

MR. CHAIRMAN : You see, the main question is about the NRI proposal.

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : This is about committed loans.... (Interruptions).... Sir, you give me a hearing. If they are utilising the NRI loans or any other loans and if there are committed loans available with the Energy Ministry, I am only asking why they are not utilizing them. The Minister is correct when he says that he wants to appraise the situation. But my request is that, in that case, this question should be kept for the next day meant for the Ministry.

SHRI VISHVJIT P. SINGH : Sir, the main question relates to fresh NRI proposals and, therefore, this question does not arise out of it.... (Interruptions)....

SHRI VIREN J. SHAH : Sir, this question relates to the Western power situation and it relates to it and it is relevant.... (Interruptions)...

SHRI VISHVJIT P. SINGH : It does not relate to the NRI proposals.... (Interruptions)....

MR. CHAIRMAN : I would suggest that the honourable Member may ask a separate question about the unused loans, but not on this.... (Interruptions)....

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH : Sir, it is true that the main question is about the NRI proposals. But for consideration of the NRI proposals, the funds already available and not utilized will have to be taken into account. So, his question is relevant.... (Interruptions)....

MR. CHAIRMAN : In that case, he must ask another question about the Power Ministry. This question does not relate to that. I am sorry, he has to ask another question on that subject itself.

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : You are free to decide it.. (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Yes, Mr. Shiv Charan Singh.

श्री शिवचरण सिंह : मान्यवर, क्या माननीय मंत्री जी यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि राजस्थान की जो विद्युत योजनाएँ आपके विचारधीन थीं उनमें से इस वर्ष कौन कौन सी योजनाओं पर कार्य शुरू करवा देंगे ?

MR. CHAIRMAN : I am sorry, this also outside the main question. Too many supplementaries are outside the main question. Therefore, I go to the next question. Question No. 122.

Export of Cotton

*122. **SHRI SARADA MOHANTY† :**

SHRI SOM PAL : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 3552 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 23rd March, 1993 and state :

(a) what quantity of cotton has been released to be exported so far during the current crop season;

(b) the date when this release was announced and what are the names of the agencies that have been designated to handle these;

(c) whether Government propose to release further quantities of cotton for export and;

(d) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (Shri G. Venkat Swamy) : (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

(a) During the cotton season 1992-93, Government has released a quantity of 14,955 lakh bales of cotton for export.

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Sarada Mohanty.

(b) This quota of 14,955 lakh bales was announced on 7 different dates from 21-9-92 to 6-2-93. Except for 1,25 lakh bales of Bengal Deshi variety and yellow pickings which were open to all exporters, the remaining quantities were released in favour of institutions like Cotton Corporation of India, various States Co-operative Marketing Federations and the National Agriculture Co-operative Marketing Federation.

(c) and (d) While releasing the cotton for export, Government keeps in mind the factors like stabilisation of prices in the domestic market, provision of remunerative prices to cotton growers and need to maintain India's presence in the international market as a stable supplier of cotton. Government also tries to strike a careful balance between the interests of the cotton farmers on the one hand and the handloom weavers and the textile industry on the other. The Government keeps a close watch on the general cotton situation, and the movements of market prices of cotton and cotton yarn to determine the need, quantum and timing of releases of cotton for exports.

SHRI SARADA MOHANTY : Sir, I would like to know from the honourable Minister whether it is a fact that prices of cotton, particularly of long-staple cotton, are falling steeply and that cotton has been selling at prices varying from Rs. 850/- to Rs. 950/- per quintal as against a price of Rs. 1450/- during previous year. There is an apprehension that because of the falling prices, a large area under cotton is being shifted to the other crops thereby leading to a reduction in the cotton-growing area and also in the production of cotton in the coming season.

I would like to know from the honourable Minister what the reasons are for such a steep fall in the prices of cotton and what steps are being taken by the Government to see that the farmers do not switch over to other crops from cotton.

श्री जी. वेंकट स्वामी : सभापति जी, यह कहना उचित नहीं है। ग्रानरेबल मेंबर को मैं इन्फर्मेंशन देना चाहता हूँ कि काटन की opening balance in 1992-93 was 32.78 lakh bales. The production is 122 to 124 lakh bales. The total is 156.782 lakh bales. The mill consumption is 105 lakh bales and non-mill consumption is 8 lakh bales. Export is 14.955 lakh bales. The total is 127.955 lakh bales. The closing stock is 26.825 lakh bales. I am giving this information to you. The monthly mill consumption....

SHRI SOM PAL : Sir, this is not the information that he was wanting. He just wanted to know whether the prices have fallen and what the reasons are. There is an apprehension that acreage will be shifted. What are you going to do in that regard ?

श्री जी. वेंकट स्वामी : मैं आपसे कहूँगा कि जो आपने कहा कि प्राइस गिरे हैं, वे गिरे नहीं हैं। जो सपोर्ट प्राइस है वह उससे ज्यादा है। सपोर्ट प्राइस का अगर आप टोटल पूछें तो मैं टोटल भी दे सकता हूँ।

SHRI SOM PAL : सभापति जी,....

MR. CHAIRMAN : Your time will come. Please do sit down. Your time for the supplementary will come. Then you can ask. You are the next man.

श्री जी. वेंकट स्वामी : सर, जो सपोर्ट प्राइस जे-34 जो 50.35 अबोव है, यू-797 की प्राइस है 32.60 प्रतिशत से ऊपर सपोर्ट प्राइस है और लॉग स्टेपल-114, एम. पी-27.32 परसेंट है और एम. सी एच-5 27.32 है, डी. सी. एस 32, कर्नाटक 67.35 परसेंट अबोव, सपोर्ट प्राइस चल रही है। अगर क्वेश्चन का सही जवाब चाहते हैं तो यह है।

MR. CHAIRMAN : Second supplementary.

SHRI SARADA MOHANTY : Sir, he has not given proper answer to my earlier

question. My second supplementary is whether it is a fact that last year there was a steep hike in the yarn price and the reason given by the yarn producing mills was the high price of cotton. This year, the cotton price has been coming down very heavily but the yarn price has not been reduced. As such the handloom industry is facing a serious crisis on that account. What are the reasons for this phenomenon? What steps are the Government taking to get the yarn price reduced and making it available to the handloom weavers at a reasonable price?

श्री जी. बेंकट स्वामी : सभापति जी, यही कारण है कि हम इयर बेलेंस करते हैं काटन प्राइस को ताकि वीवर्स को भी नुकसान न हो और हैंडलूम वीवर्स के ऊपर प्राइस इन्फ्लेज आफ यार्न का भार न पड़े। इसलिए इसकी बेलेंस करने के लिए सपोर्ट प्राइस हम ग्रेवर्स को 50 से 60 परसेंट देते हैं। इस प्रकार 40 परसेंट एवरेज काटन प्राइस में इनका मार्फेट में चल रहा है। मुझे मालूम है कि आनरेबल मेंबर पूछने वाले हैं कि आप एक्सपोर्ट क्यों नहीं करते हैं तो मैंने उसका भी जवाब तैयार कर रखा है। अगर वे पूछें तो मैं जल्द बूंगा। यह गवर्नमेंट की पालिसी है कि काटन ग्रेवर्स को प्राइस माकूल मिले, सपोर्ट प्राइस ज्यादा मिले और हैंडलूम वीवर्स और मिल यार्न के ज्यादा दाम न बढ़े ताकि उसका बेलेंस सेंडेन हो।

श्री सोमपाल : सभापति जी, मैंने बिल्कुल सीधा सवाल यह किया था कि कितनी कितनी मात्रा कपास निर्यात के लिए सरकार ने अवमुक्त की है और किन किन तिथियों में की है। मैंने यह इसलिए पूछा था कि मेरे पास एप्रोकल्वर कमेटी की दसवीं रिपोर्ट है और इसमें कमेटी ने यह कहा है कि यह जितनी भी मात्रा निर्यात के लिए अवमुक्त की जाती है, यह प्रायः फसल आने के काफी बाद की जाती है और किसान उससे ही पहले सस्ते दामों पर बेच देते हैं और जब यह निर्यात के लिए अवमुक्त की जाती है, रिलीज की जाती है तब तक वह सारा स्टॉक व्यापारियों के पास पहुंच जाता है और जो भी कीमत बढ़ती है, उसका लाभ व्यापारियों को पहुंचता है। तो मैं सोचा यह पूछना चाहता हूँ, आपने यह जवाब दिया कि 21 सितम्बर से 6 फरवरी तक

7 बार आपने निर्यात के लिए कपास रिलीज की पर कितनी कितनी मात्रा में, किस किस तारीख में की? इस संबंध में रूपि समिति की रिपोर्ट आपके ध्यान में आई या नहीं और उस पर आपकी क्या प्रतिक्रिया है? क्या आप उसकी रिकमेंडेशंस को, सस्तुतियों को मानेंगे या नहीं मानेंगे, यह मैं जानना चाहता हूँ।

श्री जी. बेंकट स्वामी : सभापति जी, उसको मान कर ही हमने सपोर्ट प्राइस इन्फ्लेज भी किया है और उसके ऊपर यह परसेंटेज चल रहा है। (ध्वजधान)

श्री सोमपाल : मैं सिर्फ तिथियाँ और मात्राएँ जानना चाहता हूँ कि किन किन डेट्स को आपने कितनी कितनी क्वांटिटीज जारी की? यह मेरे ओरिजिनल क्वेश्चन में है, जिसका आपने उत्तर नहीं दिया। मैं सिर्फ इतना जानना चाहता हूँ और कुछ नहीं जानना चाहता हूँ।

श्री जी. बेंकट स्वामी : मैंने आपको जवाब दिया है।

श्री सोमपाल : नहीं दिया है। यह उत्तर है, सभापति महोदय, (ध्वजधान)

MR. CHAIRMAN : He wants specific dates.

SHRI SOM PAL : This is my original question and he has not answered.

आपने जानबूझ कर किया है।

श्री जी. बेंकट स्वामी : जानबूझ कर करने का क्या है इसमें? यह एक ब्वाज है (ध्वजधान)

श्री सोमपाल : क्योंकि आप व्यापारियों की मदद करना चाहते हैं।

श्री जी. बेंकट स्वामी : काटन के प्राइस को बेलेंस करना है (ध्वजधान) अगर आप मेरा स्पेसिफिक जवाब चाहते हैं तो आनरेबल मैन्युस्क्रिप्ट मुझे टाइम दें। मैं आपको स्पेसिफिक जवाब दे सकता हूँ। मैंने कहा कि देश के अन्दर जितनी काटन को हमारा जरूरत है, उसको रख कर हमने काटन के प्राइस को इन्फ्लेज करने के लिए, जब प्रोडिसेज गिर रहे थे, उस बजट एक्सपोर्ट के लिए हमने 15 लाख बैल्स पिछले साल एक्सपोर्ट किया। जो

प्राइस उस वक्त गिर रहे थे वह आज इस परसेज फेडरेशन पर आ गए हैं। इसलिए मैंने माननीय सदस्य को श्रम में स्टेटेसिडस बता दिए हैं कि इतना हमारा काटन योग्य है। उसमें से हमारा मिल्ड के लिए और हैडलूम के लिए 10.5 लाख बेल्स की जरूरत है। इसी तरह से बाकी कमी के लिए 8 लाख बेल्स की जरूरत है। यह सब रख करके हमने 15 लाख बेल्स का एक्सपोर्ट किया है। इससे कहा से कटन प्राइस जो गिर रहे थे बिल्कुल नीचे सपोर्ट प्राइस के करीब करीब आ रहे थे इसके बाद उसमें 24 परसेंट से 54-60 परसेंट प्राइस जो इन्फ्लेज हुए हैं। अब माननीय सदस्य यह कह रहे हैं कि क्वांटिटी महाराष्ट्र में कितनी हुई थीम क्वांटिटी की डिमैंड चाहते हैं (अवधान)

श्री सोमप्पा : जो नहीं मैसर्स यह चाहता हूँ—

How much quantity of cotton have you released for exports and on what dates ? That is all. There is nothing else. All the information that you have given now is already with me. I do not need that. I only want to know the exact dates and the quantity which you have released for export this year. Mr. Chairman, I need your protection. They have become habitual of giving evasive replies and distorting facts.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The Minister has actually got this information. Have you got it ?

SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY : I will give you the information.

On 21-9-92—2 lakh bales to Maharashtra Federation.

On 10-10-92—5.25 lakh bales to Cotton Corporation of India.

On 14-10-92—0.27 lakh bales to Nepal, through Cotton Corporation of India.

On 27-11-92—2.35 lakh bales :

50,000 bales to Maharashtra Federation;

30,000 bales to Gujarat Federation;

15,000 bales to Andhra Federation;

5,000 bales to A.P. Girijan Federation;

20,000 bales to Punjab Federation;

15,000 bales to Rajasthan Federation;

15,000 bales to Karnataka Federation;

10,000 bales to Tamil Nadu Federation;

10,000 bales to M. P. Federation;

15,000 bales to Haryana Federation;

18,000 bales to NAFED

On 4-1-1993—40,000 bales to Maharashtra Federation.

On 6-2-1993—5 lakh bales, as under :
3 lakh bales to Cotton Corporation of India;

30,000 bales to Maharashtra Federation;

40,000 bales to Gujarat Federation;

25,000 bales to Andhra Pradesh.

A.P. Girijan Corporation—5,000 bales; Punjab Federation—10,000 bales; Haryana Federation—7,500 bales; Rajasthan Federation—7,500 bales, NAFED—15,000 bales; Madhya Pradesh Federation—5,000 bales; Madhya Pradesh Export Corporation—5,000 bales.

SHRI SOMAPPA R. BOMMAI : Sir, the hon. Minister has been making a strenuous effort to convince the House and the people that he is balancing, to protect the interests of the growers and the weavers. But actually, both the growers and the weavers are exploited. As has already been pointed out by hon. Member, cotton prices have come down. Practically, there are no purchasers in the

market. In this connection, I would like to bring to the notice of the hon. Minister that in Karnataka, the Cotton Corporation of India has not purchased a single bale. For the last one year, no payments have been made to the farmers. Though cotton was purchased by the State federations and other federations, no payment has been made to the farmers. As I said, the prices have come down. The weavers are also not getting the yarn at reasonably lower rates, in proportion to the fall in the price of cotton. When this is the position, how are you balancing their interests? Practically, the weaver is hit. The grower is also not getting a proper price. Therefore, how are you going to protect the interests of both the growers and the weavers ?

SHRI MENTAY PADAMANABHAM : How are you going to balance this imbalance ?

श्री जी. वेंकटस्वामी : सभापति जी, मैं कर्नाटक भी गया हूँ। आनरेबल मेम्बर ने जो सवाल किया है, काटन कारपोरेशन आफ इंडिया परचेस नहीं कर रही है, यह इन्फारमेशन मुझे मिली। इमोडियेटली मैंने भेज दी है। मगर आनरेबल मेम्बर को मैं इन्फारमेशन दे रहा हूँ कि अब ग्रेडर्स के हाथ में काटन नहीं रहा, ट्रेडर्स के हाथ में है। अब ट्रेडर्स को फायदा करना है तो काटन कारपोरेशन जरूर खरीदेगा। अब इस वकत काटन वहाँ जितना भी है खरीदने का, मैंने उनको कहा है। वह अफ़सल में आ रहा है। वेस्ट के बॉलेंस के बारे में आनरेबल मेम्बर ने कहा है। प्रैक्टिकल बात मैं आपके सामने हाउस के सामने रख रहा हूँ। जो चल रहा है जो परसेटेज, जिस तरह से भी, हर एक स्टेट में जो परसेटेज है, सपोर्ट प्राइस से ज्यादा उसको इन्फारमेशन मैं आपके सामने दी है।

SHRI SOMAPPA R. BOMMAI : The farmers have been brought to this kind of a situation because nobody is purchasing. The commission agents pay the amount and get the cotton. I would like to point out that it is all because of your following a wrong policy. (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN : I find that there is a Calling-Attention Motion coming up immediately after Question Hour. Therefore, I would like to pass on to Question No. 124.

SHRI SURESH KALMADI : Sir, what about my question—Question No. 123 ?

MR. CHAIRMAN : Question No. 123 has been transferred to another Ministry.

SHRI SURESH KALMADI : My question is about airlines. How has it been transferred to House ? I would like to know why the Ministry is so soft on foreign airlines. (*Interruptions*) Sir, the question is about airlines. The question is about their being so soft towards foreign airlines.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I have to look into it. It has been transferred to 12th May.

SHRI SURESH KALMADI : Sir, last time, a question on civil aviation was transferred to the Ministry of Surface Transport. Now, this question has been transferred to Home.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Question No. 124. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI PRAGADA KOTAIAH : Sir, kindly give me an opportunity to ask a question on cotton. (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN : You will get ample opportunities when the Calling-Attention Motion is taken up.

SHRI SURESH KALMADI : Sir, I would like to know why my question is not being taken up. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI PRAGADA KOTAIAH : Mr. Chairman, Sir, before you pass on to the next question, I request you to give me an opportunity to put a supplementary on this cotton affair.

MR. CHAIRMAN : All right. I will allow you a supplementary. I will go to the next question after that. Please ask your question.

SHRI AJIT P. K. JOGI : Sir, he is the champion of their interests.

SHRI SURESH KALMADI : Sir, you have gone back to the earlier question now.

SHRI FRAGADA KOTAIAH : Sir, presently there are pleas for export of cotton from certain quarters. Cotton crops arrive in September and October. We are now in May. The cotton grower never keeps cotton for such a long time. If at all there are cotton stocks, these are with the exporters and traders. The export of cotton at this stage helps the exporter, not the cotton growers. Already, the cotton yarn prices have gone up during the last 10 days by Rs. 20 to Rs. 35 per bundle of 10 lbs. of counts ranging from 405 to 805. This is hitting hard the handloom industry. Therefore, is there any proposal to permit export of cotton at this stage ?

On March 17 the Supreme Court have decided that all the mills should produce hank yarn to the extent of 50 per cent of their marketable output. What action has been taken to implement the order of the Supreme Court.

श्री जी. वेंकटस्वामी : सभापति जी, सुश्रीम कोर्ट के आर्डर का पूरी तरह से इम्प्लिमेंट किया जाएगा। ग्रानरेबल मेम्बर यह पूछ रहे हैं कि एक्सपोर्ट के लिए और काटन किया जा रहा है या नहीं किया जा रहा है। अब तक तो हमने सामने कोई ऐसा प्रोजेजल नहीं है। अगर काटन का स्टाक ज्यादा हो गया, काटन प्रोजेज का डिमांड ज्यादा आया, तो सोचा जाएगा।

श्री विठ्ठलराम भोलाराम पटेल : काटन प्रोजेज ने शुरू में कहा था कि कम से कम बीस लाख एक्सपोर्ट करिए, तो किसान को बहुत ज्यादा मिल सकेगा। आपने कुछ नहीं किया। एपीकल्चर मिनिस्ट्री ने भी (व्यवधान)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, please allow the questioner to ask.

SHRI PRAGADA KOTAIAH : I would like to know whether the Secretaries of

Agriculture, Commerce and Textile have been asked to sit together and decide about the export of cotton. I want a specific answer to this.

श्री जी. वेंकटस्वामी : सभापति जी, अब आप ही फैसला कीजिए, इधर से बोल रहे हैं कि ज्यादा काटन एक्सपोर्ट करो और उधर से श्री प्रागदा कोटैया कह रहे हैं कि न करो।

एन दोनों के बीच में मोच कर गवर्नमेंट डिसोजन लेगी कि क्या करना चाहिए। गवर्नमेंट इसको बैलेंस करने के लिए सोचेंगी।

SHRI SOM PAL : The only difference is in the timing of export, not of export only.

WELCOME TO PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION FROM NEPAL

MR. CHAIRMAN : Hon'ble Members, I have an announcement to make.

We have with us, seated in the Special Box, members of a parliamentary delegation from Nepal, currently on a visit to our country under the distinguished leadership of His Excellency Mr. Daman Nath Dhungana, Speaker of the House of Representatives of Nepal.

On behalf of the Members of the House and on my own behalf, I take pleasure in extending a hearty welcome to the leader and other members of the delegation and wish our distinguished guests an enjoyable and fruitful stay in our country. We hope that during their stay here they would be able to see and learn more about our parliamentary system, our country and our people, and their visit to this country will further strengthen the friendly bonds that exist between India and Nepal. Through them we convey our greetings and best wishes to His Majesty the King, the Members of the Parliament and the friendly people of Nepal.

*123. [Transferred to 12th May, 1993]