

a fact that in the recent months, every part of the country is experiencing an acute scarcity on the one hand and high prices of cotton yarn on the other. As a result of this, lakhs of handloom weavers are unemployed and their handlooms are idle. He has spoken a lot about looking after the interests of the textile mill units and the cotton growers.

I have no objection to that, but the textile policy which was adopted last year was supposed to look after handloom weavers also, who belong to weaker section. Is it not a fact that today lakhs of handloom weavers are sitting unemployed; they cannot get yarn or yarn is available at such high prices that it is beyond their means? To what extent has this new policy of exporting cotton yarn from the country which is being brought as an incentive for importing cotton, led to this condition in the handloom market, and whether any steps will be taken to help the handloom weavers, who are suffering acute crisis at this moment?

SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR : The price of yarn required for handloom had shown an upward trend up to August this year, and thereafter the prices have been declining. I have got the figures as reported by the Handloom Commissioner. There is a list of very many counts, but on the average from August to the beginning of November there has been a five to ten per cent decrease.

So, the increasing trend of handloom price has been arrested. Sir, it is not true that the price increase in handloom yarn, which was experienced before August, was due to exports. We have been continuously monitoring the situation. The price of cotton had increased almost 50 per cent and the price of yarn, of which the cotton is the basic raw material, increased only about 50 per cent of the price increase of cotton. We had taken a series of steps to stabilise the handloom prices. I have got a whole list here. We have advised these instruments to the State governments and the Apex Societies. We have started a series of schemes through the National Handloom Development Corporation as well as the NTC. The interest of the handloom workers

is one of the primary concerns in the textile policy and we stick to that policy.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : Is it not a fact that handlooms are lying closed in hundreds of thousands and the weavers are unemployed?

SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR : Sir, certain percentages of the capacity of all segments of the textile economy, including handloom, power-loom and the organised textile mills, are closed from time to time because there is substantial over-capacity in the textile economy. The effect of the Textile Ministry is to balance the conflicting and competing demands of these different sectors of the textile economy and we have been trying to achieve a balance between the interest of these sectors.

SHRIMATI BASAVARAJESWARI : I would like to know from the Hon. Minister the total quantity of yarns, long staple as well as extra long yarns, exported during previous year from Andhra Pradesh and Karnatka. What is the present policy, of Government towards the export of long staple and extra long yarns during this year?

SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR : Sir, I do not have the figures, variety-wise, for Andhra Pradesh but as I said earlier, the export which was originally earmarked at 6 lakhs bales this year has been frozen at 4.9 lakh bales and the rest 1.15 lakh bales are not going to be exported.

Court Cases of the State Bank of Indore

*4. **SHRI RAJ KUMAR RAI :** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of court cases pending/lost by the State Bank of Indore during the years 1983, 1984 and 1985, year-wise and the amount involved;

(b) the reasons thereof;

(c) the details of the action taken by the bank against the erring officials, employees/lawyers; and

(d) the details of the steps proposed to be taken by the bank to avoid loss of the

cases ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) to (d) A statement is given below.

Statement

Information available with the State Bank of Indore in respect of Civil Suits to which the Bank was a party, showing the number of Civil Suits pending, amount involved and cases lost during the years 1983, 1984 and 1985 is set out below:-

Year	Civil Suits pending	Amount involved (In lakhs)	Number of Cases lost Cases lost
1983	409	504.77	...
1984	531	1197.24	...
1985	594	1264.12	...

Since no Civil Suits has been lost by the bank in the years 1983, 1984 and 1985, the question of taking action on this account against any official/employee/lawyer by the bank does not arise.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJ KUMAR RAI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want your protection. The notices of questions given by the hon. Members are curtailed by the Examiner of Questions. My question was about criminal proceedings during the years 1983-84, 1984-85 and 1985-86 but it was confined only up to 1985 and now the hon. Minister has confined his reply to civil cases only.

[English]

Suit is a civil suit but a case can be criminal also.

[Translation]

There is a vast difference between the two but the hon. Minister has not tried to identify the difference.

My question was :-

[English]

"The number of court cases pending lost by the State Bank of Indore during the years 1983, 1984 and 1985, yearwise and the amount involved."

[Translation]

Sir, he has replied that according to the information available about the civil suits from the State Bank of Indore, in which the Bank was also a party, the number of civil suits pending during the years so and so was such and such respectively.

Several questions have been asked earlier also inviting the attention of the Government in regard to this matter. There has been a bungling of about Rs. 9 crores in only three branches, i.e. the Madras branch, the Amana Dewas branch (Madhya Pradesh) and the Chandni Chowk branch in Delhi. It had then been stated that a C.B.I. enquiry was conducted and the decision of the district judge has already been pronounced. Will the hon. Minister state the number and the names of persons involved in the criminal proceeding during the last three years for which this question was admitted, and also the number of those against whom cases are pending and the action being taken against them ?

[English]

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY : The hon. member may kindly see part (a) of the question which is about the number of cases pending/lost by the State Bank of Indore during the years 1983, 1984 and 1985, yearwise and the amount involved. The hon. member has not asked for 1986. That is why the reply was confined only upto 1985.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJ KUMAR RAI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want your protection. Firstly, information about 1986 has not been given as the Examiner had modified the question and secondly, in regard to the question which was admitted, the hon. Minister did not try to understand it fully and provide relevant information. I wanted to know

the number of criminal cases pending and also the number of FIRs filled both by the Government and the people separately.

MR. SPEAKER : It is true that you did not ask about the year 1985 ?

SHRI RAJ KUMAR KAI : It was curtailed by the Examiner at the outset and the information asked about 1983-84, 1984-85 in regard to the criminal cases was confined to civil suits only. So what can I say in this matter ? It was stated that there was no bungling and hence what more can I ask regarding the action taken in the various cases ? If you have allowed a detailed...

MR. SPEAKER : Please listen.

(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY : So far as the banks are concerned, they are looking after the civil suits. So far as the criminal cases are concerned, it is a state subject. (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Order please. Let me hear the Minister.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : Why are you interrupting?

[English]

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : The hon. Minister has gone on record saying that crime is under the jurisdiction of the State...

(Interruptions)

SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARY : I will explain...

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Let him explain.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Rai, will you please take your seat ? Let us listen to the Minister first.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : Please do not interrupt. Please listen.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : First listen and then say something.

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY : So far as the criminal cases are concerned, these are administered by the State Government and prosecutions are filed by the State Government and the information is with the State Government. Now, if the hon. members write to me, I will also find out and collect the information and give it to them. So far as the civil suits are concerned, we have got the information with us and I have furnished the information.

(Interruptions)

SHRI K.P. UNNIKRISHNAN : Do you have the figures concerning banks are not ? Do not hide yourself under this...

MR. SPEAKER : No question of hiding.

[Translation]

Why are you arguing with each other ?

[English]

If any further information is required, you can say that you would furnish that also.

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY : I have stated that. If I get the information, I will furnish it. It is implicit.

(Interruptions)

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY : About the amount involved, etc. in civil

cases, I have mentioned it and about the criminal cases, if the hon. member wants it, I will furnish it.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER . He will collect the information and give it to you.

SHRI RAJ KUMAR RAI : About the criminal cases also, I want to know as to what action is being taken on the valuable information given to him by the public. So far, what has been done ?

Pak Firing on Indian Border

[Translation]

*5. SHRI KAMLA PRASAD RAWAT : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Pak troops have opened fire several times on the Indian border;

(b) if so, whether any meeting has been held between India and Pakistan for a mutual settlement;

(c) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(d) whether Government of India are also taking counter measures ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI K.C. PANT) : (a) Yes, Sir; There have been some cases of unprovoked firing by the Pakistani troops across the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir.

(a) and (c) Matters relating to such incidents are sought to be resolved in flag meeting between the local Commanders. However, no such meeting has been held during the last one year.

(d) Our Armed Forces maintain full defence preparedness at all times to meet any threat to the security of the country.

[Translations]

SHRI KAMLA PRASAD RAWAT : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to submit through you that the hon. Minister has not given a proper reply to my question. The hon.

Minister has referred to some incidents but has not stated the exact number of the incidents and also the losses suffered by the Indian army. Will the hon. Minister kindly make this clear?

MR. SPEAKER : I will not allow an unclear reply.

(Interruptions)

SHRI K.C. PANT : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Member has asked whether Pak troops have opened fire several times on the Indian borders. Since many years both sides have been indulging in firing across the line of control in Jammu and Kashmir. There has been firing from the Pakistan side and our troops have also returned the fire. This has become a normal state of affairs there. Last year, the number of such incidents was somewhat more but this year it has been less. I am, however, not in a position to give you the exact number. Whenever there is a confrontation across the line of Control, then it is obvious that there would be some exchange of fire. In the absence of any confrontation such incidents do not occur normally. In the Siachen area, two such incidents have taken place. But I do not want to include them because these are quite different. The hon. Member has not asked a specific question in this regard and that is why I have not given a specific reply.

SHRI KAMLA PRASAD RAWAT : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has stated that no flag meeting has been held during the last one year between the local commanders. If these meetings had been held, then perhaps the losses would have been avoided. Therefore, may I know the reasons for not holding flag meetings between the commanders of the two countries to prevent recurrence of such cases and the names of officers responsible for such carelessness and when the next meeting is likely to be held ?

SHRI K. C. PANT : Mr. Speaker, Sir, two flag meetings were held in 1986. Flag meetings are held when some major incident occurs or there is some dispute over a certain position. In 1987, it was not thought necessary to do so. What has happened in Siachen, there is no question of any