

### Rise in the price of Non-Controlled Cloth

\*697. SHRI PRABODH CHANDRA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether cotton cloth manufacturers have decided to raise the prices of non-controlled cloth to offset the so-called losses incurred by them on the sale of controlled cloth;

(b) if so, the justification for such decision; and

(c) Government's reaction thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (PROF. D. P. CHATTOPADHYAYA) : (a) and (b) The Indian Cotton Mills' Federation have recently issued a Press Note stating the reasons for rise in cloth prices since the beginning of 1975. The reasons cited are rise in prices of cotton, and increased cost of other inputs, like, wages, credit, power and fuel etc. It has also been stated that the loss of controlled cloth and export obligation has to be made good by raising the prices of non-controlled varieties, to the extent the market conditions permit.

(c) Government indicated to the Indian Cotton Mills' Federation that they viewed with disfavour any reversal of the welcome trend of decline in prices which had benefited consumers to some extent.

### Export of Woollen Cloth during 1974-75

\*698. SHRI VEKARIA:

SHRI ARVIND M. PATEL :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the quantity with value of the woollen cloth and wool exported during 1974-75; and

(b) the names of the countries to whom Indian woollen cloth is being exported ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH) : (a) During April 1974 to February 1975, the latest period for which figures are available the quantity of woollen cloth and wool exported is as under :—

	Quantity	Value
Woollen cloth	5.99 lakh metres.	Rs. 158.40 lakhs.
Wool	47.00 lakh kgs.	Rs. 621.21 lakhs.

(b) The names of countries to which Indian woollen cloth is being exported are : United Kingdom, Denmark, Sweden, Hongkong, Singapore, United States of America, Zambia, U.S.S.R., Kuwait, Ethiopia, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, South Korea, Bangladesh, Dubai and Australia.

### Reforms in Customs Departments

\*701. SHRI RAM PRAKASH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have launched a campaign for carrying out reforms in the Department of Customs; and

(b) if so, what are the salient features in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The anti-smuggling measures have been strengthened and extra staff and equipment have also been provided to the field offices.

Officers of doubtful integrity and those lacking in drive and initiative have been shifted out of sensitive points. Steps have been taken to compulsorily retire such officers wherever possible under the rules as also to initiate prosecution proceedings/disciplinary action in cases where adequate material is available.

Steps have also been taken to streamline the procedures and to reduce delays.

Further Administrative and Legislative measures are under consideration.

### Export and Import Business by Hazarat and Company, Bombay

\*703. SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Hazarat and Company, Bombay is dealing in exports and imports in collaboration with Coca-Cola Export Corporation of Delhi.

(b) whether in or about 1970 the said company was black-listed by Government;

(c) total value of import and export licences given to this firm, during the last three years; and