

convey to me, I shall be glad to welcome the information and the suggestions.

SHRI SREENIVASA PRASAD : In reply to part (a) of the question the Minister says that one of the reasons why the NTC has been incurring losses was due to the excess labour force. I would like to know whether it is not a fact that in spite of l sses and ban on recruitment by Central Government, about 600 persons have been taken on irregular jobs at a higher salary without their having to attend office regularly during the period June 1984 to November 1984 on certain forged documents.

SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SINGH : I am not aware of this fact. If the Member has any information, he may kindly pass it on to me. The information is that regarding recruitment of show-room employees, there was something about irregular appointments and the matter has been referred to the CBI for inquiry .

DR. V. VENKATESH : Sir, corruption is rampant in N.T.C. It is more a temple of corruption and illegal job racketeering is going on there. Actually there are four people involved in this. They are **Chairman-cum-Managing Director, **Director (Technical), General Manager (Technical), and **Director (Personnel). They are all involved in this. Therefore, there must be a thorough investigation by the CBI because it is already declared as a sick industry and a ban on recruitment is imposed. In spite of this, as the hon. Member has put it, there are 600 people taken on jobs irregularly and they have taken illegal gratification from them, about Rs. 5000 to Rs. 10,000 from each person, without assigning any work to them.

MR. SPEAKER : That has been referred to the CBI.

DR. V. VENKATESH : Therefore, half-an-hour is required for discussing all this. We have got enough material with regard to this. Kindly permit half-an hour discussion for this because the common man's money is drained away in the Hooghly river, particularly the Chairman-cum-Managing Director is just not having his residence in Calcutta, his family is only in

Bombay and he is not concentrating on the development of the industry.

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH: I share the anxiety of the hon. Member. I shall look into it and if there anything specifically which the hon. Member would like to convey to me, I will certainly welcome it.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to ask the hon. Minister whether it is a fact that the quality of cloth produced by N.T.C. is very inferior and even the public sector does not want to purchase it. The cloth produced for the poor is not available in the open market and thus the poor are unable to purchase it.

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH: There is the complaint about the quality of the cloth, but her question about the Janta Cloth or the controlled cloth is a separate question.

[English]

Cotton Export From Maharashtra

*508 **SHRIMATI USHA CHOUDHARI :** Will the Minister of SUPPLY AND TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the quantity of cotton exported from Maharashtra during each of the last three years; and

(b) whether Government have taken any steps to find out new markets for export of cotton ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SUPPLY AND TEXTILES (SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH) :

(a) The quantities of cotton allocated for exports in favour of the Maharashtra State Cooperative Cotton Growers Marketing Federation during the last three Cotton years (Sept. to August) are as follows :

Year	Quantity released for export
1981-82	2.67 lakh bales
1982-83	4.21 lakh bales
1983-84	1.00 lakh bales

(b) The exporting agencies try to

secure the best price for export sales and have been able to sell in a large number of countries.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI USHA CHOUDHARI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has said in his reply that Government wants to encourage the cotton export trade by prescribing a fixed price, but according to the reply, only one lakh bales have been exported from Maharashtra in 1983-84 which is far less as compared to the number of bales exported in 1981-82 and 1982-83. I would like to know the reasons therefor. Was the Maharashtra Federation not interested in it or did the Central Government not grant the permission in time? In addition, I would like to know the date when the Federation had sought the permission and the date when the Government of India had given the permission. I would also like to know the number of bales for which permission was sought as also that for which permission was granted.

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Member should bear in mind that here the export of cotton is not the aim. Only the cotton which remains surplus after meeting the requirements of the domestic industry is exported. Recently, Maharashtra Federation had submitted a demand for more export of cotton, but the quantity for export is fixed not on the basis of the interest of one state, but the interest of the entire country is kept in view. The total production, the total requirements and price trends are taken into consideration and keeping all these things in view, Maharashtra has been allowed to export the quantity mentioned in the reply. One of the main reasons for less export from Maharashtra is that generally H-4 variety of cotton is produced in Maharashtra and extra long staple is the exportable variety which is produced more in Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, and Tamil Nadu than in Maharashtra. Keeping this factor in view, other States are allowed to export more. As I have said earlier, the cotton Corporation of India works at a national level, but the Maharashtra Federation works only in Maharashtra. That is why the Maharashtra Federation has been allowed to export only one lakh bales. This year two lakh bales have been

released for export, out of which one lakh bales were allowed on 31-1-1985 and 95,000 bales were released for export on 23-3-85. Out of these bales, Maharashtra was allowed to export 65,000 bales.

SHRIMATI USHA CHOUDHARI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I agree that no state can have precedence over the country. The hon. Minister has mentioned about the extra long staple variety of cotton, but its production is increasing in other states also. Its production is increasing in Punjab also and as you have said there is considerable increase in Andhra also. Therefore, there is a demand for its export, Cotton is produced in Maharashtra on a large scale and the economy of Maharashtra depends on it. I would like to know what steps are proposed to be taken by you to improve the quantity of cotton grower in Maharashtra. Besides, under the Cotton Monopolist Scheme, the farmers have been encouraged to increase the production of cotton. Hence, I would like to know the number of cotton-growing States, which had made a demand for purchasing cotton through monopoly purchase scheme or co-operatives and what your policy is in this regard. Do Government propose to extend this scheme to other States also?

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, this scheme is in force in Maharashtra only and not in other States. In other States C.C.I.....

[English]

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : There is only one ideal State.

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH : The Cotton Corporation of India ensures that the farmers do not get less than the support price. They should get remunerative price.

SHRIMATI USHA CHOUDHARI : How many States had sent their demand to you?

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH : No such request has been received by us from the other States.

[English]

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Apparently, the Question appears to be

innocent as put by an innocent lady member of the House. But it has a lot of potentialities and a lot of mischief also. I would like to know whether the Government will take a comprehensive view of the entire problem related to prices, import and export. Is it not a fact that while the question is related to export, it arises out of the fact that from various peasants organisations and cooperatives, firstly, there has been a demand for a better hike in the prices of cotton and, secondly, because they are not getting an adequate price, they are also demanding an increase in the export of cotton? It is also not a fact that they have demanded that there should be a 3-year ban on the import of man made fibres? Will the Government take a comprehensive view of all these three elements and evolve a comprehensive policy.

Will you, Sir, allow a Half-An-Hour Discussion on this subject?

MR. SPEAKER : We can.

SARI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH : Sir, I perfectly agree with the hon. Member that this question cannot be looked at from one angle. A comprehensive overall view has to be taken of the requirements of industry and we have also to take steps to see that the growers get remunerative prices. The present policy, as the hon. Member also indicated, has been to see whether cotton production plus carryover stocks plus imports are adequate for the industry. We have also to watch the price trends. If the price is going down, we have to take recourse to imports. If the prices go beyond a certain level, we take recourse to import of cotton. So, a comprehensive view is taken and only from that angle we take certain decisions in this regard.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : He has not replied to the last part of my supplementary. What is the view of the Government regarding the demand for a 3-year ban on the import of manmade fibres?

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH : The question of import of manmade fibre is at the moment under the consideration of the Government. We are evolving a textile policy which, I hope, the Govern-

ment will be able to announce in the current session of Parliament. A 3-year view cannot be taken because year-to-year assessment has to be made of how much cotton is available within the country and how much is the requirement of industry and other requirements. That is the view taken. At the moment, we take a yearly view of the situation and take certain decisions about it.

MR. SPEAKER : I think, the farmer is quite capable of producing much needed quantity. So, we must take a pragmatic view of this and, by that, the country will save and also the farmer will benefit.

Next Question; there is nothing more in it.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Will you be allowing a Half-An-Hour Discussion on this? You are only nodding. Sir, if you just nod, it does not go on record. Please say, yes.

MR. SPEAKER : Yes, Sir.

Streamlining of Gramin Banks

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*509 PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR :

SHRI PRATAP BHANU SHARMA :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to reply given to Unstarred Question No. 1919 on 3 August, 1984 regarding review of structure and functioning of Regional Rural Bank vis-a-vis Nationalised Banks and state :

(a) whether Government have considered and formulated proposals for streamlining the functioning, structure and organisation of Gramin Banks as envisaged under the Regional Rural Banks Act;

(b) if so, the details thereof and likely date by which these would be announced and implemented;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether Government are aware of deficiencies and inadequacies in functioning of these banks as these are even unable to advance loans under the differential rate of interest;

(e) The remedial steps taken by Government; and