

MR. SPEAKER: The corollary will follow that I should ask supplementaries also.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: That will be done by us. You only direct him to answer the question.

MR. SPEAKER: I am not going to exercise that right unless I am sure of my position.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: Are you not sure?

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Many people are absent. Otherwise, the Question Hour will be over early.

MR. SPEAKER: I can ask only when I shift to that place !

Accumulation of Stocks of Controlled Cloth

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*866. SHRI M KATHAMUTHU.

SHRI B S BHAURA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state.

(a) whether there is accumulation of stocks of some varieties of controlled cloth and at the same time there is short supply of some varieties.

(b) if so, whether Government have instituted any investigation into this matter to suggest measures for correcting the varital imbalance in the production; and

(c) if so, the remedial measures being taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (PROF. D. P. CHATTOPADHYAYA).

(a) Complaints about accumulation of grey long cloth and short supply of dhoties and sarees had been received in recent months.

(b) and (c): With effect from 1st October, 1974 production of grey long cloth, without the permission of the Textile Commissioner, has been prohibited. From 1st January, 1975 the mills have been directed to produce 20 per cent of their production of controlled cloth in the form of dhoties and sarees.

SHRI M. KATHAMUTHU: The Minister has stated that there is a short supply of dhotis and saris. But the Government has directed the mills to produce only 20 per cent of the production of controlled cloth in the form of dhotis and saris. May I know what is the estimated demand of dhotis and saris and whether this 20 per cent that has been now fixed is enough to meet the demand?

PROF. D. P. CHATTOPADHYAYA: According to a survey made by the National Consumers Cooperative Federation, dhotis and saris together account for 20 per cent of the total requirements of cloth. We cannot ask the organised mill sector to produce the entire quantity because that will be hurting the handloom and powerloom sector. So, to protect the interests of the handloom and powerloom sector, we think it will not be advisable to ask the mill sector to produce more.

SHRI MOHAN DHARIA: May I know whether it is true that the Government has taken a decision only to produce standard cloth from the mills run by the National Textile Corporation and to exempt the private sector mills from this obligation?

PROF. D. P. CHATTOPADHYAYA: It is not correct.

श्री नरसिंह नारायण पांडे : कुछ दिनों पहले मैंने इस सदन में कहा था कि कानपुर की मिले जो कपडा बनाती है, वह कुछ कोऑपरेटिव के अधिकारियों की साजिश से कन्ज्यूमर्स कोऑपरेटिव सोसायटीज के कपडों का बच दिया जाता है। इसके बारे में जो शिकायत की गई है, उसकी जांच क्या सरकार ने कराई है और कराई है तो उस जांच के क्या परिणाम निकले हैं ?

PROF. D.P. CHATTOPADHYAYA: The investigation reports are not readily available with me, so I require some time to let the Member know about it.

श्री राम कंबर : मैं मंत्री महोदय से जानना चाहता हूँ कि जो लट्ठे का स्टॉक जमा हो गया है, क्या उसके कारण इसकी कीमत में गिरावट आने की आशा है, जिससे कि गरीब लोग उसका ज्यादा इस्तेमाल कर सकें ?

अध्यक्ष महोदय : पगड़ी का भी वृत्तिये ।

PROF. D. P. CHATTOPADHYAYA: Long cloth accumulation is partly due to the inability of the National Consumers Cooperative Federation to lift it because they have some credit difficulty. That aspect of the problem we are looking into. As far as the other aspect of the problem is concerned,—i.e. inferior qualities are not being lifted—that aspect, we have looked into and now the new specifications of the long cloth are being produced from 1st of March this year and we hope when good quality of long cloth starts reaching the market—it has already started reaching—the situation will improve further.

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: The Minister has just now said that obligation has been fixed for the mill and handloom sector to produce 20 per cent standard cloth. I would like to know whether this will be sufficient to meet the demand of the public today.

PROF. D. P. CHATTOPADHYAYA: It is not the country's whole demand that is supposed to be covered by standard cloth scheme. It is for the poorer sections of the people and a substantial part of the poorer sections is covered by this Scheme. I confess that the entire poorer sections are not covered. Our idea is to expand it further. We have done it last year from four hundred million sq. metres to eight hundred million sq. metres and we are thinking of further extending it.

श्री मूल चन्द्र डांगर : देश की कपड़े की मांग को देखते हुये क्या सरकार हैंडलूम

और पावरलूम को प्रोत्साहन देना चाहती है ? दूसरी बात यह है कि हैंडलूम और पावरलूम के कपड़े की कितनी खपत है, कितना कपड़ा तैयार होता है और कितने कपड़े की जरूरत है ?

PROF. D. P. CHATTOPADHYAYA: Besides what is being produced by the mill sector so far as controlled cloth is concerned, the remaining quantity is produced by the handloom sector. So far as the question of some relief is concerned, yesterday the hon. Finance Minister has provided some relief to the powerloom sector. We are thinking of giving some relief to the handloom sector by helping the handloom industry to liquidate its stock and also some rebate. These are under consideration and in due time a decision is expected to be taken.

श्री राम सिंह भाई : क्या यह बात सही है कि फाइन, सुपरफाइन और हाई क्वालिटी की जो मिलें हैं, वे अपने कोर्ट का कंट्रोल क्लाय नहीं बनाती हैं और नेशनल टैक्सटाइल कारपोरेशन से बनवाती हैं क्योंकि यदि वे अपने कोर्टे का कपड़ा नहीं बनावें तो इन पर ढाई रुपये प्रति मीटर फाइन होता है किन्तु वह उनकी फेडरेशन को जाता है। कारपोरेशन की मिलों की क्षमता ऐसी नहीं है कि वे अच्छा कपड़ा बना सकें। क्या कपड़ा खराब आने का यह भी एक कारण है ?

PROF. D. P. CHATTOPADHYAYA: One of the reasons is that for the production of one metre of standard cloth, the loss incurred by the industry—whether it is private sector or public sector—is to the extent of Rs. 1.50. The second point is that some of the NTC mills are equipped better in terms of their machinery and other things to produce standard cloth and so, they are producing the major portion of the standard cloth. As I have already stated the private sector is also producing standard cloth in substantial quantity.