

श्रीमती सीता देवी : मैं माननीय मिनिस्टर साहब से जानना चाहती हूँ कि सिर्फ मोटर गेज को ब्राइगेज में करने की कोई स्कीम है या रेल मंत्रालय की यह भी स्कीम है कि वह प्रान्त जो रेल के मामले में बिल्कुल नेगलेक्टेड हैं, जैसे पंजाब, जिसकी बहुत दिनों से यह मांग है कि चंडीगढ़ के साथ बाया चकलाला लुधियाना को जोड़ा जाय और जब सरदार स्वर्ण सिंह रेलवे मिनिस्टर थे, तबसे यह अन्डर कंसीडरेशन है, तो मैं जानना चाहती हूँ कि उस ओर भी सरकार कोई ध्यान अभी देगी या नहीं ? यह पंजाब हिन्दुस्तान के नक्शे में है या नहीं ?

MR. CHAIRMAN: I think we have had a sufficient number of supplementaries.

شری محمد شفیع قریشی : جہاں تک پنجاب کا تعلق ہے پنجاب میں ریلوں کا بہت سا جال بچھا ہوا ہے۔ جہاں جہاں پر اور ضرورت پڑے گی وہاں اور لائنیں دے دیں گے۔

† [श्री मुहम्मद शफी कुरेशी : जहां तक पंजाब का ताल्लुक है, पंजाब में रेलों का बहुत सा जाल बिछा हुआ है। जहां-जहां पर और जरूरत पड़ेगी, वहां और लाइन दे देंगे।]

PROTEST BY SMALL WEAVERS AGAINST HIGH PRICES OF YARN AND ACCUMULATION OF STOCK OF CLOTH

♦438. SHRI A. G. KULKARNI : J
SHRI OM PRAKASH TYAGI :

Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the weavers in U. P. and other parts of the country had demonstrated about high prices of yarn and accumulation of stocks of cloth ;

(b) whether Government have purchased this cloth and if so to what extent ; and

(c) whether Government are aware of an alleged racket by the Indian Mill owners to rig up prices of either cotton or synthetic yarn

† [] Hindi translation.

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri A. G. Kulkarni.

to exploit small weavers and if so the steps taken to prevent tins exploitation ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI A. G. GEORGE) : (a) Yes, Sir. Demonstrations are reported to have been held in U.P.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) No, Sir.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI : Sir, may I draw the attention of the hon. Minister to an announcement in the press that when this morcha was taken up in Lucknowsme Members of Parliament called on the Minister as well as the Prime Minister and it was announced that about 11,000 bales will be released immediately and cloth worth Rs. 30 crores will be purchased by the Government for export purposes ? Now, as the Minister says, no, no to everything it means ...

DR. Z. A. AHMAD : He does not know anything about it and that is why he says no.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI : It was made by them.

DR. Z. A. AHMAD : Still he may not ...

MR. CHAIRMAN : No.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI : I just want to know whether the Minister is aware that in the recent one month prices of cotton yarn have risen by about 40% forcing the looms to be closed in the centres in Mysore, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, U. P. and Kerala also and whether his Ministry is only meant to sit silently on these matters, and when there is so much unemployment, the important question is whether, as assured I by the Minister, he will declare cotton yarn and staple yarn as essential commodities under the Essential Commodities Act and control their prices and also whether, whenever cloth stocks get accumulated with the hand-looms, whether they will be immediately purchased by the State Trading Corporation for export purposes.

SHRI A. C. GEORGE: Sir, it is true that there are certain valuntary agreements arrived at. In February, Uttar Pradesh was allotted 3,500 bales of staple fibre yarn, out of which 3,461 were received, and in March 3,500 were allotted and in April 5,000 were allotted. Sir, I may point out that the figure which the hon. Member was referring to, the figure of

11,000 that figure is not correct. In a subsequent calculation we agreed that the requirement of U. P. may be 10,000 and we agreed to give this allocation also. But I am sorry to say, Sir, that this allocation was not properly lifted. Regarding the other point, we are not directly distributing this yarn in the States. We are only allocating it to the State authorities, and it is for the State authorities to make the distribution. Then, Sir, he was referring to the lifting of the stocks. In the Fourth Five-Year Plan period, I need not reiterate that for such stocks as lie with the handlooms and powerlooms, the Central Government is not directly giving grants or loans. Block grants and loans are being given to the State Governments and it is for the State Governments to make the different allocations to the weaker sectors and to make the purchases through the cooperative or to give the subsidies and rebates to the handlooms. This is all for the State Governments to do and the Central Government comes into the picture only when the State Governments, after providing all the necessary facilities, find it beyond their capability to do the needful fully. Then only they come to the Centre. Beyond that we don't come into the picture at all. Then, Sir, the hon. Member was referring to exports. We are expecting sizable orders from Bangladesh, and if the orders from Bangladesh are of the qualities that are produced in U.P., Andhra or wherever the territory is, according to their requirements we will be prepared to purchase them, not beyond their requirements. Then the hon. Member was making certain references to the price also. Here I may point out that it is true that last year, because the cotton crop was only 53 lakh bales, there was a shortage of cotton. So naturally yarn prices were slightly high. Then we introduced the Yarn Pool Scheme. But this year, since the crop is very good and the production is to the tune of 60 lakh bales, the prices of yarn are coming down. In the quarter of March, April and May the prices have come down very appreciably. Here I may point out that the Pool price fixed according to the average of October, November and December last is Rs. 31.62 for the 10s, Rs. 39.63 for the 20s, Rs. 44.44 for the 30s and Rs. 52.13 for the 40s, and the Kanpur price on 20-5-1972 was ruling at the level of Rs. 27/- for the 10s, which is lower than the Yarn Pool Scheme price, Rs. 42/- for the 20s, Rs. 47/- for the 30s and Rs. 57/- for the 40s. So there is not much of an appreciably high price.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, Mr. Kulkarni, will you put another question a short one because your first question was very long ?

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI : I want to put another question, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Then it must be short.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI : Yes, Sir. It seems that, usually, when the delegations come, ad hoc announcements are made, which ultimately are not shouldered. In view of this, is the Government aware that also a delegation met the Minister about the ban on the powerloom factories to produce coloured sarees and the Minister promised that delegation that a committee would be appointed to go into this problem ? Is it a fact or not and, if it is a fact will this committee also go into all these problems of yarn prices and so on, because the Minister has given the prices of the coarser counts. What I was mentioning was about the finer varieties which are used by handlooms and powerlooms, about 60s, 80s and 100s, whose prices have risen by 40%.

SHRI A. C. GEORGE : Sir, the hon. Member was making the point that we are not honouring the agreements arrived at between the delegations and all that. I may have to refute that. Whatever may be the understanding or agreement reached in deputations and delegations, it is very well honoured. He was pointing out that the coloured sarees are not earmarked for powerlooms and we are not implementing that ban. In my humble submission, when we decide on such stipulations, it is also for the State Governments, who are directly involved, to see that these stipulations are enforced. We don't have the enforcing machinery. So I hope the hon. Member will appreciate that the State Governments will take the necessary measures to enforce these stipulations that are applicable to the different decentralised sections.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI : Have you appointed that committee ?

SHRI A. C. GEORGE : Yes, Sir, we have appointed a committee under the chairmanship of the Textile Commissioner and they will go into all the problems concerning the weaker the decentralised sector handloom and powerloom sectors.

श्री ओउम प्रकाश त्यागी : मैं यह जानना

डा० जेड० ए० अहमद : मैं भी पूछना चाहता हूँ ... मेरा प्रश्न यह है ...

श्री सभापति : पूछ ही डालिए ना ।

डा० जेड० ए० अहमद : मैं प्रश्न पूछता हूँ, जरा उसमें तेजी पैदा करना चाहता हूँ । मैं मिश्र जी से पूछना चाहता हूँ कि क्या आपकी कोई नीति है इस समस्या पर कि नहीं है ? मैं देखता हूँ, पिछले 10 साल से आपकी कोई नीति नहीं रही है, हैन्ड टु माऊथ आप कर देते हैं—कहीं बिल ज्यादा दे दिया, कहीं अग्रिमेंट कर लिया, आप कोई नीति बनाइए, लाखों इन्सान इस पर निर्भर हैं जीविका के लिए, आपके ही प्रदेश में और आपकी कांस्टीट्यूएन्सी में...

श्री सभापति : आपका सवाल आ गया है ।

डा० जेड० ए० अहमद : मेरा सवाल यह है कि यह कमेटी जो बनाई है टेक्सटाइल कमिशनर के नीचे, इससे काम नहीं चलेगा, क्या आप हार्ड पावर कमेटी बनाने के लिए तैयार हैं—अब सवाल आ गया—और ज्यादा भारी भरकम, हार्ड पावर कमेटी बनाएं जो बुनकरों के बारे में जितनी समस्याएँ हैं—उनकी कीमत की समस्या, मार्केटिंग की समस्या, सूद की समस्या, रंग की समस्या—सभी को देखकर एक बंधी हुई नीति

SHRI A. C. GEORGE : Most of the recommendations made by this Committee have been implemented and the rest of them are in varying progressive stages of implementation.

चाहता हूँ मन्त्री महोदय से कि हैन्डलूम इन्डस्ट्री और हैन्डलूम वीवर्स की रक्षार्थ अशोक कमेटी बनी थी, उसने कुछ सुझाव दिए थे गवर्मेन्ट को और बहुत से सुझाव गवर्मेन्ट ने स्वीकार भी किए थे, तो अशोक कमेटी के जो सुझाव थे उनको क्रियात्मक रूप दिलाने के लिए किस-किस प्रान्तीय सरकार ने क्या प्रयत्न किया और सेन्ट्रल गवर्मेन्ट ने भी उन सुझावों को क्रियात्मक रूप देने के लिए क्या क्या प्रयत्न किए ?

तय करके अपने सामने रखें, हमारे सामने रखें । क्या ऐसी कमेटी बनाने के लिए आप तैयार हैं ?

श्री एल० एन० मिश्र : प्रथम का उत्तर है कि जैसा हमने अपने बजट के उत्तर में लोक सभा में कहा था, कि हम यह कमेटी बना रहे हैं जिसमें रिजर्व बैंक के लोग रहेंगे, प्लानिंग कमिशन ...

डा० जेड० ए० अहमद : हम भी रहेंगे या नहीं ? हमको भी रखेंगे कि नहीं ?

श्री एल० एन० मिश्र : मैं चाहता हूँ प्लानिंग कमिशन के लोग रहें, फारेन ट्रेड मिनिस्ट्री के लोग हों और उसके बाद नान-आफिशियल भी रहें और हमने उत्तर प्रदेश से अन्सारी साहब, जो राज्य सभा के सदस्य हुआ करते थे, उनको भी इस कमेटी में रखा है । तो प्लानिंग कमिशन, रिजर्व बैंक, फाइनेन्स मिनिस्ट्री, मिनिस्ट्री आफ फारेन ट्रेड के अलावा एक वीवर्स का रिप्रेजेंटेटिव् रखा है । जहाँ तक नीति का सवाल है, हमारी नीति साफ है कि हम बुनकरों को और हैन्डलूम इन्डस्ट्री को मदद करते हैं । कलर्ड सारीज की बात उठती है, इसके लिए मैं कुलकर्णी जी से आग्रह करूंगा वे हमारी मदद करें, उसमें सबसे बड़ी दिक्कत महाराष्ट्र से आ रही है, हमारी प्रधान मन्त्री जी ने अक्टूबर में लिखा था कि कलर्ड सारीज हैन्डलूम को मिलनी चाहिए, पावर लूम को बंद कर—ये कलर्ड सारीज न बनाएं, बल्कि हैन्डलूम वाले बनाएं । मैं बम्बई गया और वहाँ के मुख्य मंत्री से बात की । 2 साल से बातें चल रही हैं । जो माननीय सदस्य ने बात कही थी अशोक कमेटी की, हमने मुख्य मंत्रियों से आग्रह किया कि इस चीज में हमारी मदद करें, क्योंकि सबसे ज्यादा वायलेशन महाराष्ट्र और आन्ध्र प्रदेश में हो रहा है । 2 सूबे और आते हैं शायद—यू० पी० और बिहार—उनके यहाँ भी बुनकर हैं जो हैन्डलूम यूनिट्स हैं, उनको रोटी मिल सकेगी इस बात का मुझे आश्वासन मिला और कहा गया कि 31 मार्च से उस चीज को लागू करेंगे लेकिन अफसोस है यह चीज अभी लागू नहीं हुई है । हम उसको लागू कराएंगे ।

SHRI SANDA NARAYANAPPA : Millions of handloom weavers, who are depending on the handloom industry, are suffering for want of employment. The yarn rates have gone up abnormally. The Government is collecting some premium on imported cotton. Will the Government consider it that the amount can be utilised to reduce the rates of the yarn that is particularly supplied to the weavers, so that the yarn rates come down and the weavers can purchase and they can attend to their employment? Will the Government consider subsidising the yarn rates especially supplied to the weavers?

SHRI A. C. GEORGE : It is true that nearly twenty million people in our country are earning their living either directly or indirectly from handlooms in the decentralised sector in the textile field. And it is the endeavour of the Government of India to see that the maximum facilities are extended to them. It is with this view that last year when the cotton crop was low and obviously the yarn prices went up, we introduced the Yarn Pool Scheme, and as the hon. Member suggested, we have in fact, taken the same suggestion into consideration. We have allotted one lakh bales of imported cotton and it was through this mechanism of the allocation of imported cotton that we were able to reduce the yarn prices and introduce the Yarn Pool Scheme.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: The Yarn Pool Scheme is abolished.

SHRI YASHPAL KAPUR : Is it a fact that the raw material for the staple fibre is supplied by the Government at controlled prices but ultimately on the product which comes into the market there is no control? The staple fibre manufacturer gets his profit which is 50 per cent of the cost of the actual raw material and then the yarn manufacturer gets another 50 per cent over the basic price at which he gets the staple fibre. So, it is 100 per cent more than the cost at which the Central Government supplies the raw material for fibre. This relates to the fibre. Now, coming to the cotton yarn price...

MR. CHAIRMAN : Kindly put your question.

SHRI YASHPAL KAPUR: Is it a fact that a particular mill-owner supplying yarn has appointed a newspaper as a selling agent for his yarn so that the deficit of that news-

paper can be met from this money which comes from the blood of the weavers?

SHRI A. C. GEORGE : Sir, I agree with the hon. Member that the raw materials for these spinners are being met mostly—I do not mean it is 100 per cent but by and large—by internal production at control prices. Recently, a conference was held—where the hon. Member was also present—on 19.4.72 and we had called the spinners' association's representatives also. There it was agreed that the entire staple fibre yarn will be distributed at a definite price, and if the hon. Member is interested, I can read out the price also. It was agreed that the distribution was well geared...

SHRI YASHPAL KAPUR : Excuse me, Sir. Is it a fact that there are two prices for this, and not one?

SHRI L. N. MISHRA : Yes.

SHRI A. C. GEORGE : Before this conference, there were two prices. But subsequently from 1.5.72, the spinners' association's representatives agreed that a uniform price over that of the SIMA price will be instituted so that there may not be a scarcity. It was agreed by them that as and when the Government of India decided, they will be prepared to earmark 15,000 bales of the staple fibre yarn at the disposal of the Textile Commissioner so that we can move this quantity wherever we find there is any scarcity. Regarding the point made by the hon. Member about the connection of one newspaper, we are not aware of it.

SHRI YASHPAL KAPUR : Excuse me, Sir. On a point of order. He has referred to a conference in which—he said—I was present. Is it not a fact that in that conference one cash memo issued by that newspaper was brought to his notice?

MR. CHAIRMAN : No second question. I will not allow it.

SHRI KRISHAN KANT : Sir, on a point of order. It is a very valid point made by Shri Yashpal Kapur in the sense that the Minister knows a fact but he says that he does not know it.

MR. CHAIRMAN : There is no point of order.

SHRI KRISHAN KANT : The hon. Minister has given a wrong reply.

MR. CHAIRMAN : He may have given a wrong reply. That is no point of order.

SHRI KRISHAN KANT : It is a point of order.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I over-rule that point of order.

SHRI KRISHAN KANT : It is a point of privilege. He has given a wrong reply. Either the Member or the Minister is wrong. It is a question of privilege.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I do not allow this.

SHRI KRISHAN KANT : I want to press the question of privilege.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I over-rule it.

SHRI KRISHAN KANT : Sir, how can you over-rule it ? Either the Member or the Minister is wrong.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I am not allowing it.

SHRI KRISHAN KANT : Sir, you are the protector and guardian of this House. An hon. Member is making an allegation that the Minister knows that a mill-owner has appointed a newspaper as an agent but the Minister says that he does not know it. Either of the two is wrong. And you have to decide.

MR. CHAIRMAN : At the present moment, you are not right.

SHRI KRISHAN KANT : I am right, Sir. I am not going to leave this. No, Sir. I am not going to yield.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I am asking you to sit down.

SHRI KRISHAN KANT : No, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN : When I am asking you to sit down, you will have to obey the Chair. Please sit down. You will have to obey the Chair.

SHRI KRISHAN KANT : Let him say.

DR. BHAI MAHAVIR : It is not expected of the Secretary of the ruling party to defy the Chair. We will not allow the dignity of the House to be lowered.

SHRI A. C. GEORGE : I am rather

surprised. I can clarify my position. I told that I have no information that there were press representatives. I do not even understand what the hon'ble Member was referring to. On 19.4.72 a few Members of Parliament formed as a Committee to go into this question plus representatives of weavers from U. P. and Punjab plus representatives of the Spinners' Association and officials from U. P. These were the people who were invited. There were nearly 30-40 friends gathered. That is why I said I have no information. And if it is a choice between my being correct or the Member being correct, then I may humbly submit that I am correct.

SHRI B. V. A13DULLA KOYA : For the last two months handloom weavers of Kerala are not getting their requirements of staple fibre yarn. In view of this, will the Government do something to make regular supplies of staple fibre yarn available at reasonable rate to the handloom factories ?

SHRI A. C. GEORGE : The Cannanore district is contributing sizably to the handloom industry. In Kerala it is mostly export-oriented. Whenever any scarcity was brought to the notice of the Government of India, and recently also there was some scarcity and when the Industries Minister brought to our notice some scarcity for this yarn, it was immediately attended to and there was no complaint at all.

SHRI B. V. ABDULLA KOYA : I may bring to the notice of the hon'ble Minister...

SHRI A. C. GEORGE : I know, Sir. Day before yesterday I talked to these weavers at Cannanore.

श्री मानसिंह वर्मा : श्रीमन्, मैं माननीय मन्त्री जी से यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि भारत के विभिन्न प्रान्तों में कितने हैंडलूम हैं, उनमें कितने वर्कर्स काम करते हैं और उसके द्वारा निर्मित माल जो बाहर भेजा जाता है, निर्यात किया जाता है, उससे कितना फारेन एक्सचेंज मिलता है ?

SHRI A. C. GEORGE : For the specific question we will be only too glad to give a reply if I am given notice.

*439. [The questioner (Shri Silaram Kesri) was absent. For answer vide col 32 infra]