

**Length of sarees worn by poorer section of society**

\*368. SHRI SYED NIZAM-UD-DIN: f SHRI NIRANJAN SINGH TALIB: SHRI GIAN CHAND TOTU:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Consumer Council of India conducted a survey in Delhi regarding the length of sarees worn by poorer section of society;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the complaints in this regard could not be looked into due to lack of sufficient staff of the Department of Weights and Measures in various States; and

(c) if so, what action Government propose to take to curb such practices?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI T. A. PAI): (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the table of the House.

**Statement**

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) The sample survey of the Consumer Council of India had suggested the introduction of a Bill to make the Weights and Measures Act more stringent. The Standards of Weights and Measures Bill of 1976 was recently passed by both the House of Parliament—by the Rajya Sabha on the 15th January, 1976 and by the Lok Sabha on the 9th March, 1976. This Bill provides, for the first time, punishments for offences in respect of commodities sold by weight, mea-

fThe question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Syed Nizam-ud-din.

sure or number in the course of inter-State trade and commerce and further provides for the regulation of inter-State trade and commerce in commodities sold by weight, measure or number.

SHRI SYED NIZAM-UD-DIN: Sir, as far as the first part of my question is concerned, the reply is in the affirmative. So, I would like to know whether, when such a survey was conducted, sarees found in the market were not of the desirable length and, if so, it is a sorry state of affairs that the poor man—because of his economic backwardness is forced to wear poor clothes and the producer makes him to wear cloth which does not cover his body properly—what steps the Government is going to take in regard to the stocks already in the market which is not of the desirable length.

SHRI T. A. PAI: Sir, whenever the length is marked on the saree, it has been found that it conforms to that length, but I am told that here were some sarees without this mark and that there were instances of shortages. Now, the statement that the Finance Minister has made, that in future every metre of cloth will be marked, I think, should take care of it. But, I am not sure whether even that will take care of everything because it is the length of the saree before washing. I know of instances where, after a wash, they shrink. I suppose that also will have to be taken care of.

SHRI SYED NIZAM-UD-DIN: I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether at least in regard to sarees and lungis there cannot be some standard length. Why the Government should not prescribe the length of saree and lungie according to the needs of the poor man, I would like to know. The Government should fix up what should be the

average length of the saree or lun-gee.

SHRI T. A. PAI: Sir, the length would depend upon the size of the person also. All that I can assure you is that the length conforms to what is mentioned on the saree itself.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: It seems the Minister is a saree expert. Will he kindly tell us who told him that there is a difference before washing and after washing?

SHRI T. A. PAI: I think those who have common sense can appreciate that.

SHRI GIAN CHAND TOTU: May I know from the hon. Minister, what is the total number of complaints received in this respect and the mode of disposal of the same?

SHRI T. A. PAI: No complaints specifically have been received by us. It is on the instance of the Consumer Council that we are now looking into how to rectify the basic defects.

#### Financial crisis of the Coal India Ltd.

\*369. SHRI KALYAN ROY: f

SHRI BIR CHANDRA DEB

BURMAN: SHRI U. K.

LAKSHMANA

GOWDA; SHRI

LAKSHMANA MAHAPATRO:

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to refer to reply to the Un-starred Question 1068 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 6th March, 1975 and to state:

(a) whether the financial crisis of the Coal India Limited caused by the non-payment and failure of a large number of industries to pay for the coal they have been purchasing has been solved;

The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Kalyan Roy.

;

(b) if not, what is the amount due to various companies of the Coal India Limited from private and public sectors namely steel plants, power houses, railways—including the names of the power houses and States till the end of January, 1976;

(c) what is the quantity of coal supplied to these concerns separately in 1973, 1974 and 1975;

(d) what are the reasons for nonpayment and whether the matter has been taken up by Government;

(e) if so, (he results thereof; and

(f) what steps Government propose to take to realise the arrears?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI K. C. PANT): (a) to (f) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

#### Statement

#### Financial Crisis of the Coal India Ltd.

(a) and (b) No, Sir. The detail\* of the outstandings from railways, steel plants, power houses, etc. as on 31-1-1976 are given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) The total quantity of coal supplied to steel plants, power houses and railways by the Coal India Limited and Singareni Collieries Company during 1973-74, 1974-75 and 1975-76 is as follows:

	1973-74	1974-75	1975-76 upto January, 1976
Steel plants	11.30	11.58	10.70
Power House	17.74	20.30	21.35
Railways	13.92	14.14	12.12