

we should do more and we try to do whatever we can to increase their expertise and competence in this area.

SHRIMATI BASAVARAJESWARI : Due to the inconvenience faced by the farmers, I would like to know whether the hon. Minister will try to introduce moisture testing machines and staple length testing machines in co-ordination with agriculture produce markets in various States where cotton is grown abundantly. Will the hon. Minister provide the moisture testing machines and staple length testing machines in the APMR ?

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA : Sir, the specifications for our purchases are properly drawn and include all the elements to see what we call fair average quality which should conform to those standards. As regards as the moisture content and staple length testing machines, as I replied to earlier questions, we will see that proper equipment and training is given and their expertise in this area is increased so that they can judge the various varieties properly.

Another thing that I would like to mention in the House is that at present there are a large number of varieties, about twenty-five or so. We have set up a special group to reduce those varieties. Some of the varieties are non-existent or are very few and it takes a lot of time and expertise to differentiate those varieties from one another. The Agriculture experts and our experts are getting together to see if those varieties can be reduced so that their appraisal can be simplified and proper procedure followed.

[*Translation*]

**Indoor Stadium in Cantonment Area,
Ranikhet, U. P.**

*103. **SHRI HARISH RAWAT :** Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether he has received representations from local representatives of people for setting up an indoor stadium in cantonment area of Ranikhet in Uttar Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the steps proposed to be taken

by the Ministry to set up an indoor stadium there ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION AND SUPPLIES IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The ground measuring 4.497 acres, popularly known as N.C.C. ground, under the management of the Ranikhet Cantonment Board is being used as a playground by the local civil population of the cantonment. Construction of an indoor stadium can only be considered by the Cantonment Board keeping in view other priorities and the availability of funds with them.

SHRI HARISH RAWAT : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it came to me as a pleasant surprise that in spite of the natural habit of the hon. Ministers to give replies to the questions in the negative, the hon. Minister has replied to my question in the positive. But my pleasant surprise was short-lived because when the hon. Minister reached the second half of my question, he clearly twisted the reply in such a manner that it almost resulted in the negative. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether he would kindly consider providing all sports facilities in Ranikhet Cantonment Area ? Since it is the responsibility of the Defence Ministry, I would like to know from him whether in view of this responsibility, he would approve the proposal and arrange to provide funds for it if a proposal for the construction of a Indoor Stadium in Ranikhet is received from the Cantonment Board ?

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Such facilities are to provided by the Cantonment Boards on their own from the funds available to them. Sometimes, assistance too is provided to them. In the first instance, it is for the Cantonment Board to see whether facilities like drinking water, school, dispensary, etc. exist there or not. If they have sufficient funds to provide such facilities, the Central Government cannot have any difficulty about it. But the authority to accord priority is vested in the elected representatives of that area and they can do it.

SHRI HARISH RAWAT : Mr. Speaker, Sir, as has been said by the hon. Minister,

there is an N.C.C. ground in Ranikhet Cantonment which is being used as a playground by the local civil population. I would like to tell the hon. Minister that a decision was taken in 1984 according to which it was decided to hand over the N.C.C. ground to the Cantonment Board. But you will be surprised to know that even today a major part of that N.C.C. ground is being used by the Army officers to park their vehicles. Their vehicles remain stationed there. When the civilians go there to play, the ground is not available to them for playing. Therefore, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether he would issue instructions to the Army officers not to use the ground at all and hand it over completely to the Cantonment Board so that the local civil population could use it properly for playing ?

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL : Sir, this open space is used by the local children for playing. It is also used for N.C.C. parade and for giving motor training to the army personnel. If there is a proposal to construct a stadium there and the Cantonment Board is ready to do it, then the Central Government would have no objection to it. If the local Government want to make use of that space by spending money, some assistance can surely be provided. But to say that, that place should not be used by the army personnel to park their vehicles or to impart motor training, I think, the hon. Member will himself realise, it will not be justified. The children will certainly get playing facilities, the ground will also be used for N.C.C. parade and army personnel too will continue to get facilities because the ground was primarily meant for them. It will not be proper to stop them from using it and at the same time allow others to make use of it.

SHRI HARISH RAWAT : How the people will play there when it is being used as parking place ?

[English]

Effect of New Textile Policy on Powerloom

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*104. DR. G. S. RAJHANS :

SHRI S. G. GHOLAP :

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that due to the new textile policy, powerloom business has become very slack;

(b) if so, the action taken by Government to help powerloom so far;

(c) whether the policy is weighted in favour of mills; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

DR. G. S. RAJHANS : Sir, is it a fact that because of non-availability of cheap yarn, a large number of handlooms have been closed in the last two-three months ? If so, what has the Government done to redress the difficulties of handloom owners ?

SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR : Sir, it is correct that there has been a contraction in the working capacity of power-looms in the last few months, not merely due to the increase in the price of yarns but due to the stagnation in the demand the powerloom cloth as well as in certain areas specific problem like power availability was there. The increase in the price of yarn, which the hon. Member has mentioned has been mainly due to the increase in the price of cotton due to the short cotton crop of 1986-87. Sir, even though the price of cotton has increased by 52 to 65 per cent in the period Jan. Sept. 1987, in the wholesale price index the price of yarn has increased only by 33 per cent. Therefore, it is a sympathetic rise because 50 per cent of the yarn is the basic raw material of cotton. Government does not, as the hon. Member is aware, implement any price control measure for yarn but we have asked the NTC mills to make available yarn at mill rate price to any responsible organisation designated by the State Government. It is only the question of price when sufficient stock is available; about 50 million Kgs of the yarn required for powerloom is available with the mill.