

**SHRI AMITABH BACHCHAN :** Mr. Speaker Sir, May I know from the Minister whether it is a fact that due to development of chemical substitute for opium and also due to the enlarged production of opium in other countries, the demand for Indian opium has now diminished abroad and whether the excess opium that has been grown in our country is now converted into dangerous drugs like heroin, as the Hon'ble Member of Parliament has just indicated? What steps have been taken to control them?

**SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY :** The Hon'ble Member is correct in his statement Sir, that the production has gone down. In 1977, the area under production was about 64,000 hectares, now it has come down to about 25,000 hectares. As per the international convention India is the only country which has to export this. Now, Sir other countries are also producing for their domestic purposes. That is why market has gone down. Turkey, America, France and some other countries are also producing this. In view of this the stock in our country has gone up and because of the accumulation of this in two or three factories we had to control the production. The production has gone down. So far as the controlling of this and its mis-use are concerned, we are going to come with a comprehensive legislation. There will be deterrent punishment for the culprits. The legislation will be brought as early as possible and it will be curbed.

**SHRI AJAY MUSHRAN :** Sir, we all know that whether it is heroin, smack or brown sugar, they are all derivatives of opium. Now whether the cultivation of opium has gone down or gone up, the fact remains that the unlicensed cultivation, whether in the districts of Rajasthan or the western districts of Madhya Pradesh is going on. Unlicensed cultivation is the first step towards increase of drug abuse. So many speakers have spoken to you in this regard Sir, and you have agreed to have a discussion on this subject. May I ask the Hon'ble Minister through you, what steps is he going to take before bringing a comprehensive legislation? Because bringing a comprehensive Bill will

involve many other Ministries like the Home Ministry and the Ministry of Social Welfare apart from his own Finance Ministry and all these Ministries comprehension may take about year, waiting for that comprehension, can we have some ordinances through which deterrent steps can be taken by the hon. Minister to arrest not only the unlicensed cultivation but the results thereof, that is, the drug abuse?

**SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY :** The cultivation, the supervision of the cultivation and also the export market is controlled by the Central Government.

(Interruptions)

**SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY :** But wherever there are specific instances and wherever they are brought to our notice, action is being taken and if the hon. Member is in a position to give any specific information, I will personally supervise it, monitor it and personally look into those complaints.

**DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI :** I do not want to put any question because you have agreed to allow a call attention motion. But as the Minister said that he has to enquire from the Home Ministry he should have enquired from the Home Ministry and come fully prepared to the House.

#### Unfair Trade Practices Followed by Powerloom Sector

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(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn by the Consumer Protection Organisation to the many unfair trade practices followed by the powerloom sector and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether these complaints and remedial measures relate to misleading marks and fraudulent stampings and if so, the steps taken by Government; and

(c) whether Government propose to

involve public organisations to support and supplement their own efforts ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SUPPLY AND TEXTILES (SHRI CHANDRASHEKHAR SINGH) :**

(a) to (c) A Statement is given below.

**Statement**

A complaint has been received from consumer Education and Research Centre, Ahmedabad regarding unfair trade practices followed by the powerloom sector. The Centre in the complaint mentioned that they had collected 42 different samples of cotton and blended fabrics wherein fake marking in regard to the name of the manufacturer and or the type of Yarn used had been found. They have further alleged that the fake and wrong marking are made to misguide the consumer and they had pleaded for taking action against such dealers under the Cotton Textile (Control) Order, 1948.

Textile Commissioner's Regional Office at Ahmedabad made a survey of the market in this regard in March, 1985 wherein it was found that misleading marketings were largely being carried out by certain traders/dealers where they were adding the suffix "mills" after the name of the producer. Even though the goods were manufactured on powerlooms, the same was not being mentioned. Names resembling that of reputed mills were also being used. As this matter falls under the purview of the Trade and Merchandise Marks Act, 1958 affected mills are being advised to take recourse to the same.

The New Textile Policy lays emphasis on evolving a more efficient system of marketing and distributions with the objective of providing both consumer satisfaction and consumer protection. In this endeavour Government would welcome support from Public Organisations.

**DR. G. VIJAYA RAMA RAO :** The Minister has stated in his reply that the Textile Commissioner's Regional Office at Ahmedabad made a survey and they have found that misleading markings were

largely being carried out by certain traders and dealers and that they have advised the mills to take action under the Trade and Merchandise Marks Act. The reply shows that there is widespread corruption and exploitation in this regard. The Traders and dealers, as they are getting more benefit by exploitation, in future may extend the benefit to the mill-owners and they may keep quiet. So from the Government side what is the action they are going to take to prevent this practice ?

**SHRI CHANDRASHEKHAR SINGH :** What is the question?...I could not grasp exactly the thrust of the question. Anyhow the entire scope was examined by the Textile Commissioner's office and they came to the conclusion that the Cotton Textile (Control) Order is not comprehensive enough to cover such complaints and that the complaints should be covered and met by the other Act, the Trade and Merchandise Marks Act and the State Government is the appropriate authority to take action in this regard. The Gujarat Government was requested to take action. We have not yet received any response from them.

**DR. G. VIJAYA RAMA RAO :** Will the Government ensure that on every metre of cloth the maximum retail price is marked instead of the wholesale price ?

**SHRI CHANDRASHEKHAR SINGH :** This is done according to the CTCG. There is no difficulty.

**SHRI M. RAGHUMA REDDY :** Will the Government consider appointing an inquiry committee to find out the facts?

**PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE :** They have already found out the facts.

**SHRI CHANDRASHEKHAR SINGH :** There is no need of any inquiry committee. Survey have already revealed that this thing is being done by certain agencies and producers who use the trade marks of others in a clandestine manner and action has been proposed and the Gujarat Government has been informed about it.