

manufacturing sector. The hon. Member said that 25 co-operative societies cannot make an impact. I do agree. But in this industry, which has been ailing so long, we thought that some humble beginning has to be made. If we do not take these 25 societies as a pilot project, nothing will be done. So, even though I concede that it cannot make a great impact, my feeling is that it is a good beginning.

DR. HENRY AUSTIN : Are the Government aware of the serious situation that has arisen in the coir yarn export to the East European countries due to the customs authorities of most ports and harbours holding up the export of yarn on suspicion that these exports are re-shipped to the hard currency areas? A very grave situation has arisen in the Cochin harbour because of this.

SHRI A. C. GEORGE : It is true. We have received reports about this type of switch trade. We are examining the matter.

Committee to survey possibilities for setting up of New and Modern Jute Mills in Jute-growing States

+

***1565. SHRI K. KODANDA RAMI REDDY :**
SHRI SHYAMNANDAN MISHRA :

Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a committee has been set up to make a quick survey of the possibilities regarding the establishment of new and modern jute Mills in the jute-growing States ; and

(b) if so, the terms of the reference of the Committee ?

THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI L. N. MISHRA) : (a) and (b). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

A Committee was set up on the 5th January, 1971 with the following terms of

reference :—

- (a) to assess, having regard to the production of jute and mesta in the industrially backward areas, the possibility and feasibility of setting up new mill(s) in the States of Assam, North Bihar, Andhra Pradesh, Orissa and Tripura ;
- (b) to determine the number of mills that can be reasonably set up in each State and the minimum economic size of each unit ;
- (c) to evaluate the comparative merits and demerits of setting up the new mills in the Public/Cooperative/Private Sector ;
- (d) to assess the financial outlays involved for each such mill, based on current prices of modern equipment under plant and equipment (imported and indigenous), Land and Building.

SHRI K. KODANDA RAMI REDDY : May I know how many applications have been received by the government to establish jute mills State-wise?

SHRI L. N. MISHRA : The recommendation has been made as a result of the assurance given in this House by me sometime in December last, when there was a half an hour discussion raised by Shri S.N. Dwivedy. The Committee has recommended that five mills should be set up in Assam, Andhra, Orissa, Bihar and Tripura. We have not reached any decision about it. There was a meeting of the Ministry of Agriculture, Finance, Planning Commission and Foreign Trade. They are yet to submit the final report to us.

SHRI SURENDRA MOHANTY : During the half an hour debate the hon. Minister had promised that the final decision would be taken in course of a couple of months, and that was in month of June. May I know how long the government is going to take to come to a decision on the findings of the committee ?

SHRI L.N. MISHRA : It is difficult to give any exact time. The Committee is

examining it. We have persuaded the Planning Commission to include these units in the Fourth Plan. Something can be done only after the Planning Commission agrees, as also Finance because foreign exchange component is also there. Than only I will be able to say but it should not take a long time. The final decision is likely to be taken within a month or 15 days' time.

SHRI D. N. TIWARY : Bihar is a leading producer in this commodity. May I know what steps have been taken or whether any scheme has been made for production of jute in every State, and which is the State which produces the most. May I also know whether Government will fix any criteria to allot jute mills to a State which produces most or they have some other criteria ?

SHRI L. N. MISHRA : Availability of raw-material is a priority consideration. Sir, West Bengal leads in the production of jute; Assam comes next with a production about 11 lakh bales ; Bihar is third with a production of 7.92 lakh bales; Orissa is fourth and Andhra is fifth. Bihar is also one of the States where a jute mill would be set up.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : I would like to know the personnel of this Committee which is being set up ; secondly, in the terms of reference which have been given to us the States are mentioned. There is one State mentioned as 'North Bihar' May I know what State it is ?

SHRI L. N. MISHRA : The Committee consists of the following people :

Jute Commissioner.....Chairman

Shri H. K. Ghosh

Shri I. L. Tripathi

Shri N. P. Mukerjee ; and

Shri K. K. Chatterjee...Member Secretary

श्री विभूति मिश्र : नार्य बिहार में पूर्णिया में जूट मिल है, दरभंगा में जूट मिल है, लेकिन चम्पारन में कोई जूट मिल नहीं है, हालाँकि वहाँ काफी जूट पैदा होता है। हमारा जूट

कलकत्ता ले जाने पर हमको बहुत ज्यादा खर्चा देना पड़ता है। मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या सरकार चम्पारन जिले में चकिया में एक जूट मिल खोलेंगी, जो कि जूट का बड़ा प्राडक्शन सेंटर है।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : माननीय सदस्य रेलिवेंट सवाल करें। सवाल यह है कि क्या जूट मिलें एस्टाब्लिस करने के बारे में सर्वे करने के लिए कोई कमेटी एपायंट की गई है।

श्री विभूति मिश्र : सरकार ने कहा है कि सारे देश में पांच जूट मिलें खोली जायेंगी। चकिया एक जबर्दस्त जूट प्रोड्यूसिंग सेंटर है। मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या वहाँ एक जूट मिल खोलने का प्रस्ताव है या नहीं।

श्री एल. एन. मिश्र : माननीय सदस्य को अम है कि मैं ने कहा है कि सरकार ने यह फैसला किया है कि पांच नई जूट मिलें खोली जायेंगी। मैं ने यह नहीं कहा है। मैं ने कहा है कि कमेटी ने सिफारिश की है कि ये मिलें खोली जा सकती हैं। जहाँ तक चम्पारन का प्रश्न है.....

MR. SPEAKER : What about the Committee ?

SHRI L.N. MISHRA : It has made some recommendation.

So far as Champaran is concerned, Champaran is in Bihar and it is for the Bihar Government to locate the mill where they want to.

Export of Khadi Clothes to Foreign Countries

*1568. **SHRI N. TOMBI SINGH** : Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Khadi clothes are earning foreign exchange and they are in great demand in the Western countries; and