

SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI : No, Sir; there is some truth in what the hon. Member has said, but not all the Opposition parties were involved. The Opposition parties were divided on this issue as well as on almost every other issue, so far as I remember.

DR. BHAI MAHAVIR : I asked whether the Government considers it to be an evil in public life. Why is the answer being evaded? The Government can come forward with any drastic measure. Why are they delaying this?

SHRI ARJUN ARORA : Sir, how many questions will he ask?

MR. CHAIRMAN : Next question.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA : Sir, we should also get an opportunity. He has asked half a dozen questions.

MR. CHAIRMAN : We have already taken about 20 minutes on this.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA : You have allowed him to ask half a dozen questions.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Let us proceed to the next question.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA : Sir, we are all equal here. He may be six times bigger than me, but not more.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I will give you a chance next time.

DR. BHAI MAHAVIR : Sir, I would like you to have both of us weight to find out the ratio between us.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Next question.

*498. [*The questioner (Shri R. P. Khaitan) was absent. For answer, vide cols. 30-31 infra.*]

STATEMENT MADE BY I. G.,
WEST BENGAL

*499. **SHRI M. K. MOHTA :**†
SHRI JAGDISH PRASAD
MATHUR :

DR. B. N. ANTANI :

SHRI CHANDRAMOULI
JAGARLAMUDI :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS/गृहसचिव be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of Government has been drawn to the statement made

by the I.G. of Police, West Bengal, as reported in the Hindustan times, dated the 25th May, 1971 to the effect that fire arms brought by the East Bengal evacuees were mostly passing into the hands of some political parties in West Bengal; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS/गृह मन्त्रालय में राज्य मन्त्री (SHRI K. C. PANT) : (a) and (b) The State Government of West Bengal have reported that the Inspector General of Police, West Bengal did not make any such statement. However, Government are aware of the possibilities in this regard and the utmost vigilance is being exercised by all concerned agencies.

SHRI M. K. MOHTA : May I ask the hon. Minister whether any cases have come to the notice of the Government of fire arms being smuggled into India by the refugees and, if so, will the hon. Minister state the number of such fire arms which have been confiscated or seized by the border authorities from the refugees? This is my first question.

SHRI K. C. PANT : Sir, there is no question of smuggling of fire arms across the border where our check-posts are located because the normal practice is that if a refugee or an evacuee brings fire arms with him, as he passes through the check-post, he deposits the fire arms there. Therefore, there is a regular procedure to see that no fire arms come through these posts. As to the exact number, I do not have the information with me. I will require notice for that. But I have enquired and to the best of my knowledge, along these normal routes through which these refugees come and where our checkposts are there, no fire arms have come.

SHRI M. K. MOHTA :—Sir, my second question is whether any unlicensed fire arms have been recently seized in Calcutta and other big towns of West Bengal and whether their number has been much larger than the normal number of such illegal fire arms that are usually seized and, if so, I would like to know the comparative figures.

SHRI K. C. PANT : Sir, it is true that a large number of fire arms of different kinds are recovered in the

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri M. K. Mohta.

raids that are carried out, and one of the objectives of these searches, etc., is to recover such fire arms. Some of them are sophisticated, but a large number of these fire arms are unsophisticated, pipe guns and so on and so forth. Again I do not have the exact numbers. But I have given these numbers in relation to other questions which I answered in relation to West Bengal. I have given the number of fire arms recovered and so on in this connection.

SHRI M. K. MOHTA : My question was in the context of firearms coming from East Bengal. It is not about the domestically produced illegitimate firearms. It is about the firearms of foreign origin which may have come along with East Bengal refugees. It is a known fact that many spies are coming in the garb of refugees and they are bringing firearms also. In that context my question was put.

SHRI K. C. PANT : It is really difficult to relate a particular firearm to its origin. It is difficult to say whether it came from the other side of the border or whether it was manufactured here. These are firearms which are illegally kept by certain persons and the source of information is not readily available. Therefore, when we recover firearms we do not necessarily know where they came from.

SHRI CHANDRAMOULI JAGARLAMUDI : May I know from the honourable Minister what steps they are taking to find out that some of the refugees who have crossed the border with firearms are real refugees and not spies sent from Pakistan under the guise of refugees? Secondly, may I know whether the Government is watching the movements of those refugees who are not staying in the refugee camps but with friends or relatives outside?

SHRI K. C. PANT : Yes, Sir, the Government is watching or has—to put it more accurately—provided for certain arrangements under which they know about the movements of the refugees within the country. And the arrangements under the Foreigners Act are that every person coming as a refugee or an evacuee has to report within twentyfour hours of his arrival to the officer in-charge of the police station concerned, to make a declaration in the prescribed form, to remain in such

place or area as may be specified to him and to remain in India only for the period that may be specified to him by the authorities concerned. As I said earlier, their registration is done at the checkpoints. Registration is also done at the refugee camps and where some of the refugees have gone to villages, in the police stations there. And through gram panchayats also registration is done.

SHRI MAHAVIR TYAGI : Has it come to the notice of the Government that the firearms seized both from people inside our own country, particularly West Bengal, and also from people coming from Bangla Desh, were of Chinese make—some firearms were found to be of Chinese make?

SHRI K. C. PANT : Yes, sometimes firearms made in China are also found. I can quote a recent incident where, according to our information, in West Bengal in Dinajpur district certain firearms were reported to have been purchased and these firearms were found to be of Chinese make.

SHRI A. D. MANI : The honourable Minister has said that in certain raids which have been conducted firearms have been seized. There must have been some interrogation after these raids. Has any information come to the Government about the source of these firearms because these persons must have said something to the Government? May I ask him further whether there is any evidence to show that there is a surreptitious infiltration of firearms by the Pakistani military regime in Dacca?

SHRI K. C. PANT : I can tell my honourable friend that interrogation is certainly done and the interrogation is thorough and is intended to secure all possible information including the source of the arms. I do not know whether he expects me to say anything more with regard to that. On the question of smuggling of arms by the Government in Dacca I cannot give him any specific information.

SHRI S. A. KHAJA MOHIDEEN : The Inspector-General of Police, West Bengal, in his report stated that the firearms brought by the East Bengal evacuees were mostly passing into the hands of political parties. May I know

from the honourable Minister which political parties are receiving them? Secondly, I would like to know whether the arms recovered from them are locally made or whether they are made in foreign countries. If they are made in foreign countries, I would like to know which those countries are which are manufacturing them.

SHRI K. C. PANT : Sir, in my main reply I said that the I. G. of Police did not make the statement and all these questions are predicated upon that.

*500. [The questioner (Shri Kalyan Roy) was absent. For answer, vide col. 31 infra.]

EXPORTS OF MILL-MADE COTTON TEXTILES

*501. SHRI SUNDAR MANI PATEL :

SHRI K. C. PANDA :

SHRI M. K. MOHTA :†

Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE/विदेश व्यापार मन्त्री be pleased to state :

(a) whether the exports of mill-made cotton textile has registered a considerable fall during the period April 1970—January 1971;

(b) whether attention of Government has been invited to a report in the Economic Times, dated the 12th February 1971, in this regard; and

(c) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN TRADE/विदेश व्यापार मन्त्री SHRI L. N. MISHRA : (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

Exports of mill-made cotton textiles during April, 1970—January, 1971 amounted to Rs. 88.65 crores as compared to Rs. 92.98 crores of the corresponding period last year, showing the decline of Rs. 4.33 crores.

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri M. K. Mohta.

2. The news item appearing in the Economic Times dated 12-2-71 has come to the notice of the Government.

This decline is mainly due to a poor domestic cotton crop this year resulting in sharp rise in prices. Lack of necessary modernisation by the Mills is also a contributory factor.

3. Government have taken various steps to arrest this trend. These steps include :

(i) regulating stocks, credit control and trading facilities to arrest rise in prices of cotton;

(ii) augmenting supply of cotton by import of large quantity of foreign cotton;

(iii) allotment of foreign cotton to exporting mills;

(iv) import of sophisticated machinery is being permitted. Mills have been asked to apply; and

(v) diversification of export products by encouraging exports of fine, super fine and blended fabrics and made up garments.

SHRI M. K. MOHTA : May I ask the hon. Minister whether it is a fact that apart from a decline of Rs. 4.33 crores in the exports for the period mentioned in the statement, even during the period from April to June this year, the exports of textiles have dropped to Rs. 22 crores as compared to Rs. 28 crores in the corresponding period last year that is, a drop of Rs. 6 crores in three months? If so, in view of the fact that it is not a temporary position, but a very alarming development, have the government taken some second look at the export incentive which are in force today and are any changes proposed in the incentive structure?

SHRI L. N. MISHRA : There is no reason for any alarm. It is a fact that these few months have not been very good for the export of textiles and there was a shortfall of Rs. 4.33 crores as mentioned in the statement. This year the total export today is Rs. 48.25 crores. For the whole of last year it was Rs. 111 crores. But for the six months the total figure is Rs. 48.25 crores and I hope we will be able to maintain the old figure of Rs. 111 crores. It is a fact that we are getting competition from a number of countries and especially in