

RAJYA SABHA

*Monday, the 14th August, 1912jSravatui 23,
1894 (Saka)*

The House met at eleven of the clock,
MR. CHAIRMAN in the Chair.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

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

- 152. SHRI KRISHAN KANT : t 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) : In the organised
sector of the cotton textile industry the
production of fine cotton cloth increased
from 177 million metres in 1969 to 219
million metres in 1970 and to 247 million
metres in 1971. There has been no increase
in the production of coarse cotton cloth
during 1970 and 1971 over the production in
1969 on account of failure of cotton crop.

However, the production of controlled
cloth has increased from 2.97 million
metres during May 1971 to about 102 mil-
lion metres in 1972.

Apart from this there has been a fairly

JThe question was actually asked on the
floor of th* House by Shri Krishan Kant.
tPostponed from the 7th August, 1972. 9
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steep rise in the production of man-made
fibre textiles to the extent of 1090 million
metres. The handloom and Powerloom
production which is mostly in the coarse and
medium categories account for an additional
production of 3400 million metres. There
has been also similar increases in the
production of woollen textiles. To sum up
the overall production of textiles in the
country has shown a steady increase.

SHRI KRISHAN KANT : Sir, is it not a
fact that the quantity of controlled cloth is
400 million metres as per the agreement, but
the production is much more which goes into
the uncontrolled sector and at a higher price?
Is it not a fact that because of this the other
controlled variety suffers and the poor
people get it only at a higher rate? May I
know from the Government of India whether
they will take all the coarse cloth production
in the controlled sector so that the f poor
people in the country can get it at a cheaper
rate and what they are going to do about the
fine variety whose production should be
reduced? What is the Government going to
do about these things?

SHRI L. N. MISHRA: Sir, we produce
about 500 million metres of coarse cloth. Of
course, all of that is not controlled. The
production of controlled cloth is now over
100 million metres per quarter. There has
bejn an improvement in the production of
controlled cloth also. But, about bringing all
the coarse cloth production under the
category of controlled cloth, I cannot say
anything at this stage. I would also like to
tell the honourable Member that all the
coarse cloth is not fit for wearing. Some of
them are bedsheets, towels and other things.
But, Sir, it is a fact that we need more of
coarse cloth for the common man and his is
a good suggestion. But, it has some im-
plications. We have to give subsidy today

at the rate of 20 paise per metre. Therefore, if we bring all of it under this category, there will be more subsidy and it will have to be levied on the other producers.

Sir, about reducing the production of fine variety of cloth, I would also request the honourable Member to take into account the fact that there has been a change in the taste of the people, what may be called, consumer preference and more and more people are going in for fine and super-fine varieties. There have been a number of reports and there has also been the Fourth Plan. I do not want to quote from them. But, I want to state that every report has suggested that there is going to be a great change in the taste of the people and that the Government should go in more and more for the production of finer varieties. And, Sir, there are also the synthetics which last longer than the ordinary cloth.

SHRI KRISHAN KANT : Sir, my point is that nearly 22 crores of people live below the povertyline in this country. It is the coarse cloth rather than the bed-sheets and other things that they require more. So, in order to increase the capacity of the mills so that they can produce more of this and more people get it, the Government should try to produce more of this coarse cloth rather than the finer varieties. Secondly, about the distribution system, has the Government got reports that people do not get cloth ? Is it not better if the controlled sector is given to the State Governments so that they can sell through their distribution system, through the fair-price shops, etc. so that the people can get the cloth at the controlled rate? May I know whether, in this connection, the Government's attention has been drawn to the Industrial Policy Resolution of 1948, when Shri Jawaharlal Nehru was also there, in respect of nationalisation of (he textile industry and also to the recent statement of the Congress President, Shri Shankar Dayal Sharma, on the question of nationalisation of the textile industry? I say this

because even now more coarse cloth is being produced by the government sector? and the Government is, therefore, capable of running this industry. Will the Government think on these lines ?

SHRI L. N. MISHRA : Sir, Mr. Krishna Kant has raised a number of questions. Some of them have got serious implications also.

About the distribution part of it, this, question was raised last week also by Dr. Bhai Mahavir and I stated that it would be our effort to see that price is printed on every metre. About the controlling of all varieties of cloth, it is a big decision and I will have to go to a higher level to take this decision. Various measures are being thought about the price control. For this I will have to set up adequate machinery. But at this moment, I will say, there is no proposal to control all the varieties of cloth. About bringing all the coarse cloth under this category of controlled cloth, I will try to get it examined so that it is available to the common man at a cheaper price. About the taking over of textile mills, we have no such proposal at the moment...

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Kota Punnaiah.

SHRI KOTA PUNNAIAH : May I know from the hon. Minister : (a) Has the Wanchoo Committee submitted its recommendations as regards the prices of controlled cloth, and, if so, what are the recommendations and what the Government proposes to do? (b) Will the Government evolve a more practicable scheme whereby the production of controlled cloth can be equal to 50 per cent of the mills' production? (c) What mechanism. . .

MR. CHAIRMAN : Do not put so many questions . . .

SHRI KOTA PUNNAIAH : Only (c), Sir, What mechanism has the Government proposed to adopt to see that the major

portion of the controlled cloth reaches the rural areas where the weaker sections are concentrated ?

SHRI L. N. MISHRA : We have no control on the distribution side. We expect the dealers to sell at the controlled price. The Essential Commodities Act is there. We have also requested the State Governments to see that the prices charged by the retail dealers are not higher than what is printed on the cloth. We take these steps to see that the controlled variety of cloth is available to the villagers and also to the common man in towns and cities or whatever you may call it.

DR. Z. A. AHMAD: After all the searching questions of my friend, Mr. Krishan Kant, the only thing that has come out is that the hon. Minister said that he will get this matter examined whether all the usable coarse cloth should be included in the category of controlled cloth. May I know how long will it take for the hon. Minister to get this question properly examined? Will he see that steps are taken to get this thing done so that the usable coarse cloth — not the gunny bags — is included in the controlled cloth, because that is the need of the hour ?

SHRI L. N. MISHRA : The answer is the same. We will try to expedite the matter, of course.

SHRI BABUBHAI M. CHINAI : In view of the fact that the production of powerloom cloth has risen from 1811 million metres in 1957 to 3397 million metres in 1971, and in view of several reports specially the Fourth Five Year Plan which has observed that the pattern of the demand of cotton over the years has changed as a result of which a change in the pattern of cloth is inevitable, may I know how is the hon. Minister going to make up the coarse cloth ?

SHRI L. N. MISHRA : Sir, so far as the production of super fine cloth is concerned, we are not going to stop its production; rather we hope to increase it because

we have to think of export also. Shri Babubhai Chinai has referred to the consumers' preference. There is no regimented economy in this country. We cannot force individual wings to accept certain particular variety of cloth. They have free choice in their purchases of the cloth that they want to wear and we cannot do anything in the matter. About the production of the coarse cloth which he has referred to, it is 500 million metres per annum and under control is 100 million metres per quarter. It is perhaps a fact to a certain extent that common people are not getting cloth at a cheaper rate because of the trend of rising prices in the country and if something has to be done, I think I will have to get the support of the House so that the common man gets cloth at a reasonable price.

श्री श्याम लाल यादव : मान्यवर, मैं मंत्री महोदय से जानना चाहूंगा कि वस्त्र उद्योग में मशीन से जो वस्त्र पैदा हो रहा है उसके लिए क्या इस तरह की बात वे सोच रहे हैं कि उसे वह निर्यात के लिए निर्धारित कर दें और हैण्डलूम और पावर लूम से जो कपड़ा उत्पादित होता है उसकी देश के अंदर खपत हो ताकि साधारण कपड़ा मिल सके और जो अच्छे किस्म के वस्त्र अपने देश में पैदा हों उनका पूर्ण रूप से निर्यात हो ?

श्री एल० एन० मिश्र : माननीय सदस्य को तजुर्बा होना चाहिए—वह उत्तर प्रदेश से आते हैं—कि हैण्डलूम और पावर लूम का सभी कपड़ा सस्ता नहीं होता है, काफी मंहगे भी उनके कपड़े होते हैं, उनका बाजार भाव ज्यादा है बनिस्वत मिल के कपड़े के, इसलिए मिल वाला कपड़ा बाहर भेजें और हैण्डलूम काला देश में खपत करें, इससे न यहां की जनता को रक्षा कर सकेंगे न विदेशी मुद्रा हासिल कर सकेंगे।

SHRI MONORANJAN ROY : Has the report published in the Statesman, Calcutta, drawn the attention of the Minister that the price of the coarse cloth has increased from 25 to 50 per cent and that there has been 50 per cent increase in the

price of long-cloth, not web sheet, that is the sheet for *kameez* and other purposes for the poor people? Has the attention of the Minister been drawn to the fact that the poor people do not get the coarse cloth at controlled rate in ordinary shops? I would also like to know whether the Government purposes to do anything with regard to the sudden steep rise in the price of coarse cloth,

SHRI L. N. MISHRA : The same question has been repeated, I have said that the controlled cloth would be sold at controlled price and that the State Governments would have to enforce the Essential Commodities Act. I know there have been complaints like this and I am again writing to the Chief Ministers.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI : Sir, may I know from the Minister, when he has said that the decentralised sector has increased the production, particularly in the coarse and medium variety, thereby contributing to the Government's effort of supplying cheaper cloth to the rural areas, whether he is aware that a representation has been made to his Ministry by the Kanpur Powerloom Weavers' Association and the West Bengal Powerloom Weaver's Association that, in view of the reservation of sarees for the handloom, which is a right step, the powerloom sector should be given certain products out of the composite mills? Has the Government taken any decision because I have myself raised with him this question? That is one thing.

MR. CHAIRMAN : That is all right.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI : Sir, it is only a half sentence.

MR. CHAIRMAN : No, no. I am sorry.

SHRI L. N. MISHRA : We have not yet taken any final decision in the matter.

SHRI M. K. MOHTA : Sir, the hon. Minister has said that the mid-made coarse cloth production could not be increased due to shortage in the supply of cotton and the hon. Minister has some information

about the improvement in the consumer preference. May I ask the hon. Minister whether the consumer preference means that today the coarse cloth is less in demand as compared to the higher quality of cloth? That being so, would the Government consider the desirability of importing cotton which is suitable for coarse and medium cloth in preference to cotton for fine and superfine cloth so that whenever imports are needed they will be meant for poor sections of society?

SHRI L. N. MISHRA : Sir, we have our own cotton so far as coarse and medium cloth is concerned. We do not want to give up our own production and thus depend upon an uncertain quantum of imports. So far as coarse and medium cloth is concerned, they would be manufactured out of the cotton grown by ourselves and so far as superfine and fine varieties are concerned; of course not all of them but a part of them are imported.

SHRI SHYAMLAL GUPTA : I am of the opinion and I have found that coarse cloth or fine cloth or whatever the cotton prices, the manufacturers extract whatever they can out of the consumer and the Government have not been able to control the prices of cotton cloth.

SHRI L. N. MISHRA : This question I have answered, Sir, I have said that control price is marked on each metre of cloth and it is for the State Governments to see to that and we have been requesting the State Governments.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Dr. Mahavir, last question.

SHRI G. A. APPAN : No, Sir. I would not allow; I should have my say.

MR. CHAIRMAN : No, no.

SHRI G. A. APPAN : Nobody has asked any question from our party. This is common man's issue.

MR. CHAIRMAN : No, no. This is the last question.

SHRI G. A. APPAN: I shall have my say.

डा० भाई महावीर : क्या सरकार का ध्यान इस बात की ओर दिलाया गया है कि आज की परिस्थिति में आज की व्यवस्था में एक नक्स यह है कि कुछ मिले कंट्रोल क्लाय इस वास्ते नहीं बनाती कि उनको जो पैन्ल्टी देनी पड़ती है वह कम है और जो उनको फायदा न बनाने के कारण होता है, वह ज्यादा है। क्या सरकार यह भी जानती है कि मिलें कंट्रोल क्लाय बनाने के बाद वहीं से एक्सेस चार्ज कर के दे देती हैं और इसमें सरकारी और गैर-सरकारी मिलें सभी सम्मिलित हैं और इस नक्स को दूर करने के लिए क्या कोई कदम उठाया गया है ?

श्री एल० एन० मिश्र : यही तो बात थी जब शुरू में चाटा गया था। माननीय सदस्य को ज्ञात होगा कि जब मैंने कहा था कि 1971 में मोटे कपड़े का उत्पादन 2 प्रतिशत पर आ गया था उसका कारण यह था कि मोटा कपड़ा बनाने पर मिल वालों को मुनाफा कम होता था और वे कपड़ा बनाना नहीं चाहते थे। इसलिए शुरू में इंडस्ट्री को 50 नया पैसा मीटर सबमिटी देनी पड़ी, उसको हम फिर 35 पर लाये, 30 पर लाये और अब 20 पर लाये हैं। कंट्रोल के अभाव जो कपड़ा बनता है उस पर मिलों को 6 से 20 पैसे प्रति मीटर के हिसाब से कंट्रीब्यूशन देना पड़ता है। और वही पैसा उठा कर हम उन मिलों को दे देते हैं जो मोटा कपड़ा बनाते हैं। मोटा कपड़ा बनाने में खर्च ज्यादा आता है और काटन की कीमत भी ज्यादा है। आपको यह मालूम होगा कि जहाँ तक मोटे कपड़े का सम्बन्ध है 50-60 परसेंट कास्ट आफ प्रोडक्शन काटन की हो जाती है। यह फर्क होता है और इसीलिए हम काटन को देते हैं और जो बड़ी-बड़ी मिलें, सुपर फाइन कपड़ा बनाने वाली हैं, वे इस परिस्थिति का फायदा उठाती हैं। हम इस चीज को मानते हैं, लेकिन अभी तक जो हमारे अरेजमेंट्स हैं, हम समझते हैं कि जिस परिस्थिति में हम इसे चलाना चाहते हैं, जैसा कि कहा गया है कि कंट्रोल वैरायटी का जो क्लाय है, उसका प्रोडक्शन बढ़ाने का प्रयास कर रहे हैं कि वह किस तरह से होगा और मैं सदा में अफसर बतनाऊंगा।

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Jagarlamudi, Next question.

SHRI G. A. APPAN : No, Sir, I have been raising my hands for 15 minutes.

MR. CHAIRMAN : It does not go by parties.

SHRI G. A. APPAN : May not be by parties but this is common man's issue. With my 40 years of experience I should like to give a lesson to the Government. I seek your protection, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I would allow you some other question.

SHRI G. A. APPAN : I should like to give my experience.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I won't allow you.

SHRI G. A. APPAN: Perhaps you don't want to have implementation of Garibi Hatao.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I ask you to sit down Mr. Appan.

SHRI G. A. APPAN : I am prepared to sit down but I seek your protection.

MR. CHAIRMAN : There must be a stop somewhere. We have taken 20 minutes.

SHRI G. A. APPAN : I too have been asking for 15 minutes.

PURCHASE OF POWER PLANTS THROUGH UNITED DEVELOPMENT INCORPORATION OF LONDON

*296. SHRI CHANDRAMOULI

JAGARLAMUDI : SHRI

LOKANATH MISRA : SHRI K. C.

PANDA :

Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have decided to purchase a number of power plants with the help of the United Development Incorporation of London ; and

(The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Chandra-mouli Jagarlamudi.