

Please sit down. It will be only Question No. 42. Either you sit down or I will adjourned the House.

DR. BHAI MAHAVIR: I am only making a submission. In this question there were two names and Mr. Khandelwal's name stood at number two. At least he was entitled to ask his question. The other supplementaries could be asked only at your discretion, we can understand that.

MR. CHAIRMAN: He was asking questions on suppositions.

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: He should have been allowed to frame his question, at least.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am afraid I have been very firm for 25 years as a Judge. This kind of brow-beating will not help. Yes, Question No. 42.

Extension of Monopoly Procurement of Cotton Scheme throughout the country

*42. SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAVRAO JADHAV: Will the Minister of Commerce be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 2429 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 22nd March, 1983 and state whether Government propose to extend the Monopoly Procurement of Cotton Scheme through the country?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND SUPPLY (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH): There is no such proposal under consideration of the Government at present.

SHRI SHIVA CHANDRA JHA: Point of order, Sir. My point of order is concerning this question.

SHRI RAMANAND YADAV: Under which rule? There is no point of order during Question Hour. (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please don't disturb, Dr. Bhai Mahavir. (Interruptions) There is no point of order during Question Hour and Mr. Shiva Chandra Jha's point of order is over-ruled. Now please

sit down. I am not going to allow this. I have passed on to Question No. 42.

SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAVRAO JADHAV: The Cotton Monopoly Procurement Scheme is being implemented in Maharashtra for the last ten years. (Interruptions) I have already put the question. I am putting my supplementaries now.

This Scheme was being implemented in Maharashtra for the last ten years. Now the period of the Scheme is going to expire in June 1984 and the Chief Minister of Maharashtra has publicly stated that he has demanded an extension for this scheme for another 11 years. As the Scheme is implemented in Maharashtra, the farmers of Maharashtra get the support price for cotton. Now cotton is a very important crop in this country. Maharashtra has led in so many national schemes—like the Employment Guarantee Scheme, the cooperative movement in sugar factories etc. Likewise there is this Cotton Monopoly Procurement Scheme. Now it is going to be over by June 1984. I would like to ask if the hon. Minister is going to extend this scheme for another 11 years because all the cotton growers of Maharashtra are restless as they get a good return on their cotton crop through this Scheme. I would like to have an affirmative answer to my question from the Minister.

SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH: We have asked for certain information from the Maharashtra Government and as soon as we receive that information, the Central Government will take a decision.

SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAVRAO JADHAV: My second supplementary is this. There are two important factors. The agricultural crops are very important and I am proud that my Government is seriously thinking to give support prices for all agricultural commodities. Likewise, Government of India has declared that for the 1983-84 season, they will give the support price for cotton also. So I would like to task what the basis is for giving this support price for cotton. Are

they going to consider the cost of production of the cotton crop? That is number one. Number two, while implementing this Cotton Monopoly Scheme in Maharashtra in 1982-83, 9.24 lakh bales were lying with the Maharashtra Government and that Government was asking the Central Government to allow them to export this cotton. Our information is that in the international market Maharashtra cotton is in very heavy demand. But the Government of India did not allow the Maharashtra Government to export it. So my humble request is this. There was a quota of 2.60 lakh bales to be exported outside the country. If this would have been allowed to farmers they might have got a good return and better circumstances and better situation would have been created for the cotton-growers. I would like to ask the Government if it is seriously considering to allow export of surplus agricultural goods. And cotton is a very important crop which is highly paying and can get us more foreign exchange through export. So, if the Government is going to decide to adopt the policy of export of these agricultural commodities, mainly cotton, it will be better if the policy is declared before the start of the season. Then, how that crop can be taken and how planning for the crop can be done can be decided.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Will you come down to your question?

SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAVRAO JADHAV: Yes, Sir. I am only asking a question.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Is it a question? It is a harangue.

SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAVRAO JADHAV: One question is about support price and another is about export policy. I would like to have confirmation of the support price. Secondly, is the Government of India going to decide the export policy for cotton and, if it is decided and allowed to the Government of Maharashtra, then we can have a better situation for all cotton growers of the country which can be adopted throughout the country. This is my question.

SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH: Sir, I have long list of questions and I will do my best to answer them.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have been instructed how to fix cotton prices!

SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH: Sir, about fixation of cotton prices, there is a Cotton Coordination Committee in which there are four members from the Central Government and four from the Maharashtra Government and it takes all factors into consideration, like cost inputs and various other factors which the hon. Member has mentioned. They are taken care of and prices are fixed. There have been no complaints about fixation of prices by this Committee so far. About exports, two issues were raised. One is that cotton exports should have been allowed to the Maharashtra Cotton Federation and the second is that the policy of exports this year itself should be declared. About exports by the Maharashtra Cotton Federation, Sir, last year a quota was fixed for the country of 7.2 lakh bales of cotton for export and a certain amount was allocated to the Maharashtra Cotton Federation. That amount of quota of cotton was allowed; there was no cut in the quota; that is one thing I want to inform the hon. Member. But the Cotton Federation went beyond that quota limit and, subject to Government of India's approval, contracted for more export of cotton, beyond the limits set. When it came back for approval of export of that cotton, Sir, already there was a situation of short crop—there was failure of cotton in Punjab, in Maharashtra itself, in Gujarat....

SHRI VITHALBHAI MOTIRAM PATEL: No.... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Don't disturb.

SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH: All right. In spite of that, area-wise, there was overall shortage of cotton. On long-staple, I will come to that—what the hon. Member may have in his mind on surplus of extra-long-staple or long-staple cotton. I will touch

that point. At that time internal prices prevailing in the country were higher than the prices contracted by the Maharashtra Cotton Federation and, so, selling at those contracted prices would not have been a gain to the farmers but selling in the internal market would have been a gain to the farmers, and while we would have lost in foreign exchange, the grower would have lost in his earnings by selling at lower prices and this industry would have been starved of raw material. So, there was no rationale for exports. We said that it should not be exported. However, the foreign buyers went to court, etc., got a stay order, other payment etc. There was that difficulty. So we allowed, in the present situation, against revised minimum prices not on the contracted prices but at the minimum price fixed by the Government of India, one lakh bales of the previous crop to be exported, and this has taken care of the difficulty of the Maharashtra Cotton Federation and to save the growers' money, our foreign exchange and also to preserve raw material for the industry. About exports and declaration of this policy—that it should be done well in advance—the hon Member might note that this year we took a decision to export two lakh bales of cotton in November itself, which is right in the beginning of the cotton season. And this being a late year for cotton, in November it was quite an early decision for export of cotton itself. So this year there can be no complaint on that count. Now about further exports, the estimated production of cotton is 78 lakh bales and what we have 23 lakh bales as carry-over from the previous year. So we have 101 lakh bales as the availability of cotton. Against that, our requirement this year is 78 lakh bales for the mill sector; for the non-mill sector, 4 lakh bales; three months' carry-over stock that is normally required, about 20 lakh bales. Two lakh bales have been exported, 104 lakh bales is the requirement; and 101 lakh bales is the total availability. So there may be overall shortage of this fibre. Now some Members from Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka, where there is growing of long staple fibre and extra long fibre, talked about them. It goes to the credit of the

farmers that they have produced it, and produced it in abundance.

DR. BHAI MAHAVIR: Sir, there seems to be no limit to the Minister's answer.

SHRI BISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH: There is no limit to the length of the question. So there is no limit to the length of the answer. I am answering every question that has been raised.

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is a long staple answer. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH: There has to be a ceiling on the question. There was a whole list of questions that came up and I have to answer them. I do not mind if you say "sit down"; and I will not answer them.

DR. BHAI MAHAVIR: You seem to have entered in to a collusion with him to scuttle all other Questions. It has taken half an hour, a question by one Member.

MR. CHAIRMAN: He has got the chance. So he is explaining the whole thing.

DR. BHAI MAHAVIR: Sir, if you ask hon. Members to be precise, you should ask the Ministers also to be precise. In a rambling style he goes on and on. (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: You come to my chamber and talk to me.

SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH: The Minister has got greater work. He has not been rambling. He has been absolutely precise if he has been listening to him and if he is concerned about the cotton growers. We are trying to solve that problem.

MR. CHAIRMAN: All right. Go on. You are doing very well.

SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH: About long staple... (*Interruptions*) Every time, time is taken away

like that by interruptions. About long staple, there is surplus on this count and....

MR. CHAIRMAN: You said, last year we had a surplus. This year 78 lakhs you need....

SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH: There is overall shortage, but there may be varietal surplus of long staple and extra long varieties. And that fact is in mind. The Cotton Corporation is active in purchases. Prices for long and extra long varieties have been higher than the ones last year. And in Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka purchases by the Cotton Corporation have been higher; and I can assure you that the Cotton Corporation presence will be there to take care of the interests of the farmers.

SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAVRAO JADHAV: Sir, you have given him half an hour; I will take one minute. There is one more thing on which I want a clarification. (*Interruptions*) Please listen. As irrigation and fertilizer practices are being increased in our country, farmers are going in for more and more of long staple cotton. Has the Government of India a policy about consumption of long staple cotton domestically and about export of it? I want a clarification on this.

SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH: There is domestic use, and we export also, if necessary.

SHRI VITHALBHAI MOTIRAM PATEL: I am happy that the Minister has given an elaborate reply. But I think the Minister is not correct when he says

that the consumption is likely to be 78 lakh bales. Today there is recession in the textile industry, and the consumption is going to be down. Today there is more surplus cotton, and you can export at least 5 to 6 lakh bales immediately. So, please consider this point, the demand of the farmers to export about 5 to 6 lakh bales. If you consider this demand of the farmers, they can get better price. Otherwise you are going to benefit the textile mill-owners by reducing the price.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: How is it possible?

SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH: What data I have got, I have furnished. If there is some other data with the hon. Member, I do not know. The basic data is what I have given.

श्री इशदिबेग ऐयुबबेग भीर्जा : श्रीमन्, काटन को सपोर्ट प्राइस देने के लिए मेरी जानकारी से मैं समझता हूँ कि काटन कारपोरेशन आफ इंडिया को परचेस में मारकेट में लाया गया है। मैं मंत्री जी से यह जानना चाहूँगा कि काटन कारपोरेशन आफ इंडिया ने पिछले साल और इस साल कितना मारकेट में आ कर खरीदी की है और कब खरीदी की है? मेरी जानकारी के मुताबिक काटन कारपोरेशन आफ इंडिया, सीजन की फसल जब किसान पूरी बेच देते हैं या आधे से ज्यादा बेच देते हैं तब उसके बाद आती है। इसलिए फारमर्स को काटन कारपोरेशन आफ इंडिया की परचेस से कोई सपोर्ट प्राइस नहीं मिल पाता है। मैं जानना चाहता

हैं कि काटन कारपोरेशन आफ इंडिया ने मारकेट में आ कर खरीद कब की है और अगर वह लेट की है तो उसकी वजह क्या है ? क्या मंत्री जी यह भी बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि अब क्या ऐसी पालिसी अख्तियार की जायेगी कि काटन कारपोरेशन आफ इंडिया परचेस में सीजन के शुरू होने से ही मारकेट में आ जायेगें ?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Expedite your purchase policy is all that is suggested.

श्री विश्वनाथ प्रताप सिंह : मान्यवर, इससे सहमत हैं कि यह शुरू से ही खरीद होनी चाहिए और इसलिए पूरी कोशिश की गई है कि शुरू से ही खरीद हो और यह रहा है कि शुरू से खरीद हुई है ।

श्री प्यारेलाल खंडेलवाल : कितना खरीदा गया है यह बताइये ?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Last question.

SHRI G. VARADARAJ: Mr. Chairman, the hon. Minister said that there was surplus of cotton in the country. I am sorry, I disagree with him. There may be some surplus of some varieties. For the cotton year 1983-84 what will be surplus? Before consulting the Cotton Advisory Board or the industry if cotton is exported, again the textile mills will be put to very big losses, and a lot of closures will come.

SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH: There may be overall fibre shortage so far as cotton is concerned.

The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Shridhar Wasudeo Dhabe.

Nomination of Employees' Representatives on Board of Directors of Nationalised Banks

*43. **SHRI SHRIDHAR WASUDEO: DHABE:***

DR. BHAI MAHAVIR:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that nomination of employees' representatives on the Boards of Directors of various nationalised banks is overdue;

(b) when did the term of such Directors, expire; and

(c) what are the reasons for the delay in making fresh nominations?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JAN-ARDHANA POOJARY): (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

In terms of the provisions contained in the State Bank of India Act 1955, the State Bank of India (Subsidiary Banks) Act 1959 and the Schemes framed under the Banking Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) Act 1970 and 1980, Workmen Directors and Officer Directors in the public sector banks are appointed by the Central Government for a term not exceeding three years. However, each such Director continues to hold office, notwithstanding the expiry of his term, until his successor is appointed. Two statements indicating the dates of expiry of the tenure of each Workmen Director and Officer Director in the 28 public sector banks and the position regarding appointment of successors to them are enclosed at Annexures I and II, respectively.