

Why are you going to textiles? Now, Mr. Pradhan may put the question.

[Translation]

SHRI K. N. PRADHAN : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, will the hon. Minister please state what were the demands put forward by the employees regarding bonus and what agreement was reached with the Management?

SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN : Sir, the bonus was paid and the employees accepted it.

[English]

SHRI P. R. KUMARAMANGALAM : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I think in this case the question of bonus from the Mica Trading Corporation is one of the most unfortunate examples where you hear that the management stands up and takes a stand that 'I have increased the share that I hold and therefore, the amount of bonus that you get out of profit goes down.' Secondly, to a second question as to whether there is any agreement, an answer comes saying that 'we gave the bonus and they are yet to get it.' This is a typical case of exploitation of workmen by the management.

I would like to know from the Minister whether the Minister himself or his Ministry is going to intervene to set right such unfortunate happenings especially when it is within his jurisdiction.

SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN : Sir, this is a good suggestion for consideration and we will look into it.

Views of State Government Regarding New Textile Policy

*273. SHRI K. RAMACHANDRA REDDY : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state whether in view of the around criticism of the new Textile Policy in Parliament, Government propose to ascertain the views of the State Governments with regard to the New Textile policy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN) : The new Textile Policy announced by Government in June,

1985 has, by and large been welcomed in the country. In formulating the policy, views of all concerned interests including those of concerned State Governments have been taken into account.

SHRI K. RAMACHANDRA REDDY : Sir, this new textile policy has affected three kinds of persons. One side is the mill-owners and the other side is handloom weavers and the cotton growers who are very adversely affected. I would like to know, has the Government obtained the views of the mill-owners, of the cotton growers or their representatives and of the handloom weavers or their representatives either before the departure the old policy is enunciated or immediately after the formulation of the policy? These two sections, namely cotton growers and the handloom weavers are adversely affected because of this new policy.

SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN : Sir, before this policy was formulated, a very detailed questionnaire was sent to the Chief Secretaries of all the State Governments to elicit their opinion. Unfortunately, only three State Governments have replied and none of the other state Governments have sent their reply.

As far as the handloom weavers are concerned, recently in the Handloom Board meeting, they discussed this policy and they were appreciative of the policy as it is felt that the benefit are likely to flow from the policy to the weavers.

SHRI K. RAMACHANDRA REDDY : Sir, he did not give me the information about the cotton growers. (Interruptions)

AN HON. MEMBER : Sir, why don't you allow half-an-hour discussion?

(Interruptions.)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : We have already discussed these things.

SHRI K. RAMACHANDRA REDDY : The Minister should reply to my question categorically.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : He is replying.

SHRI K. RAMACHANDRA REDDY : In my first supplementary, I have asked about the views of the cotton growers. He did not say anything about it.

SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN : I have already said that the State Governments, through their Chief secretaries, have been asked to give their opinion, through a detailed questionnaire sent by us. It was for the State Governments to find out the views of the various sectors interested in this policy and give us a detailed information. (*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : You have already put the question.

SHRIMATI BASAVA RAJESWARI : Sir, as regards the textile policy, the hon. Minister has been kind enough to say that three States have sent reply to the Questionnaire. I would like to know are the three states which have given their views. Has the Government of Karnataka sent its views with regard to the textile policy and how it is going to affect the cotton growers.

SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN : The replies to the Questionnaire were received only from West Bengal, Delhi Administration, Administration of Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Gujarat and Maharashtra.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Madam, no further question.

DR. V. VENKATESH : Sir, actually, the Government of Karnataka has protested very vehemently about this policy as it is going to affect not only handloom sector but even the sericulture industry also. I want to know from the Government whether they have taken into consideration these things.

SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN : Sir, as far as the handloom sector is concerned, I think, they have benefited the most because this year, we have given 60 million metres of additional Janata cloth to the handloom sector. The handloom sector will benefit particularly because 20% of the handlooms were dormant in the rural areas and they were not able to get work for the whole of the year. (*Interruptions.*)

DR. V. VENKATESH : Sir, he has not revealed about sericulture.

SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN : About sericulture, I can also tell the hon. Member that because the prices have increased we have also decided to import 25 tonnes of raw silk from China.

SHRI P. KALAINDAIVELU : Sir, from the inception of this new textile policy by the Government, there are so many amendments which have been brought forward in the Lok Sabha. I would like to know clearly from the hon. Minister that if the policy of the Government of India is to help only the handloom weavers and the powerlooms, the policy ought not to have been amended too often. But you have amended the policy often in order to help the composite mills.

My point is, whether the policy of the Government would be suitably amended in order to help the handloom weavers and the powerlooms in equal terms with the composite mills.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN : In the first instance, I would like to submit for the consideration of the hon. Member that this is basically a long term policy and its real benefits will be known after it has been given a fair trial.

As regards the handloom, I can assure the hon. Member that handloom sector has benefited from this.

SOME HON. MEMBERS : No, no.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Let him say.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : It does not support.....

(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please take your seat. Let him answer the question.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN : Let me answer. What do you want me to do ?

The handloom sector produced more cloth this year than last year.

(Interruptions)

SHRI UTTAM RATHOD : It was very kind of the Government to have taken the views of the States. I want to know, did the Government envisage the reaction of the cotton growers to the textile policy and, if so, what it was and what it stands today after the agitation that is going on in all the cotton growing areas ?

SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN : I can assure the hon. Member that the cotton which is produced in the country today, the Cotton Corporation has been given instructions to buy all the cotton which is brought by the growers and there will be no difficulty.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER No, no. Minister is telling.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please put the question. He is putting the Supplementary. Please sit down. I am allowing Supplementaries.

SHRI MULLAPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : This is a very important question.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : What do you want to know ?

SHRI MULLAPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : We want immediately half-an-hour discussion.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : If it is important, give a separate notice.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Mr. Jaipal Reddy, what do you want ?

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : It is very important subject.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I can also understand. Please take your seat. Mr. Jaipal Reddy, what is your supplementary ?

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : You allow me.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : No. Will Mr. Jaipal Reddy put the question ?

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : The new textile policy is supposed to have been based on the Experts Committee Report. Why is it that the Government consider the Experts Committee report a secret ? Will the Government release it here and now ?

Secondly, the Minister referred to the response of the State Governments in regard to a Questionnaire that was circulated before the Experts Committee Report was submitted. Did the State Governments protest against this policy after the policy was announced ? If so, which are the State Governments and what were the lines of the protest ?

SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN : As the hon. Member has said, the Questionnaire was circulated. Yes, it was circulated and, I said the States which have replied also.

As regards the report, it is being printed and it will be a printed document available for sale.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : The report should be made available to the Members also.

SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN : Naturally. It will be available. As regards the question of States, some States whenever they bring in particular item regarding the difficulty faced by handloom or powerloom or other sector, it is immediately attended to and looked after.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : Which were the State Governments that protested against the new textile policy. ? My question was categorical. The Minister has not deliberately answered. The Governments of Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Tamilnadu and West Bengal have lodged specific protests against the new textile policy. The new textile policy goes against weavers.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : Sir allow me to put one question.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : No. The Question List is over. I will go over the list again. Shri Priya Ranjan Das Munsi... Not present. Shri Sriballav Panigrahi... Not present. Shri Manik Reddy... Not present. Shri M. Raghuma Reddy... Not present. Shri Sharad Dighe... Not present. Shri Sanat Kumar Mandal... Not present. Shri E. Ayyapu Reddy... Not present. Shri Jitendra Singh... Not present. Shri Braja Mohan Mohanty... Not present. Shri Vijay N. Patil... Not present. Shri Thampan Thomas... Not present. Shri Daulatsinghji Jadeja... Not present. Shri Yaswantrao Gadakh Patil... Not present. Dr. G. S. Rajhans... Not present. Shri S. M. Bhattam... Not here. Shri Zainul Basher... Not here. Shri Banwari Lal Purohit... Not present. The Question List is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Prevention of Smuggling and Foreign Exchange Manipulations

*368. SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS MUNSI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether violations of foreign exchange regulations and smuggling activities continue to have deleterious effect on the national economy;

(b) the steps taken/proposed for effective prevention of such smuggling activities and foreign exchange manipulations;

(c) the steps taken/proposed by Government to deprive persons engaged in smuggling activities and foreign exchange manipulations of their ill-gotten gains including properties acquired by them from such gains in the name of their relatives, associates and confidants;

(d) the steps taken/proposed in West Bengal; and

(e) the progress during the last three years ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH) : (a) (b) and (d). Economic offences like smuggling, exchange control violations, etc.

do have harmful effects on the national economy. In pursuance of the Government's firm resolve to take strict action against economic offences, the drive against smuggling/foreign exchange racketeering has been intensified through-out the country including the State of West Bengal. The preventive and intelligence machinery of the Customs Department has been re-inforced in vulnerable areas in terms of man-power and equipment. Government has set up a Central Economic Intelligence Bureau for co-ordinating and strengthening the intelligence gathering activities, the investigative efforts and enforcement action by various agencies concerned with the investigation of economic offences and enforcement of economic laws.

(c) Stringent action is taken against persons found involved in smuggling activities/exchange control violations, both departmentally as well as through prosecution in Courts. The Smugglers and Foreign Exchange Manipulators (Forfeiture of Property) Act, 1976, provides, for the forfeiture of the illegally acquired properties of smugglers and foreign exchange manipulators. It also applies to the illegally acquired properties held by their relatives and associates. Under the provisions of Section 6 of the above Act upto 30th November, 1985 in 2, 533 cases, show cause notices have been issued involving properties totally valued at Rs. 42.22 crores.

(e) As a result of the intensified drive against smugglers and foreign exchange racketeers, the value of seizures made under the Customs Act, 1962 and the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act, 1973 has steadily increased as may be evident from the figures furnished below :—

(Values : Rs. in crores)

Year	Total value of seizures under the Customs Act.	Total value of Indian/Foreign currency seized under FERA
1983	90	1.34
1984	101	1.90
1985	161	1.76
(upto Oct.)	(Provisional)	(Provisional)