

3. National Co-operative consumers Federation and the chain of co-operative institutions affiliated to them.

4. Fair price shops run under the aegis of the State Government.

5. Any other agency in the co-operative sector specified by the State Government concerned.

The retail price of controlled cloth has also been reduced from 20% to 12% over the exfactory price.

MISUSE OF EXPORT INCENTIVES

*160. DR. K. MATHEW KURIAN : Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of cases involving misuse of export incentives detected during the past three years; and

(b) the details of action taken in this regard ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE) : (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

PRICES OF COTTON

*161. SHRI M. K. MOHTA : Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that raw cotton prices have registered a sharp rise recently; and

(b) if so, the steps contemplated by Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI L. N. MISHRA) : (a) and (b) There has been a slight increase in prices of raw cotton which is due to seasonal variations. The prices are expected to stabilise as the cotton season advances.

SMUGGLING OF INDIAN MOTION PICTURES OUT OF INDIA

◆162. SHRI S.A. K.HAJA MOHIDEEN: SHRI VENIGALLA SATYANARAYANA :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware* that a large number of Indian motion pictures are being smuggled out of the country without any customs checks; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to check this leakage ?

THE MINISTER OF REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE (SHRI K. R. GANESH) : (a) In view of the seizures made by the Customs authorities from time to time of Indian films attempted to be smuggled out of the country it can be said that Indian motion pictures are being smuggled out of the country.

(b) The following measures have been taken to prevent the smuggling of goods including smuggling out of Indian films : Systematic collection and follow-up of information, keeping a watchful eye on the suspected smugglers, and on vulnerable sectors along the coast. Some senior officers of the rank of Collectors of Customs, Additional Collectors of Customs and Asstt. Collectors of Customs have been posted in vulnerable areas to look after anti-smuggling work exclusively. Extra vigilance is exercised in examination of suspected baggage and parcels sent out of the country.

*163. [Transferred to the 29th November, 1972].

EXPORT OF SEMI-FINISHED SKINS

◆164. SHRI N. R. DHOUDHURY : SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE : SHRI KALYAN ROY :

Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that due to export of semi-tanned sheep skins, the leather industry in the country, particularly in West Bengal, is suffering from shortage of raw material; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to curb the export of semi-finished leather, if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE) : (a) and (b) On account of large exports of semi-tanned hides and