

What I am saying is that it is low. There is no doubt about it. But I have given reasons also. In past year, it was a case of drought. Because of drought and non-availability of the produce, the prices were hiked in the auctions. But this year, because of a record production, naturally the prices have come down. But nonetheless, prices are not that bad. That is what I am trying to demonstrate.

SHRI SURESH KURUP : With due respect, I am saying that this is wrong.

SHRI K.H. RANGANATH : Government has come to the rescue of the Cardamom Board. Karnataka is one of the State which grow cardamom. May I know the difficulty for the Government to organise Cardamom Board on the lines of the Coffee Board which has been doing a good work, because the hon. Member was suggesting that the Cardamom Board was not doing marketing? Why does the Cardamom Board not procure cardamom from the growers and do the marketing as is done by the Coffee Board?

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER : It could be gone into. But I am not sure what result would come out of it. Since a suggestion has been made, I would certainly like to go into that. I wish to submit that when it comes to the question of Coffee Board, the position that was taken was that on the basis of the working of the entire economies it was found that Coffee Board must procure the entire coffee and then do the marketing. This has not been done in respect of other Boards including Tea Board. But since a suggestion has been thrown, I will examine it. Whether it is really feasible we will certainly go into that. I will not rule it out. I will certainly get it examined.

Direction to textile mills to produce more standard cloth.

*393 **SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI :** Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have laid emphasis while issuing instructions to the textile mills that a certain proportion of

their products should be standard cloth for the use of common man; and

(b) if so, whether these directions are being followed by the textile mills?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN) : (a) At present, only mills of the National Textile Corporation are engaged in the production of controlled cloth.

(b) Does not arise.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister the number of mills owned by National Textile Corporation presently engaged in production of controlled cloth, whether there has been any target fixed in respect of such production, what is the quantity produced by these mills and what is the requirement of the nation. As you know, the National Textile Policy, recently prepared and presented before the House, clearly envisages the responsibility being transferred to handloom sector for production of controlled cloth. So, I would like to know whether all the controlled cloth produced both by these mills as well as in the handloom sector, is reaching the poor people in the rural areas, whether the Government is aware that because of the improper functioning of the public distribution system of this cloth, many poor people are not getting this cloth, and if so, what steps Government are thinking to take to streamline the distribution of this cloth.

SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN : Sir, at the first instance, the hon. Member wanted to know the number of mills we have in the National Textile Corporation. We have a total number of 125 mills, out of which 102 are nationalised and the rest are managed mills. The target fixed for the controlled cloth is 700 million metres for 1985-86, out of which the NTC will produce 280 million metres while the handloom sector will produce 420 million metres. The distribution of the controlled cloth and the *janata* cloth is done through the NTC and the State Governments. Wherever there are

any problems or wherever any complaint is brought to our notice, we make a reference to the State Government concerned to take appropriate action so that the *janata* cloth reaches the targeted population.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : Sri, my second supplementary is whether the Government is aware of the bad state of the handloom sector in the country inasmuch as 20 per cent handlooms are presently idle, they are without any work. So, to solve their problems and also according to the provisions of the new textile policy, will the responsibility of production of controlled cloth be shifted in an increased way and rapidly also to the handloom sector? What is the Government's programme regarding this, how quickly they are doing this work? Also I would like to know what is the amount of subsidy kept in this year's budget under this head and whether that amount will be sufficient to meet the requirements. Thirdly, whether the Government has any programme to ensure supply of raw material to the weavers for production of *janata* cloth at the time of scarcity, and also the safeguards provided against the fluctuation of input prices.

SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN : Sir, a number of questions have been put by the hon. Member. So, at the first instance, I would like to mention that the Government has already taken the decision to transfer all the controlled cloth to the handloom sector. The beginning in this regard has been done only this year. In 1985-86, 50 million metres of extra cloth have been given to the handloom sector. Besides, it has been decided that 20 per cent of controlled cloth will be transferred each year to the handloom sector so that by the end of the Seventh Plan, the total production of 700 million metres will be done by the handloom sector.

As regards the unemployment, we have particularly mentioned that this 50 million metres cloth which we have given to the handloom sector this year, should be given to those 20 per cent handlooms which are reported to be not having enough work, in the remote rural areas, and I hope that by the transfer of these 50 million metres

cloth, they will be getting extra work and it will be possible for them to run their looms for a larger part of the year, since they have not been making full utilisation of their looms during the past years.

As regards subsidy, the subsidy is already available. The subsidy in respect of the controlled cloth produced by the mills this year is Rs. 51.71 crores while in the case of handloom sector, it is Rs. 72 crores.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : What about the safeguards to be provided to the workers? That was my question. He has not replied.

SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN : They are being given loans. They are provided with raw materials; they are being helped financially also.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : May I know whether it is a fact that National Textile Mills owned by the Government of India are incurring huge losses? In that case, how is it that the responsibility for production of standard cloth has been entrusted to these mills, while the private sector mills making huge profits have been liberated from this obligation? Sir, if the responsibility is being transferred completely to the handloom sector, what special incentives are being provided to handloom sector for production of standard cloth and to meet the possible loss?

SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN : In 1964 when the controlled cloth was introduced, this responsibility was given to the private mills also but it was found that the private mills were not able to fulfil the responsibility. Therefore the Government decided in 1981 that the National Textile Mills alone would meet this requirement according to the needs of the people. As regards the handloom sector we are quite confident that whatever responsibility is given to the handloom sector, they would be able to fulfil their responsibility.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : I said that the National Textile Mills owned by the Government are incurring huge

losses and this responsibility will only add to the process of incurring of losses. The private sector mills which have made huge profits are liberated from this responsibility. He has not answered that part which was the thrust of the question.

SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN :
The private mills are paying for the subsidy by means of a special excise duty for this purpose.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE :
The Minister has stated in his reply that textile mills are producing more controlled cloth, for common man. May I know whether Government has given any instruction in respect of those textile mills which are now going to be closed for their mismanagement and mishandling of the management. Especially I am telling you about the National Textile Mills of Calcutta. Why are these mills going to be closed? What steps are being taken by the Government regarding this to overcome this situation?

SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN :
Sir, I don't know if any decision has been taken about closing of any mills.

[Translation]

Excise duty on bidi

*394. **SHRI DAL CHANDER JAIN :**
Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state.

(a) the amount of Central excise duty on bidi realised during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) the amount realised on bidi as bidi cess during the last three years and the amount spent on Bidi Workers Welfare Fund Scheme, item-wise and year-wise; and

(c) the estimated amount of exemption in excise duty given to small bidi manufacturers during the last three years, year-wise?

[English]

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

Statement

(a) and (b) The amount of central excise duty on bidi realised during the last three years, year-wise, and the amount realised as bidi-cess during the last three years are furnished below :

(Rs. in lakhs)

Year	Excise duty collected on biris	Cess collected on biris
1982-83	12094	320
1983-84	129.6	346
1984-85	12829	345 (provisional)

The amount spent on Bidi Workers Welfare Fund Scheme, item-wise and year-wise, is furnished below :

	Actual expenditure		
	(Rs. in lakhs)		
	1982-83	1983-84	1984-85
Administration	19.27	23.93	31.48
Health	82.79	97.77	128.87
Education	40.16	49.13	51.82
Recreation	3.40	0.21	0.34
Housing	0.66	0.47	0.37
Water Supply	—	—	—
	<u>146.28</u>	<u>171.51</u>	<u>212.88</u>