

Mr. Speaker: I do not know if the other Members have got it. I will find out. I think normally they send it.

Shri Tenneti Viswanatham: I went to the office. I drew the attention of office to the fact that there is a question and I wanted to ask supplementaries after seeing the papers. So, I wanted a copy of the paper to be laid on the Table. Office informed me that papers to be laid on the Table of the House will be made available only after 12.30. That is the answer which I have got.

Mr. Speaker: I will look into it.

Dr. Ranen Sen: Some time back it was reported in the newspapers of India that as a result of trade agreements with Yugoslavia and other countries India is going to set up a factory to construct wagons on the soil of Yugoslavia so that India can export from that country wagons to other countries of Europe at comparable prices. May I know whether that report in the newspaper was correct? If so, in view of the terrible unemployment in this country, when people want more industries in our country why should the Government of India set up such big-scale factories outside India?

Shri Dinesh Singh: One of the sub-committees have gone into the question of joint collaboration in industrial enterprises and we are considering the report. The idea is that all the countries will have their own industries; it is not that these industries will be at the cost of one country or the other. The countries concerned will have the industries themselves. It was decided that we should consider the possibility of collaboration between the developing countries and explore that possibility further. These three countries felt that we should see how we could cooperate in helping one another in establishing new industries.

Shri S. R. Damani: On account of these agreements by what percentage

will our exports increase and in what commodity? Is textiles included in them?

Shri Dinesh Singh: By how much it will increase, we cannot say at this stage. That will have to be examined.

Shri S. Kandappan: From the communique I find that they have agreed to establish preferential tariff within the framework of international commercial policy. It is four months since that communique was issued. I would like to know whether the Minister is in a position to enlighten us as to whether any progress in regard to this particular item has been made in their talks with the respective officials.

Shri Dinesh Singh: The sub-committee, which will deal with it, is, I think, meeting some time later this month.

श्री सरजू पांडेय : मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि तीनों देशों से जो व्यापार समझौता हुआ है उस के मुताबिक क्या भारत में भी कोई इन देशों के सहयोग से किसी उद्योग की स्थापना करने का विचार है ?

श्री दिनेश सिंह : जी हाँ, यहाँ मैंने प्रश्न किया कि यह बातें देखी जा रही हैं कि इन तीनों देशों में एक दूसरे की मदद से कौन से नये उद्योग बन सकते हैं।

Mr. Speaker: Question No. 323; Shri Banerjee.

श्री सरजू पांडेय : हमारे यहाँ से कोई प्रस्ताव या योजना है या नहीं ?

Mr. Speaker: I have called Shri Banerjee. We can link questions Nos. 333 and 336 also.

Cotton Position

- *323. Shri S. M. Banerjee:
Shrimati Sushila Rohatgi:
Shri Umamath:
Shri C. K. Chakragani:

Shri Pattabam Gopalan:
 Shri Jyotirmoy Basu:
 Shri K. M. Abraham:
 Shri Vithwanatha Menon:
 Shri K. Anrudhan:
 Shrimati Susela Gopalan:

Will the Minister of Commerce be pleased to state:

(a) whether cotton position in the country has improved;

(b) if so, how it compares with that of 1965; and

(c) whether instructions have been issued to all textile mills not to close on Saturdays?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Dinesh Singh): (a) No, Sir. Because of the installation of additional spinning capacity, the gap between demand and supply has increased.

(b) The general expectation is that the crop this year will not be better than the crop in 1965-66.

(c) The answer is in the negative.

Cotton Requirement during 1967-68

*333. Shri S. S. Kothari: Will the Minister of Commerce be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that adequate quantity of cotton would not be available for meeting the needs of the cotton mill industry during 1967-68;

(b) if so, the estimated shortfall; and

(c) how Government propose to make it good?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Dinesh Singh): (a) and (b). The hon'ble Member is presumably referring to the current cotton season (September, 1968—August, 1967). In this season, the shortfall in the available supplies of cotton is estimated at about 1.1 million bales.

(c) This shortfall is proposed to be met by a reduction in the mill consumption of cotton through reduced

machine activity and by importing, to the extent possible, additional quantities of foreign cotton.

Requisitioning of Cotton Stocks by Textile Commissioner

*336. Shri Indulal Yajnik: Will the Minister of Commerce be pleased to state:

(a) whether the cotton stocks requisitioned by the Textile Commissioner are likely to prove totally inadequate to run the textile mills during the ensuing months;

(b) whether the present owners of the cotton stocks are unwilling to sell them to the mills at the ceiling prices fixed by Government at present; and

(c) whether Government are considering the upward revision of the cotton prices in view of the failure of the last monsoon with a view to giving relief to the farmers and to avoid the closure of many mills?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Dinesh Singh): (a) It was not the intention that the Textile Commissioner should requisition the entire cotton crop for supply to all the textile mills during the ensuing months. However, the Textile Commissioner did requisition some stocks of cotton at the specific request of mills who were faced with serious difficulty in procuring supplies of cotton at appropriate ceiling prices. He is continuing to do so.

(b) According to Government's information, during the months of December and part of January, cotton was mostly available to the mills from the market around the ceiling prices fixed by Government and it was only from the second half of January that prices are reported to have started rising and have been consistently ruling above those ceilings except for Bengal Deshi Cotton.

(c) There is no proposal to raise the price of cotton further.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: I want to know whether the hon. Minister is aware that this artificial shortage of cotton is mainly due to the fact that