

[Shri Jawaharlal Nehru]

own steam. There is nothing to prevent any Member from going to Assam. There may be some difficulties in getting accommodation on a particular day but they can go the next day. But there is no difficulty at all for anybody going to Assam. The point is that when you reach Assam what facilities are given to go to what is called the front. That is entirely a military matter. I am not aware of a single Congress person barring me who has gone to the front. . . .

Shri Ranga: I mean not just the place where they are fighting each other but the whole of the area.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: He used the word 'front' that is why I am saying this. Otherwise I would not have done so. That is entirely a military matter. They do not encourage any Congress or non-Congress Member to go there. They were good enough to take me there not because I happened to belong to the Congress Party but I happened to have a particular position in this country. The General there took me. Nobody else has gone. If the hon. Member wants to go to Tezpur there is nothing to prevent him.

12.36 hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

REPORTED FALL IN COTTON PRICES AND ITS EFFECT ON COTTON PRODUCTION

Mr. Speaker: There is a calling attention notice. But we are going to discuss the price situation and I will give the hon. Member an opportunity. Is there any necessity to take it up separately? If he considers this to be something separate he can read it. . . . (Interruptions).

Shri D. S. Patil (Yeotmal): Sir, under rule 197 I call the attention of the Minister of Food and Agriculture

to the following matter of urgent public importance and I request that he may make a statement thereon:

"The reported fall in cotton prices and its effect on cotton production."

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Dr. Ram Subhag Singh): For the past one month the future market in raw cotton has been witnessing continuous decline. The quotation at the end of November, 1962 for March, 1963 contract was Rs. 687.50 for three quintals against the end-October quotation of Rs. 745.25. On December 6, the futures contract was quoted at Rs. 677.50. It may, however, be mentioned that though the prices have been declining lately, they are still by and large above the levels prevailing last year as the following table would show:—

	Rs. per 3 quintals	
	1961	1962
September	628.75	739.75
October	636.25	745.25
November	656.25	687.50
December	668.00	677.50*

*Quotation for December 6, 1962.

Note.—Quotations for 1961 relate to March, 1962 delivery and those for 1962 relate to March, 1963 delivery.

Spot prices per quintal during the 3 months, September, October, November at Ahmedabad and Madras markets are given below. It will be seen that the fall in the spot prices is not so steep as in the future prices.

Month	Ahmedabad	Kalyan	Madras	Combodia
	1961	1962	1961	1962
Sep.	210	250	253	295
Oct.	213	248	253	295
Nov.	213	239	253	281

In this connection the Textile Commissioner has been taking certain steps to maintain the cotton prices

within the prescribed ceilings and has been keeping a continuous watch over the prices. In this connection, some Members of Parliament representing the cotton-growing States met the Minister for Food and Agriculture and Minister for Agriculture on 8th December, 1962, and suggested various measures that could be taken for checking the decline of cotton prices. Those suggestions have been passed on to the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Department of International Trade for taking suitable action thereon.

The Ministry of Commerce and Industry has taken the following action on these suggestions:—

- (i) New quotas for the period 1st December to 31st March, 1963, have been issued to textile mills to cover all the crop that is likely to come into the market during this period;
- (ii) all restrictions on the movement of cotton have been removed; and
- (iii) the number of centres for conducting the survey has been increased.

It may be mentioned that cotton is not the only commodity which has shown a fall both in the futures and ready prices. This fall has been common to many agricultural commodities, such as foodgrains, oilseeds, etc. and is due to a general bearish tendency in the market owing to the coming of a fairly good crop as well as certain extraneous factors.

श्री बे० शि० पाटिल : जब जरीला और कम्पोजिया कपास के भाव सीलिंग पर नहीं पहुँचे थे, तो टैक्सटाइल कमिश्नर ने उसके निर्यात और सरवे पर रेस्ट्रिक्शन क्यों लगाया ?

डा० राम सुभग सिंह : ८ तारीख को संसद-सदस्यों की जो मीटिंग हुई थी, उस के

बाद खाद्य और कृषि मंत्री महोदय ने कामर्स मिनिस्ट्री को लिखा और फिर वे सब प्रतिबन्ध हटा दिये गये ।

Shri Shivaji Rao S. Deshmukh (Parbhani): The question was why restrictions were imposed. The answer is that they have been removed. So, the question still remains: why they were imposed.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: Actually, that concerns the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, and they had put those restrictions with a view to keeping the prices at a reasonable limit.

Shri M. L. Jadhav: (Malegaon): Will the Government raise the floor price of cotton?

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: It was one of the suggestions that the Members of Parliament had made on the 8th December. We had forwarded all those suggestions to the Minister of Commerce and Industry and the Minister of International Trade was good enough to write to us that he is willing to accept that but it shall have to be discussed with the Minister of Finance and the Planning Commission.

Shri Iqbal Singh (Ferozepur): The question is not regarding the reply but only regarding the other point,—

Mr. Speaker: If it is not regarding the reply, then it cannot be allowed. If it is regarding the reply, then too, he is not a signatory. Therefore, in any case, I cannot allow him to put a question.

12.41½ hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE
 INDIAN TELEGRAPH (TWELFTH AMENDMENT) RULES

The Minister of Transport and Communications (Shri Jagjivan Ram): I