

SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH : There is no total cabinetisation. In cases of compassionate grounds where there is a need to give employment to the son or wife or daughter of the deceased or to give employment to a handicapped person or where there is a need for deployment of surplus staff or regularisation of casual labour or purely by promotion it has to be filled or there is a need of filling up by transfer or by deputation, there is no cabinetisation. It is done at the local level. As such I do not call it a ban. On merits we do consider.

About the private sector and computerisation I do not know how do they arise here.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : There is nothing much in it. We need industrialisation to create more job opportunities.

Proposal to reduce excise duty on partially oriented yarn

*349. **SHRI SOM NATH RATH :** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are considering to reduce excise duty on partially oriented yarn (POY) with a view to including competition among the polyester manufacturers to produce yarns near international prices;

(b) whether Government are also considering to waive the anti-dumping duty on polyester filament yarn (PFY) and partially oriented yarn (POY); and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) to (c) A statement is given below.

Statement

(a) Reduction of excise duty on polyester filament yarn (including partially oriented yarn) is relevant for reduction of

the selling price of fabrics and not reduction of the cost of production which depends on a number of factors like economy of scale, capital and raw material costs, energy costs etc. Therefore, the question of inducing indigenous manufacturers to produce polyester filament yarn at or near international prices through reduction of excise duty at filament yarn stage does not arise.

(b) and (c) "Anti dumping duty" is leviable by virtue of Section 9A of the Customs Tariff Act, 1975. This Section, however, is yet to come into force, and as such, the question of removing the "anti dumping duty" on polyester filament yarn (including partially oriented yarn) does not arise. However, if the reference is to import duty in general on polyester filament yarn, the question of fiscal relief in respect of the textile industry is under examination, details of which it is not possible to disclose at this stage.

SHRI SOM NATH RATH : I want to know from the hon. Minister as to what is the price of yarn in the international market and what is the price of indigenous yarn ?

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY : The international price of POY is about Rs. 20 to 25 per kg and in India it would cost without any excise duty around Rs.80 per kg.

SHRI SOM NATH RATH : My question is : whether the excise duty would be waived. From the answer of the hon. Minister, it is clear that without excise duty the indigenous yarn costs much higher than the international price of imported yarn. As such, will the Minister take steps to see that the indigenous yarn price is at least on par with the international prices ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMMERCE (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH) : The landed cost is about Rs. 175 per kg as against the indigenous selling price of Rs. 182-184. So it is a very small difference.

SHRI SOM NATH RATH : That is the reason why I ask the excise duty should

be waived. That is my very question. My question is : since it is higher, will the Government waive the excise duty on the indigenous yarn to make it on par with the imported yarn ?

SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH : The differential is very small. Rs. 175 is the landed cost of imported yarn and Rs. 180 is the indigenous selling price. There is a small differential for the protection of the indigenous industry. It is not an unfair protection.

MR. SPEAKER : One aspect we have to consider. That is whether it is going to have any negative sort of effect on the cotton growers. That should be taken into account.

SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH : We are all concerned about cotton growers and particularly, with you in the Chair, we cannot neglect the farmer. There are alternatives for the cotton growers. The export market is good and always there is pressure for yarn.

MR. SPEAKER : We have got an abundance of it.

PROF. N.G. RANGA : You do not purchase it

Issue of licenses for export of human skeletons

*350 **SHRI KALI PRASAD PANDEY :**
SHRI JAGANNATH PATTNAIK :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of persons in the country who have been issued licences for the export of human skeletons;

(b) the names of States to which these licence holders belong;

(c) whether it has come to the notice of Government that skulls of children have been exported to various countries from Bihar; and

(d) if so, the reaction of Government thereto and the action taken in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) : (a) and (b) A total of 13 firms, all in Calcutta (West Bengal) were granted licences during 1984-85 to export human skeletons and parts thereof.

(c) and (d) No specific instances have come to notice. There are, adequate safeguards to regulate export of this item. The State Governments concerned have also been advised to ensure that there are no malpractices in this respect.

[Translation]

SHRI KALI PRASAD PANDEY : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am not convinced with the reply given by the hon. Minister. Sir, you might be aware that there is large scale export of human skeletons from India, especially from Calcutta and Bihar. These exporters of human skeletons export about 50,000 human skeletons every year.

The hon. Minister has replied about Bihar. Only in July last the police have taken into custody one Shri Mullick—The kingpin of this racket alongwith four boxes of human skeletons from Government Hospital compound and Mandiri Road Mohalla in Patna city. About 15,000 children have disappeared from Patna and other cities of Bihar during the last 5 years.

I want to know from the hon. Minister whether it is a fact that the Government of Shrimati Indira Gandhi had imposed a ban on the export of human skeletons in 1976 saying that the honour of the country was more important than the foreign exchange earnings ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMMERCE (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH) : It is a fact that in 1976 when Shrimati Indira Gandhi was the Prime Minister and the Congress was in power, a ban was imposed on it. The Janata Government lifted the ban in 1977 again. Still, with a view to allaying whatever little apprehension is there, the State Governments and the Home Ministry have been asked to order investigations even if there has been a single incident. Now