

view of the historical importance these places have.

श्री सुरेन्द्र पाल सिंह : अध्यक्ष महोदय, 3 जगहों का नाम माननीय सदस्य ने लिया। जहाँ तक मांडू का सवाल है, वहाँ तो कुछ सुविधाएँ पैदा की गई हैं। हमने वहाँ करीब 2 लाख रुपया खर्च किया है। बाकी और जगहें हैं वे डोमेस्टिक टूरिज्म में आती हैं, तो उनके वास्ते स्टेट गवर्नमेंट कुछ करें तो अच्छा होगा।

SHRI B. RACHAIAH : Sir, India has a variety of tourist centres, but they are at different places and they are distant from each other. The tourists who come from the foreign countries have very limited time at their disposal and they would like to visit all the places within the short time which they have and they would like to cover all the places as early as possible. Therefore, Sir, I would like to know whether the Ministry is thinking of having chartered planes, jet planes, which can go from place to place. Sir, in the South, we have got the Gole Gumbaz in Bijapur and we have got the famous Badami and we have got places where caves of historical importance are there. We have got many places of tourist interest. Now, if these foreign tourists go to these places by train or by bus, it will take a long time for these people to visit, all these places. I would like to know whether the Ministry would like to arrange for chartered planes, small planes, which can be chartered by these tourists.

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR : Sir, the suggestion thrown up by the honourable Member is a good and interesting suggestion and I would say that it deserves examination. In fact, we also think that if we want to promote tourism in our country, we shall have to provide more air services and we shall have to provide some sort of concessions for travelling and concessions for tourism and we shall have to have chartered planes for this purpose. But, within the strict limits of the economy which Air-India has to take care of, they can allow charters to a very limited extent for the

use of the foreign tourists and so far as charters within the country are concerned, it depends on the fleet availability of the Indian Airlines. Even so, if there are some groups which are interested in having a charter. Indian Airlines can also provide for that. But there is not much of a demand for this now.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Next question, please.

#### Restriction on cotton stock

\*273. SHRI LAKSHMANA MAHAPATRO :

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA :]

SHRI JAGJIT SINGH ANAND :

SHRI SANAT KUMAR RAHA;

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to fix a limit on cotton stocks for traders;

(b) whether Government have also decided to vest the Textile Commissioner with powers to check and confiscate excess stocks with traders; and

(c) if so, what are the details in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (PROF. D. P. CHATTOPADHYAYA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Textile Commissioner has been vested with powers to issue directions to persons holding any stock of cotton or kapas regarding the maximum quantity of cotton which can be kept in their possession as also the period within which the cotton should be disposed of by such persons.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : In framing the policy, has the Government taken

fThe question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Bhupesh Gupta.

into account that some times the cotton traders and others are making complaints that they are being handicapped because stocks are accumulating ? What steps have been taken in the matter to ensure that stocks are lifted and sold and that the actual producers as well as the small traders do not suffer on that account ?

PROF. D. P. CHATTOPADHYAYA :

Sir, it is not the intention of the Government to cause any sort of avoidable hardship to small traders. But the problem arose in the other way because of big traders and because of their higher holding capacity. They had been cornering—in fact they did corner—very big stocks and as a result of this, cotton prices went up in an unprecedentedly high manner, resulting also in higher cloth prices. So, in the interest of the consumers and also to prevent the higher price effect of this very essential commodity in the market, the Government had to resort to the stock-dehoarding measure. Sir, it is with that end in view that we have put a limit to the stock which can be held by the traders.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : Sir, according to a Press report, traders were reported to be holding about 2,50,000 bales of cotton on their own account and another 2,00,000 bales on mills' account. May I know, Sir, in view of these facts, when the stocks are being sold and also for any solution to be found to their being lifted, to the benefit of those who are producers ? Why is not the Government contemplating to take over the entire trade in its own hands, eliminating the big traders, so that the Government can ensure a fair price and proper price to the producers and also making cotton available to the traders, so that the mills also cannot play foul in this matter?

PROF. D. P. CHATTOPADHYAYA :

To take over the cotton trade in this country as a whole would require a very big amount of credit, and because of the dear credit policy of the Government and because of other monetary constraints—although it is a laudable suggestion and objective—it is not possible at the moment

to do it. But within the constraints the Cotton Corporation of India is trying its level best and this year we propose to strengthen, in terms of the credit, the Cotton Corporation of India further, enabling it to lift and purchase more cotton from the primary growers. And we are taking all such measures, and we will see that this problem is solved. But, Sir, the purchase at the moment does not entirely depend on this, because the relative shortage resulting from the hoarding, etc. was higher. So we cannot take over all this hoarded cotton at the price they are asking for. Because of Government's steps already taken, namely dehoarding measures, checking the stock position, limiting the stock position, importing of natural fibre and synthetic fibre, there has been an encouraging downward trend in the market.

SHRI JAGJIT SINGH ANAND :

Though the hon. Minister has given full information, according to the Business Standard the restriction on the mills was to hoard stocks up to one month or one and a half months, and negotiations were there with the Eastern Trade Association which was holding 250,000 bales on their account and 200,000 bales on behalf of the mills. And those people were insisting on a high price. When the Government decided to import cotton, the prices came tumbling down by Rs. 400 to Rs. 500 per candy. This reveals how these sharks, the big traders, the big mill-owners try to deprive the small mills of cotton at reasonable prices. Secondly, Sir it is a fact that for years and years, the Cotton Corporation of India was starved of grants and *it would* also deliberately enter late into the market, with the result the grower would have to sell cotton at a very low price, at Rs. 200 or Rs. 250 and then the price would go beyond Rs. 500. In view of this, will the Minister see to it that there is a definite ceiling on what is held by a mill in terms of bales in relation to the consumption by the mill during the past five years on an average, and a definite ceiling on the traders themselves for holding the stocks, and the Cotton Corporation of India enters each zone well in time when the

cotton comes to purchase the cotton directly from the growers because, so long the Cotton Corporation has not been able to help the grower of cotton ?

PROF. D. P. CHATTOPADHYAYA: Sir, I have already said that it is the Cotton Corporation's policy to enter the market as early as possible and to operate as effectively as possible. How effectively it is possible depends on the money and funds available. This time, as I have said, it is somewhat encouraging that it has been found possible for the Government to allocate larger sums to carry on the support price operations extensively. I can assure you, Sir, and through you, the hon. Members that it would be the earnest endeavour of the Cotton Corporation of India to reach the market as early as possible and in all parts of India.

Sir, the other point he has raised is about prices. Sir, I have already said that the price was rising rather at an alarming rate. While it is very correct that we should try to see that the poor farmer gets the right price, we also should see that the average consumer with poor purchasing capacity is not adversely affected by an unusually high and soaring price of cloth which is an essential item. I would just quote the figure of some varieties of cotton for example, the medium staple cotton. The selling price per candy of No. 320F American Standard—the standard variety—was Rs. 2,280 per candy in February...

AN HON. MEMBER : What was the price in November ?

PROF. D. P. CHATTOPADHYAYA : In November, it was Rs. 2,138 per candy. In March, it went up to Rs. 2,518/-, in April Rs. 3,325/-, in May Rs. 3,420/-, and in the next month, in June, it went up to Rs. 3,800/-. It is a very staggeringly high price, almost killing the consumer as a result. So, we have to protect the interests of the consumer. That is why, Sir, we are importing some cotton. We have already imported some, and two lakhs more are in the pipeline.

As regards the holding position, the mills in different regions of India have been allowed to hold different quantities of stocks. So far as Bombay and Ahmedabad-based mills are concerned, they have been allowed to hold two months' stocks; the mills of Assam, West Bengal, Orissa and Bihar areas are allowed to hold three and a half months' stocks. The other areas—other than these two areas, i.e. eastern India and Bombay and Ahmedabad areas—are being allowed to hold stock\* for three months' requirements. So far as the co-operative spinning mills are concerned, they are being allowed to hold six months' stocks. So, Sir, the ceiling that has been prescribed for different categories of mills, to my understanding, is not unreasonable.

SHRI SANAT KUMAR RAHA : Just as in jute, the Textile Department has not got any comprehensive measures. So, I would like to get some answers from the Minister in regard to cotton. I would like to know whether the Government has got any regulatory machinery or measures of physical control of cotton with the traders and if so, what that machinery is and what those measures are, secondly, whether the Cotton Corporation purchases cotton directly from the growers or through agents. I would further like to know how the Government thinks that they will be able to stabilise the price of cotton and cloth in the interest of the consumers and growers. And, how does the Government plan to co-ordinate between growers, traders and industry when cotton is not going to be purchased on a monopoly basis ?

PROF. D. P. CHATTOPADHYAYA : Sir, there is no monopoly cotton purchase except in Maharashtra and we feel that monopoly in one State does not necessarily help either that State or the rest of India. Now our endeavour will be, with the money made available to us, to see that the purchase price and selling policy of the Maharashtra Cotton Co-operative Federations and the C.C.I., which is in charge of purchase of cotton throughout the country, are harmonised and co-ordinated to the benefit of both the organisations and

the growers. So far as the question of going to be a disincentive to cotton growers in purchase policy is concerned, I would like to India.

submit that the Cotton Corporation of India has been instructed to purchase as far as possible always from the primary-market and the growers. But sometimes it is not possible to do that. As you will kindly appreciate, Sir, these growers are spread over thousands of villages and in order to reduce our overhead expenses and make our organisation efficient, we cannot afford to have purchase centres in all the areas. Sometimes some poor, small intermediaries are used and that is, it should be remembered, and I may humbly submit, to the benefit of the growers themselves. Otherwise individual growers cannot carry their small stock to the market because in that case the transport costs will be higher. So, some people pool together the produce of some small farmers and one intermediary transports it on hire to a central place. So in a limited scale, in unavoidable cases, some small intermediaries operate and not in a big way. We, nevertheless, say, Sir, that we are for direct purchases as far as possible. Physical checking we always try to do but we did not have enough machinery and as far as the Cotton (Control) Order of 1955 is concerned, we did not have an enabling provision, enabling the Textile Commissioner to prescribe stock units for traders. Now that enabling provision has been given to him and he can verify both the quantity of cotton stocked at different levels of stockists, namely, category A & category B, etc. and also the period for which they can hold those stocks. These measures are yielding some positive results.

SHRI MULKA GOVINDA REDDY : Sir, I would like to know whether it has come to the notice of the Government that when cotton season commences the cotton prices are very low and the prices go up only in the lean season when there are no stocks with peasants. I would also like to know whether the rate that is now being given for the imported cotton is competitive and whether that is less than what is available in the market in India and whether the import of cotton is not

PROF. D. P. CHATTOPADHYAYA :

Sir, as I have already said, the incentive that we are prepared to give to the cotton growers has to be reconciled with the consumer interest. Therefore, I do not propose to advocate any policy which will be resulting in some avoidable hardship to the grower. So far as the other point raised by him, namely, that at the time of peak arrival the price is somewhat low and later on it goes up, is concerned, unfortunately, Sir, it is true. Our effort is to stabilise the price and in order to stabilise the price we have to build up a buffer. Then the import policy is partly motivated to build up a comfortable buffer and, therefore, both natural fibres and man-made fibres are being imported. I will see, Sir, that this quantum of import does not harm unnecessarily and to the avoidable extent the Interests of growers in our country.

श्री प्रकाश सहोत्रा : मैं माननीय मंत्री जी को बधाई देना चाहता हूँ जो कदम उन्होंने उठाये, लेकिन यह जानकारी लेना चाहता हूँ कि क्या यह सही है कि जिस दिन यह आर्डर निकला उसके तीन सप्ताह पहले वहाँ के व्यापारी टैक्सटाइल कमिशनर से मिले थे और उन्होंने अपने स्टॉक उनको आफर किये थे ? दूसरी चीज यह है कि व्यापारियों के पास बहुत सा माल मिल के एकाउंट पर था जो उन्होंने बेच दिया। ऐसी सूरत में मिल और व्यापारियों के बीच में जो लिटिगेशन होगा उसको रिजाल्व करने के लिए कोई मशीनरी इवाल्व कर रहे हैं क्या ?

PROF. D. P. CHATTOPADHYAYA :

Sir, the question is not of merely offering the stock physically but of the price. If the Cotton Corporation is asked by the Textile Commissioner, because of this offer, to lift the stock at a very high price, then to whom are they have to sell it ? Because if they take it at a high price, they cannot sell to the mills. For example, at the moment, we are importing cotton on account of these mills but because of the high international price paid on the import of cotton I sometimes, the mills are reluctant to lift it.

So, it is not only a question of offering the Congress Committee, at the instance of Sub-stock for production but it is a question of price also.

SHRI PRAKASH MEHROTRA : Sir, my second question has not been answered. In case of a dispute, is he evolving any machinery to resolve it ?

PROF. D. P. CHATTOPADHYAYA : In fact, Sir, one of the exercises that I had to undertake the day before yesterday in Bombay was to evolve a machinery and we have it already.

श्री देवराज बाटील : अध्यक्ष महोदय, बाबाबा के बाद सूती कपड़ा उद्योग की नीति जनता के लिए अधिक महत्वपूर्ण है और इस नीति में यह मिनस्ट्री पूरी असफल रही है। गये साल बाजार में कपास के लिए कोई खरीदार नहीं था, एक्सपोर्ट के लिए भी परमिशन नहीं मिलती थी और आज उल्टा यह हो रहा है कि मरप्लस से डेफिसिट की परिस्थिति यहाँ हो गई है। इस नीति के दो अंग थे। एक तो मिल को रई की सप्लाई के लिए जो गलत तरीका है उसको आपने बन्द नहीं किया है, मिडिलमैन को निकाला नहीं और मिल को जो कपास देना किया है उसकी मीनिमम और मैक्सिमम प्राइस आपने फिक्स नहीं की। आज इनकी उन्नत किस्म की कपास की पैदावार हो रही है कि आन्ध्र प्रदेश, कर्नाटक, तमिलनाडु, राजस्थान, हरियाणा, पंजाब आदि स्टेटों में अधिक उत्पादन वाली कपास पैदा हो रही है और गये साल इतनी कपास पैदा हुई थी कि मार्केट में कोई लेने वाला नहीं था और आज हालत यह हो गई है कि मिल के पास कपास नहीं रहा है। तो मैं यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि कपास उत्पादन मिल को रई सप्लाई करने और कपास से जो कपड़ा बनता है उसमें कपास का मूल्य इन तीनों चीजों के लिए कोई इंटीग्रेटेड पालिसी आप तय नहीं करना चाहते हैं तो इसमें सफल नहीं हो सकते हैं। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि ऐसी कोई इंटीग्रेटेड पालिसी तय करने का कोई आपका विचार है या नहीं ?

PROF. D. P. CHATTOPADHYAYA : Sir, in this specific regard, the All-India

ramaniamji in 1954 in Delhi took a policy decision that this element should be integrated at a lower stable price, intermediary level cost and the mill-gate price and we set up a committee and I am glad to say that the committee has submitted a report. I am sure Subramaniamji will be very interested to know it, because it is under persistent queries that the committee has almost finalised the report. It was a very difficult and a complex task and it has been almost done. The other question was about I he controlled cloth. Sir, I have already had occasion to say on the floor of this House that in regard to controlled cloth, we are saddled with some paradoxical situation. Sir, the stock position is high and the distribution is not as it should be. On the other hand, the mills are complaining that they are going sick, almost verging on collapse, because of the application of the controlled cloth production. Therefore, we have to balance the demands of both the sectors and we are reorganising the general distribution. The bottlenecks are being removed and where the stock position is of more than two months, the mills are being allowed to clear them subject to certain conditions. In the NTC mills, we ourselves are producing *Janata vastra* and we are selling them at a price little above the cost of production and we are carrying on.

#### Smuggling of Gold into India

•274 SHRIMATI PRATIBHA SINGHrt  
SHRIMATI SUSHILA SHANKAR  
ADIVAREKAR :

Will the Minister of REVENUE AND BANKING be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that large scale gold smuggling activity is going on along the Indo-Pakistan and Indo-Burma borders; and

(b) if so, what steps Government have taken to check smuggling of gold into the country ?

jThe question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shrimati Pratibha Singh.