

वहाँ होता है, वह संतोषजनक ढंग से चले और किसी प्रकार का लीकेज, जैसा हम लोग समझते हैं कि थोड़ा बहुत होता है वह भी न हो और हमारा प्रयत्न यह है कि वह भी रुक जाए ।

SHRI K. RAMAMURTHY : Sir, have you allotted separate seats specially for ladies ?

MR. SPEAKER : They have commanded it for themselves.

श्रीमती बिद्यावती चतुर्वेदी : आगे इसलिए बैठे हैं ताकि मौका मिल जाए । रोटी दाल की परेशानी तो हमें उठानी पड़ती है । (व्यवधान)

अध्यक्ष महोदय : इस में प्रोफेसर साहब ने ही बहुत काफी समय ले लिया । नैक्स्ट क्वेश्चन, श्री चित्त बसु ।

#### Textile Policy

\*167. SHRI CHITTA BASU :  
SHRIMATI MADHURI SINGH:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have finalised their textile policy ;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof ; and

(c) if not, the reasons for delay ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL & MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) (a) to (c). The Textile Policy is actively under consideration of the Government.

SHRI CHITTA BASU : Sir, I seek your protection. The hon. Minister can very conveniently take shelter under the umbrella answer that the matter is under active consideration.

MR. SPEAKER : Can you suggest any other umbrella ?

SHRI CHITTA BASU : Sir, I hope you would respond to it. The major strategy of the textile policy of our country should be the strategy of providing cheap cloth for the vast masses of our people, particularly belonging to the poorer sections of the society. The Cheap Cloth Control Scheme, which was brought into

being several years ago, as a matter of fact, failed to deliver the goods and meet the requirements of the poorer sections of the people. The target, which was fixed at 4 hundred million metres, was raised to 6 hundred million metres. But, to our greatest disappointment, the targets have not been fulfilled. Added to that, the private sector mills have been relieved of the responsibility of producing cheap cloth by the Janata regime, and that responsibility has now been fixed on the NTC, which has also not been able to fulfil the target. In this context, may I know from the hon. Minister whether he would see while formulating the policy that the target of cheap cloth is further raised and fulfilled so that cheap cloth can be provided to the poor people of our country, and also whether the Government can assure us that there will be no further rise of price of the controlled cloth.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE : Sir, my difficulty is, as I have told the hon. Member while replying, that we are just in the process of finalising the textile policy and when it is ready, I will come to the House and place the facts before the hon. Members.

The first part of the hon. Member's suggestion is that while formulating the policy we should pay more attention to producing cheaper varieties of cloth for the mass consumption and this is the policy which is being pursued. Sometimes we have not been able to fulfill the target, as he has mentioned and as is proved, but this is the exercise which we are making constantly.

Sir, in regard to the production of controlled cloth, it would not be possible to quantify it because all these things will come within the policy which I will announce, but we will try to see that definitely it can keep some pace with the demand in this area in regard to any blanket assurance regarding the price, it is not possible for me to give it now.

SHRI CHITTA BASU : May I also draw his attention to the fact that the present pattern of production is also directed towards earning more and more profit because there are too many varieties of cloth produced by the mills. In view of this, would the Government also consider the proposal of reducing the varieties and insist on or concentrate on production of such varieties of cloth which can be made use of by the poorer sections of the people ?

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE : Sir, this is a very good suggestion, but there is a practical difficulty particularly faced by the Ministry of Finance in regard to the large number of varieties.

can make some exercise, but it depends to a considerable extent on the taste and market demand. So, it is not very easy to do it though it may be desirable to do it.

**श्रीमती माधुरी सिंह :** मान्यवर, गैर-सरकारी क्षेत्र में कपड़ों की मिलों ने सरकार द्वारा चलाये गये आधुनिकीकरण की नीति का लाभ नहीं उठाया है। मैं जानना चाहती हूँ कि क्या इस संदर्भ में सरकार द्वारा नयी घोषित नीति में कोई खास कदम उठाये जा रहे हैं जिस से कि इस आधुनिकीकरण की नीति का लक्ष्य पूरा हो सके।

**SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE :** Sir, we are emphasising modernisation, but so far as the textile industry is concerned, perhaps the hon. Member would appreciate that the scheme provided for the modernisation of the plants has been taken advantage of by a large number of mills.

**PROF. N. G. RANGA :** Before the Government finalises their policy in regard to textiles anew, would they be good enough to consult the representatives of the handloom weaving industry and their national level cooperatives as well as those M.Ps. who are interested in the handloom weavers ?

**SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE :** Sir, it is again a good suggestion. Definitely I will look into it.

**SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES :** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am surprised at the reply which the Minister has given that the textile policy is actively under consideration when one notices that the textile policy has already been outlined in the Five Year Plan which have been adopted by the National Development Council. I would like to know from the Minister whether it is not a fact that in the new textile policy as outlined in the Five Year Plan—and I am assuming that the Five Year Plan is their policy document—(i) the outlay on the National Textile Corporation proportionately has gone down; and (ii) that the total amount of money that is going to be made available to the handloom and to the powerloom sector has also proportionately gone down substantially. Do I take it, therefore, that the Government's textile policy now is designed to fit into the new theory that has been outlined by the hon. Minister of Commerce here he says that all excess capacities must now be regularised and having excess

capacities beyond the licences those have been issued to big industries are no more crime in this country. I am quoting the Minister's own words.

**SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE :** It is really interesting to get this question from the hon. Member who was in charge of the textile industry for quite some time and not in the remote past in what has been outlined in the Plan document, if the hon. Member has gone through it, perhaps he will agree with me, there is no question of reducing importance either on the powerloom or handloom sector. We are projecting the growth there. So far as powerloom is concerned it is 32% in handloom it is 40%. In terms of absolute production, we are projecting from the present level of production of 1979-80 of 3450 million metres to 4300 million metres and in handloom 2900 million metres to 4100 million metres. What I mean by the policy is this. The hon. Member was in charge of the Ministry. They took certain decisions in 1978 in regard to textiles and certain distortion has been created as a result of that policy. What I suggested and on a number of times on the floor of this house I indicated that is that we are reviewing that policy and in that context, I said it was under consideration of the Government.

**SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES :** My question has not been answered. I made two points—has the outlay on handlooms and powerlooms not declined in your new Five Year Plan ? I have got statistics here drawn straight out from your Plan. If you want I can read them. But I do not want to waste the time of the house. This is where I want confirmation from the Minister. I would like to know whether this is the policy.

Secondly, the Minister has now propounded a new theory that all additional capacity which is achieved by committing a breach of the licence given to big industry, is no more crime. In fact it must be encouraged. In keeping with that policy will the big mills in the textile industry, organised sector of the textile industry, have the field for your statistics prove that this de-centralised sector will not have the same priority. The hon. Minister did not answer both these questions.

**SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE :** The hon. Member has quoted me. It is true I said, and I am repeating it, that it is not always a crime to produce more and I strictly adhere to it. Where it will be regularised, I have specifically pointed out. (interruptions) In 34 industries where we want more production, excess capacities will be regularised. This policy has been announced on the floor of this House and the other House on

23rd July and in view of that we are going to regularise it. There is nothing wrong in it.

**SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES :**  
He is still not answering my question. You must protect me. He has not answered my question. The handlooms and the powerlooms are being given a go by. Big industries are being given encouragement.

**SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE :**  
I have given figures that we are projecting 32% and 40% growth. How can it mean that they are given a go by ?

**SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES :**  
There is no investment. How can there be growth without investment ?

**PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE :**  
Irregularities are nationalised.

**MR. SPEAKER :** Shri somjibhai Damor. He is not there. Shri Vajpayee. He is not present.

**SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES :**  
Members are sitting outside in a dharna. What is the problem.

#### Export of Jute goods to key Markets.

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\*170. **SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN :**  
**SHRI RAJESH KUMAR SINGH :**

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the extent to which India's jute goods exports have suffered during the last two years as a result of competition from synthetics as well as from Bangladesh;

(b) whether China has posed a new threat to India's jute goods export by entering the global market particularly in carpet backing; and

(c) if so, the measures taken by Government to safeguard India's interests in the export of jute goods to key markets of the world ?

**THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL & MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) :** (a) to (c). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

#### Statement

(a) Figures of Export of Indian jute goods during the last three years given below :

Year	Quantity (000 tonnes)	Value (in Rs. lakhs)
1977-78 . . .	521.4	244.09
1978-79 . . .	328.1	166.73
1979-80 . . .	490.2	332.72

(b) News paper reports have been received regarding Chinese entry into world market. Recently, they are reported to have sold Jute bags in Sri Lanka at prices lower than India's or Bangladesh's. Reports also indicate that it is making inquiries regarding machinery for manufacture of carpet backing. Government are trying to ascertain the situation.

(c) Measures have already been initiated to mount an aggressive export promotion drive. The industry has been advised to modernise and diversify its product range and improve its marketing channels. Investments are being made on R & D to make jute and jute goods more diversified and competitive. Government have recently nationalised six jute mills, which has given it control over about 40% carpet backing production in the country. This will enable India to retain its foothold in the export market and it will also act as a trend setter for the private sector mills.

**श्री राम विलास पासवान :** अध्यक्ष महोदय, मंत्री जी ने जो जवाब दिया है और मेरा जो प्रश्न था, उस का सही-सही जवाब नहीं आया है !

**अध्यक्ष महोदय :** जो बाकी रह गया है, आप पूछिए ।

**श्री राम विलास पासवान :** हमारे पास जो फिगर्त हैं और मेरे प्रश्न का जो विशेष मुद्दा था वह यह था कि पिछले दो वर्षों में कितना आप ने निर्यात किया है और उस निर्यात में, जो जूट का निर्यात आप ने किया है, उस में कितना घाटा हुआ है ?