

[Shri Jadhav]

wonder. The mill sector which has killed all the other sectors, is not looked into because the capitalists are there who can contribute big purses to the ruling party. The other sectors are not looked into; they are neglected. In the powerloom sector, there are so many people who have got individual powerlooms and there are co-operatives. They are being criticised. Even in a pamphlet *The Voice of the Handloom* by Shri Somappa, he says:

"Our greatest rival is the powerloom".

This is really a wonder.

In the handloom sector, the figure ought to have been 2,025 million yards in 1958-59. What progress has been achieved? The hon. Member said just now that the progress has been satisfactory. But what was expected by us in this year? It was expected that 2,025 million yards ought to have been produced in the handloom sector.

An Hon. Member: At the end of five years.

Shri Jadhav: It is in 1958-59—annual progression of production by the various sectors.

What about our Ambar Charkha? What was expected upto the end of 1960-61? We expected 1,500 million yards of Ambar charkha khadi. What sort of progress is this? I think it is nothing but Irish promotion.

The Minister of Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): I do not want to interrupt the hon. Member, but he is adding one zero. 150 million was the target at the beginning of the scheme. It has been revised afterwards to 60 million yards. It was 150 million yards, not 1,500 million yards. It has been revised after practical experience to 60 million yards.

Shri Jadhav: Thank you, I expected that there would be a revision of these things.

Now, mills are closing down on the ground that they are uneconomical units. I will ask the Ministry to see that these mills are taken over by the Government and run in the public sector. The argument will be put forward that there are not competent persons to manage these mills. I will ask the Ministry to employ the very persons who were managing these mills. When they say that they are coming forward to implement the Plan and they are there to see that the Plan is successful, let them come forward and manage these mills. Why are we afraid? By and by, we must see that either the mills are nationalised or the quota allotted to them is redistributed among the handloom and powerloom sectors.

Now, I want to say something about fertilisers. Our total demand in 1959-60 is expected to be—I had asked an unstarred question No. 505 which was replied on 19th February, 1959—to the tune of 20,18,000 tons while the production from indigenous sources is estimated at 7,78,000 tons. In 1957-58, only 4,51,940 tons were imported. There will be a total deficit of nearly 8-9 lakh tons. Efforts should be made to see that there is more production by setting up more factories.

There are some other cut motions to which I wanted to refer, but as time is short, I am not dealing with them. I am thankful to you for giving me this opportunity.

15-29 hrs.

PETITIONS

EXCISE DUTY ON OIL PRODUCED BY PINTO (WOODEN) CHEKKUS

Shri E. C. Majhi (Mayurbhanj—Reserved—Sch. Tribes): I beg to present a petition signed by three petitioners regarding excise duty on oil produced by Pinto (wooden) Chekkus.

EXCISE DUTY ON VEGETABLE NON-ESSENTIAL OILS

Shri E. C. Majhi: I beg to present a petition signed by a petitioner regarding excise duty on vegetable non-essential oils.

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS: contd.
MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY—contd.

Shrimati Masda Ahmed (Jorhat): Sir, I beg to say at the outset that I am neither going to comprehensively review the annual report of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry nor searchingly scrutinise their Demands. I shall merely submit some humble observations on a few activities of this Ministry. There can be no two opinions in this House that this Ministry has played an effective role in implementing the avowed policy of the Government of India in diverse economic spheres. The annual report shows that despite many difficulties and shortage of foreign exchange the Ministry of Commerce and Industry has made all-round efforts to better the industrial output and instal new lines of production in many industries. It is a matter of genuine pleasure for me, and I believe that other hon. Members of this House will join with me in congratulating the Ministry for its endeavour to change the industrial face of India. Leaving aside the big cities, the small towns and even villages are today humming with industrial activity and millions of hands, formerly unemployed or under-employed, are now engaged on gainful employment. The Ministry through a large number of governmental and semi-governmental bodies has financially and technically assisted the small entrepreneurs to acquire a new status of life. In a period of seven years only (seven years of the Plan period), India has acquired pride of place on the industrial map of the world and it is, if I may say so, not a small achievement considering that the country has emerged from a war-torn economy and set-backs of geographical partitions.

First of all, I would like to say a few words about the handloom industry which has been aptly described as the jewel of our cottage industries. This hereditary cottage industry is playing a significant role in our rural economy. It is providing direct employment to 75 lakhs of persons who work on some 25 lakh handlooms spread all over the country. The handloom industry has come to stay and we can confidently hope that in the near future it will provide gainful employment to more and more persons. Here I wish to say something about the quality, designs and colour schemes of the handloom fabrics. I understand that fashion experts of some foreign countries, where we are interested in exporting our handloom fabrics, believe that the quality, designs and colour-schemes will not have a wide appeal and popularity in those countries. For instance, we in this country like bold, red, green and blue colours, but in Paris, New York and other fashion centres the designers and customers like faint, gentle colours. So, I would like the Minister to look into this aspect of the handloom industry so that just by oversight we do not lose foreign markets for our handloom products when production is rapidly increasing. I am happy to see that this Ministry and all the State Governments have set up a chain of emporia within the country and a few important centres abroad where specimen of the Indian handicrafts are displayed on a permanent basis. Assam which has the unique privilege of being the premier State of India so far as non-mulberry silk is concerned has some exquisite traditional handicrafts such as embroidered silk and cotton fabrics, bamboo and cane articles, wood carving, etc. But I am sorry to say that these articles of Assam handicrafts are not exhibited in the show cases of the Central Government emporium in the capital and I do hope that specimens of Assam handicrafts will have a permanent corner in the Central cottage industries emporium and other displaying centres abroad in the near future. The Handicrafts Board arranged an exhibi-