

Cloth merchants' scheme for cheap cloth

752. SHRI SHYAMLAL GUPTA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Federation of All India Cloth Merchants Association has submitted any scheme to Government for sale of cheap variety of cloth; and

(b) if so, the details of the scheme and what decision has been taken by Government thereon?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The following suggestions were made by the Federation of All India Cloth Merchants' Association with regard to the distribution of controlled cloth.

(i) Standard varieties of cloth in each category, with suitable variations in width in construction and piece lengths will be produced to suit requirements of various regions.

(ii) Unnecessary processing would be discouraged and a distinguishing thread of a suitable colour will be inserted on any of the selvedge of the cloth to distinguish it from non-controlled cloth.

(iii) The Federation will work as an Apex body of various textile trade associations for distribution of controlled cloth to semi-wholesale level. Thereafter, cloth will be distributed through approved retailers who may be approved by the local textile trade association with the help of Civil Supplies Department and social service organisations.

(iv) Mills should stamp 3 per cent higher prices and deliver goods f.o.r. destination. Until this is agreed to, the Federation would keep 3 per cent for freight equalisation fund and expenses of the Apex body.

(v) The retailer will be allowed a maximum margin of 9 per cent. The balance margin between ex-mill and retail prices, will be distributed amongst other channels.

The question of reducing the varieties of cloth is under consideration. It has not been found possible to accept the other suggestions made by the Federation.

A.P.C. recommendation on floor price of jute

753. SHRI SHYAMLAL GUPTA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the floor prices of raw jute fixed by Government are in accordance with the ones recommended by the Agricultural Prices Commission;

(b) if not, comparative prices fixed by Government and the ones recommended by Agricultural Prices Commission; and

(c) the reasons for variation in prices?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Newsprint from Finland

754. SHRIMATI SUSHILA SHANKAR ADIVAREKAR:

SHRIMATI SUMITRA G. KULKARNI:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Finland has agreed to increase the supply of newsprint to India;

(b) if so the details of the agreement in this regard; and

(c) the extent to which the shortage of newsprint is likely to be overcome thereby.

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE) (a) to (c) S. T. C. has been in touch with suppliers in Finland for increased supply of newsprint. No agreement has, however, been reached in this behalf so far.

Cash aid for export of man-made fabrics

755. SHRI NIREN GHOSH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the percentage of cash aid for export of man-made fabrics;

(b) what are the various other facilities given to exporting units;