and

(b) if so, the steps initiated to motivate people in the use of Khadi and results achieved ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) and (b) Production and Sale are two indicators of the trend in the use of homespun Khadi. Production and Sale of Khadi during

the last 3 years indicate an upward trend. For instance, while production of Khadi in quantity terms has increased to 106.42 Million Sq. Mtrs. in 1986-87 from 103.98 Million Sq. Mtrs. in 1984-85, the value of production has gone up to Rs. 201.95 crores from Rs. 157.62 crores during the same period. Similarly, the value of sales of Khadi products has also increased from Rs. 159.51 crores in 1984-85 to Rs. 207.97 crores in 1986-87. Therefore, it cannot be said that there was a decline in either production or sale of Khadi.

SHRI ANIL BASU : You are well aware that khadi was considered as a symbol of our freedom struggle during the independence period.

(Interruptions)

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Though no Congressman puts on Khadi.

SHRI ANIL BASU : Khadi industry is a symbol of freedom struggle and Mahatma Gandhi introduced homespun khadi not only as a fervour of national aspirations of the freedom struggle but also for livelihood of millions of Indian rural people. In view of this Mahatma Gandhi to the present era of Rajiv Gandhi, the culture of Khadi has declined. And in our more and more import liberalisation policy and more and more import of synthetic fibre, use of Khadi has declined. In view of this, may I ask the Hon. Minister whether it is a fact that the sale of Khadi in Khadi Bhawan in Bombay has declined sharply in the year 1986-87, and whether the Government is going to take any action to increase the sale of Khadi in the Khadi Bhawan in Bombay.

SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM : As far as khadi sale is concerned, we have the figures for all India; we don't have the figures association-wise or institution-wise.

If you see the figures from 1984-85 to

1986-87, it has been an upward trend, as I said earlier. In 1984-85, the sale of khadi was to the tune of Rs. 159.51 crores; it has increased to Rs. 196.74 crores in 1985-86 and in 1986-87 it has further increased to Rs. 207.97 crores.

SHRI ANIL BASU : I asked the question in relation to the Bombay Khadi Bhawan.

SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM : That is what I said that I have no details for the individual organisation or institution.

MR. SPEAKER : You can provide.

SHRI ANIL BASU : I am told that the sale of Khadi in the non-Congress (I) ruled states is increasing sharply; but in the Congress (I) ruled states the sale of Khadi is declining. The Minister has not given the state-wise figures. In view of this may I know whether the projected annual growth rate of Khadi has been achieved during the first year of the 7th Five Year Plan, i.e. 1985-86? If so, the details thereof and if not the reasons for that. May I also know whether the Government wishes to review the situation and contemplates to take action to increase the sale of Khadi as projected in the annual growth rate in the 7th Five Year Plan?

SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM : For the information of the Hon. Member I would say that the Khadi production and sales have been very high in Uttar Pradesh where Congress (I) is ruling. If he wants the state-wise figures, I am prepared to give them.

SHRI ANIL BASU : He has not answered the question. I asked about projected annual rate of growth of Khadi.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Ajit Kumar Saha to put his question.

SHRI AJIT KUMAR SAHA : Part (b) of the question has not been answered, Sir. The question was 'if so, the steps initiated to motivate people in the use of Khadi... This has not been answered. May I know what steps the Government has taken to motivate people to use Khadi?

SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM : The Khadi Commission is taking all the steps to increase the production and sale of Khadi. Special steps have also been taken in this regard. Special rebate, over and above the standing rebate, is being given for a period of 90 days to attract customers and clear the accumulated stocks every year. Last year we have given rebate for 120 days. KBs also provide funds to the State Boards and Khadi institutions to open new sales depots, renovate the existing ones as per the current plan of assistance approved by the Commission.

Organisation of seminars and exhibitions are being encouraged. We are even trying to find the possibilities of exporting Khadi products to other countries.

SHRI RANJIT SINGH GAEKWAD : Khadi is already very expensive and this year because of the severe drought, many parts of the country are not going to get cotton crops. I would like to know as to what steps the Government wishes to take to make Khadi popular.

SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM : The Khadi Commission's working has been reviewed by the Ramkrishniah Committee recently and according to the recommendations of the Ramkrishniah committee, we have amended the Acts and Rules. Ramkrishniah Committee has recommended so many measures including the marketing corporations. We are taking all the steps to project the image of Khadi.

Use of gas available at Cauvery Basin for power generation by Tamil Nadu Electricity Board

*146. **SHRI P. KOLANDAIVELU :** Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether gas is used for power generation by the State Electricity Boards;

(b) the extent of power produced by various State Electricity Boards with gas;