

Production of Yarn and Cloth for Domestic Consumption

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*617. **SHRI P. GANGADEB:**
SHRI PURSHOTTAM KAKODKAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether production of yarn and cloth for both domestic consumption and exports would be augmented in the Fifth Plan;

(b) if so, whether Government will regulate the production pattern of yarn; and

(c) the salient features thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (PROF. D. P. CHATTOPADHYAYA):
 (a) to (c). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) Yes, Sir. It has been proposed to raise the production of cotton textiles to 10,000 million mts. from both the organised and decentralized Sectors, and of yarn to 1,270 million kgs. at the end of the Fifth Plan. For this purpose it has been decided to allow expansion to the extent of 1.6 million spindles and 10,000 looms.

(b) and (c). Yes, Sir. The objective is to increase the supply of free yarn for the decentralised weaving sector with special reference to the handloom sector, and to bring about better dispersal of spinning capacity to cater effectively to the needs of weavers throughout the country. The expansion in spinning capacity will be made subject to the following conditions:—

(a) the units will have to supply their production in hand or cone form as per the directions of the Textile Commissioner; and

(b) 90 per cent of the new spinning production should be below 40s count.

SHRI P. GANGADEB: In view of the fact that there is country-wide shortage of coarse and medium cloth at a reasonable price, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether Government have made any plan to standardise production so as to produce only one or two varieties of cloth and ban the rest of the varieties from being produced in this country, and further will Government ensure that a reasonable proportion of the total production of standard cloth produced in this country is made available to the public, and that no inferior quality of coarse cloth should find place in it.

PROF. D. P. CHATTOPADHYAYA:
 We appreciate the point made by the hon. Member regarding the necessity of reducing the enormous number of varieties that we have in this textile field, that is, 1100 varieties of textiles or so. He has suggested whether we can bring it down to one or two. Obviously that will be very difficult and it will create dislocation of production and thereby causing largescale unemployment. But the main point is taken care of and it is this. We have already introduced 10 per cent reduction with effect from last year and gradually we propose to reduce the varieties more and more. And, regarding the second question I would like to say that regarding the total production of textiles in the mill sector we have reserved nearly 24 per cent for standard cloth and we have introduced new specifications from 1st of March of this year so that the quality of the standard cloth improves.

SHRI P. GANGADEB: Sir, I would further like to know whether Government is also thinking of allowing production of finer varieties of cloth only for the purposes of export and at the same time having limitation of its domestic consumption? What is the decision of the Government in this regard?

PROF. D. P. CHATTOPADHYAYA:
 On this point the position is like this. All textiles that we export are not of finer or super-fine variety. Medium

variety is there. What type of textile we can export depends upon the demand for that particular type of product. Superfine variety and fine variety is not so much in demand.

SHRI K. S. CHAVDA: Handloom industry does not get adequate quantity of cotton. Whatever the handloom sector has to get is to be purchased at very high prices. In view of the fact that the country gets valuable foreign exchange by export of handloom cloth, may I know whether Government will think in terms of stopping the export of yarn and make it available to the handloom industry?

PROF. D. P. CHATTOPADHYAYA: In the expansion that is allowed in the textile field, 90% of yarn is under the count forties and this is generally meant for the handloom sector. It is having in view the weavers' interest in mind, that the Government has seen to it that 90 per cent of the production is made available mainly to them.

SHRI S. R. DAMANI: During the Fifth Five-year Plan spindles expansion is estimated to be 2.06 millions and looms 10,000 and this would require more consumption of cotton. May I know from the Minister whether Government, while allowing expansion, will also keep in mind that side by side the production of cotton also increases?

PROF. D. P. CHATTOPADHYAYA: We share this view and we propose also to increase the production of cotton and in fact so far as the medium varieties of cotton and its production is concerned we still are having short supply. We propose to encourage our farmers to produce more of medium staple. We have imported two lakh bales of medium staple cotton from Pakistan while our shortage is 8 lakh bales.

SHRI K. GOPAL: The Minister stated in reply to part (b) and (c) that the objective is to increase the supply of free yarn for the decentralised weaving sector with special reference to the

handloom sector'. I hope the Minister will agree with me that the problem is not one of production but of distribution. I would like to know from him what steps have been taken by Government to streamline the distribution of yarn?

PROF. D. P. CHATTOPADHYAYA: Distribution is an issue about which I do not know whether it is necessarily a problem. It is allotted by the Textile Commissioner to the respective State Governments. It is for them to lift and distribute properly.

SHRI H. M. PATEL: The Minister said that he will revise the specification of standard cloth. Has he considered the advisability of including in this revised classification the finer cloth produced in the country so that you can consume more of long staple cotton which is grown in this country? My other question is this. The Minister also said that there is a shortage of medium staple cotton. Would they consider, while asking the farmers to produce it, seeing to it that they increase the production so that whatever production takes place here, it does not meet with the same fate as has happened to the long staple cotton?

PROF. D. P. CHATTOPADHYAYA: We have already made the specification. But I am not sure even if we propose to use long staple cotton for the production of standard cloth, whether it be technically feasible or not.

SHRI H. M. PATEL: It is possible to produce this.

PROF. D. P. CHATTOPADHYAYA: I am not quite sure. That is why I said that. This possibility will certainly be examined. And, as I have said, it is our endeavour to see that whatever is produced in the country and is in demand, naturally, we would like to absorb it but the question is whether we can absorb and whether the production capacity is there.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: Sir, I believe, the hon. Minister is aware that if they produce standard cloth in the name of the poor, it means that they will be getting only substandard coarse variety. We can produce the standard cloth even out of long staple cotton that has been produced in this country which is surplus. Will the Minister assure that this long staple variety will be fully utilised to produce the standard cloth, particularly, by ensuring that in the decentralised sector, for the production of sarees the same is reserved to the handloom sector and finer count of yarn is supplied to the handloom weavers to produce sarees? The middle sector does not produce sarees, as was recommended long time back by the Ashoka Mehta Committee. Will some measures be taken to rationalise the production of cloth to consume the internal cotton and also the yarn?

PROF. D. P. CHATTOPADHYAYA: I have already responded to the question of Mr. Patel. I would like to repeat it. We are examining the possibility of using long staple cotton for the purpose of production of mill-cloth.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: You have not even given remunerative price. How can the farmers produce the cotton?

SHRI RAJA KULKARNI: Is there representation made by the textile mills in respect of the production of standard cloth and other varieties? If so, what has been done to that?

PROF. D. P. CHATTOPADHYAYA: A section of industry has represented about their difficulties regarding the production of standard cloth because they find that it is unremunerative from their point of view. From 1968 to 1974 the cost of production, according to their calculation, has gone up nearly to 105 per cent. But, last year, we allowed utilisation of 30 per cent. Even now 65 per cent of it is un-

covered. They have a grievance; we are looking into the matter and a decision will be taken soon.

श्री हुकम चन्द कछवाय: पावर लूम को आप ने लघु उद्योग माना है और कपड़े का उत्पादन बढ़ाने में पावर लूम बहुत अधिक महयोग देता है। इस पर इयूटी दम रूपसे पहले थी, अब आप ने 200 रूपए कर दी है। इस में उद्योग काफी खराब स्थिति में आया है ना क्या आप इस बात पर विचार करेंगे कि यह इयूटी कम की जाए? जो एक यूनिट चलाता है उस पर भी 200 रूपए और जो 100 यूनिट चलाता है उस पर भी 200 रूपए इयूटी आप ने लगा दी है, तो क्या इस में कुछ अंतर करना चाहते हैं और यह इयूटी कम करना चाहते हैं क्या?

PROF. D. P. CHATTOPADHYAYA: Sir, I cannot say whether it will be reduced but so far as smaller units are concerned we may have a look at it.

Purchase of Wide-Bodied Aircraft

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*620. **SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPAN.**

SHRIMATI PARVATHI KRISHNAN: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian Airlines is going to buy some wide-bodied aircraft;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) which are the countries who have so far approached India?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJ BAHADUR): (a) to (c). Indian Airlines have submitted to Government their detailed proposals regarding purchase of wide-bodied aircraft. These are under the consideration of Government.