

## RAJYA SABHA

*Monday, the 1th August, 1972/the*

*16th Shrawan, 1894 (Saka)*

The House met at eleven of the clock.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN in the Chair.

### ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

\*151. [The questioner (Shri M. K. Mohta) was absent. For answer vide col. 32 infra]

#### RATE OF INCREASE IN PRODUCTION OF FINE AND COARSE VARIETIES OF CLOTH

\*152. SHRI KRISHAN KANT : SHRI D. P. SINGH : SHRI SYED AHMAD : SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR : SHRI KOTA PUNNAIAH : DR. Z. A. AHMAD :

Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state the rate of increase in the production of fine and coarse varieties of cloth in the organised textile industry during the last three years ?

THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI L. N. MISHRA) : A statement is laid on the Table of the

Hills>>

#### STATEMENT

Production of cloth during 1969, 1970 and 1971 is as under :—

Cloth	Year			Percentage (increase (+)/decrease (—) in 1971 over the production in 1969
	1969	1970	1971	
	(in million metres)			
Coarse	608	579	503	(—)17.27
Fine	177	219	247	(+)39.55
Superfine	324	385	416	(+)28.40
All varieties	4168	4157	3957	(—) 5.06

SHRI KRISHAN KANT : Here is the information. Is he withdrawing it ?

SHRI L. N. MISHRA : I do not know wherefrom he got the statement. After the statement was prepared I found that it was incorrect. Then, I have withdrawn it and spoke to the Secretariat. I do not know how it was distributed. That statement is wrong. I apologise for the wrong statement.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : On a point of order. This is the first time I have heard an answer of this kind. Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table tomorrow . . .

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : I can understand it if you had said 'after some time'. Therefore, some negligence has taken place.

SHRI L. N. MISHRA : I can tell you and you will agree with me . . .

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : Why are you anticipating me ?

SHRI L. N. MISHRA : An hon. Member of the Lok Sabha, Shri Is\*ar Marandi got critically ill last night. The whole night I was in the hospital. Unfortunately he expired this morning. So, I could not see the answer myself. That is the main reason. I came back from the hospital at about ten o'clock to my office and started

Diving into the questions and answers, I mind that this statement was not convincing and asked the officers how they had prepared it. Then, I phoned the Rijva ibha S:etari3t ex^ressin; regret and said that I was withdrawing that statement. I am extremely sorry.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : This is all right. Now, you will see that what he has now said is very reasonable, but what he said before was a summary reply.

SHRI KRISHAN KANT : I would like our direction. Should we ask supplementaries only after he lays the information on the Table ?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : The question has been answered.

SHRI KRISHAN KANT : Are we to ask supplementaries ?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : You can ask supplementaries.

SHRI N. K. SHEJWALKAR : On a point of order. The hon. Minister has said that he wants time to give his reply, then, how can questions be asked ? Other members have to put questions.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : The question has been taken up. He can clarify his answer if he wants.

DR. K. MATHEW KURIAN : I want a clarification . . .

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : You will get your chance.

SHRI KRISHAN KANT : As directed by the hon. Deputy Chairman, may I ask some clarification on the basis of the earlier statement ?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : No.

SHRI KRISHAN KANT : He has answered saying that the information is being collected and he will give it at 2 o'clock.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : You put your question.

SHRI KRISHAN KANT : Is it a fact that the production of coarse cloth has gone down in the last three years ? I find that the production of superfine and fine cloth has gone up. Is it a fact that the quota fixed for controlled cloth of 400 million metres per year is being produced, but the production of coarse and medium is much more than the quota fixed ? While the quota cloth is to be sold at a particular price, the other cloth of the same variety is being sold in the blackmarket at a higher price. Because of that, even the controlled varieties are being sold in the blackmarket. Does he know this and, if so, what steps is he going to take to remedy the situation ?

SHRI L. N. MISHRA : So far as that statement is concerned, that should be treated as withdrawn and I do not want hon. Members to rely upon the figures given in that statement. So far as production of controlled variety cloth is concerned, I have stated in the House on a number of occasions that the quota fixed is 100 million metres. Two years back it came to 5 million metres, and we had an agreement with the Cotton Mills Federation to bring it up to 100 million metres. There has been no default on that account and the production of 100 million metres of controlled variety of cloth in the country is maintained. Coarse cloth is produced in addition to the controlled variety of cloth of 100 million metres. That is one thing. Medium is another, superfine is another. As to what is the exact figure of each variety I shall lay it on the Table of the House either tomorrow or the day after if you give me time, or if you force me, I shall do it this afternoon. I want two or three hours to study it. There is nothing to hide. I shall come before the House again.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : You can lay it tomorrow. Evidently he has not studied the papers as yet, as he said earlier. Therefore, I would request Members to put further questions tomorrow when he makes the statement.

DR. K. MATHEW KURIAN : Sir, on a point of order. Before we pass on to the

next question I have a point of order arising from this. A statement has been presented to the Members.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : It has not been laid.

DR. K. MATHEW KURIAN : The Minister has said that he wants time to prepare the statement. I would like to know whether this statement was prepared by the Ministry of Foreign Trade office and whether the Minister of second thoughts, particularly seeing that production of coarse cloth has been declining steadily during the last three years wants the figures to be cooked up.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : The Minister has been seen that statement in the office. He feels that it is incorrect. He wants to correct it. He has withdrawn it. It has not been laid on the Table of the House. :-

DR. K. MATHEW KURIAN : It cannot be changed by the mere whims and fancies of individuals.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : His reply has been completely different from what you have in your hands. Then Shri D. P. Singh, Shri Syed Ahmad, Shri Chandra Shekhar, Shri Kota Punnaiah . . .

SHRI KRISHAN KANT : Are we asking questions on this ? Then I should be permitted to ask the question.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : You have asked the question.

SHRI KRISHAN KANT : He has not replied to the question I asked. He only corroborated what I have said. I said one thing that 100 million metres that are being produced in the controlled variety is as per fixed quota for even quarter but the production of coarse cloth is much more than the quota and that is being sold at a higher price than the controlled price. Because of that both controlled and uncontrolled cloth is being sold at a higher price, and the poor

people in the villages everywhere are getting cloth at a higher price, even the controlled cloth because of that mixed was selling. I am asking, does he know the situation ? If so, what remedy he is going to take ? I will put my second question.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : No more second question. Kindly hear the reply to the second question.

SHRI KRISHAN KANT : I have not put my second question.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : You have put your first question. This is the second question.

SHRI KRISHAN KANT : He did not reply to my first question.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Evidently the Minister is not completely satisfied with what he has studied. Therefore, it is no use your trying to force an answer out of him. .

SHRI KRISHAN KANT : I agree with you. Then postpone the question. We can do away with supplementaries now.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : But others may want to ask.

SHRI KRISHAN KANT : I am not satisfied with his answer.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : You will never be satisfied.

SHRI KRISHAN KANT : I am not asking on the figures. I am asking a question on the general thing. Firstly, the quota of 100 million metres . . . (Interruptions)

**श्री गुलामनब ठाकुर :** उपसभापति, मेरा बयान का प्रश्न है। जब आपने एक बार यह कह दिया कि इस प्रश्न का जवाब कल दिया जाएगा और श्री कल्याणन जी की ओर से मंत्री होती उसका उत्तर कल मिलेगा और माननीय मंत्री मजदूम ने अपनी डिक्लेरिटी बदन के सामने जाद्वर की क्योंकि हमारे सूबे के एक

**माननीय सदस्य का देहान्त हो गया तो फिर समय को किल करने से क्या फायदा है ?**

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : What is your question, Mr. Krishan Kant ?

**SHRI MAN SINGH VARMA :** On a point of order. सब से उचित यह होगा कि इसको स्थागित किया जाय। जब आप स्थागित कर देंगे तो सप्लीमेंट्री नहीं होंगे।

SHRI N. K. SHEJWALKAR : I do not know what is the question which is being followed. (*Interruptions*) Sir, it is not clear—is the whole question postponed or are only the supplementaries to the question being postponed ?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : You please take your seat and everything will be clear. Mr. Krishan Kant, do you want the Minister to proceed with the answer to this question or shall we postpone this question to another day ?

SHRI KRISHAN KANT : If you are postponing it, it is all right but if you are permitting supplementaries, I will ask also.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Yes, we can postpone the question. This ques-  
tion will be treated as not answered today  
and will be answered on another day. Next  
question, Mr. Gunanand Thakur,

#### PRICE POLICY OF RAW JUTE

\*153. SHRI GUNANAND THAKUR.\*\*  
SHRI KALYAN ROY : SHRI M.  
K. MOHTA : SHRI  
DWUENDRALAL SEN GUPTA :

Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE

\*\* The question was actually asked in the floor of the House by Shri Gunanand Thakur.

be pleased to refer to the reply to Unstarred Question No. 339 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 22nd May, 1972 and state :

(a) whether any decision have since been taken on the report of the Agricultural Prices Commission or. price policy of raw jute for 1972-73, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons for the delay ; and

(b) whether there has been a sharp decline in jute production in West Bengal, if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI L. N. MISHRA) : (a) and (b) A statement is laid on the Table of the House:

#### STATEMENT

(a) Yes, Sir, the minimum price for 1972-73 has been fixed statutorily on the basis of Rs. 115 per quintal for Assam Bottom at Calcutta and a maximum differential of Rs. 15 per quintal for transport and other charges between Calcutta and up country markets. The prices will be reviewed after 2 months.

(b) Jute production this year is likely to be lower than last year because of the drought. Full details are not yet available.

**श्री गुणानन्द ठाकुर :** सर, जहाँ तक स्टेट-मेंट का सवाल है, बिहार में, बंगाल में और आसाम में जो खासकर जूट ग्रोइंग एरिया है पिछले 25 वर्षों में जूट उत्पादन करने वाले किसानों का वाजिब दाम नहीं मिले। नतीजा यह हुआ कि जूट पैदा करने वाले इलाके में जूट ग्रोइंग किसानों का इंसैटिब खत्म हो चुका है। वहाँ बड़ी लूट हुई है जूट उत्पादकों की। इस लिए मैं मंत्री जी से पूछना चाहता हूँ, निवेदन करना चाहता हूँ कि इस दो महीने के अन्दर जो