

Rs. 2 crores has been sanctioned by the Central Government for immediate relief measures.

DIFFERENCE IN COTTON PRICES

68. SHRI NIREN GHOSH : Will the MINISTER OF FOREIGN TRADE/विदेश व्यापार मंत्री be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the cotton textile mills of Eastern and Southern regions suffer because they have to pay much higher price for raw cotton as compared to Western region;

(b) if so, what is the average difference in market price of a bale of raw cotton at Calcutta and Bombay;

(c) whether Government propose to fix the same price for raw cotton all over the country as in the case of coal and steel; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN TRADE/विदेश व्यापार मंत्री (SHRI L. N. MISHRA) : (a) and (b) Cotton cultivation in India is spread over various parts of the country. Consumer mills buy their cotton requirements from purchasing centres located in those regions. At a point of time, the price of the same quality of cotton is generally the same at different centres, irrespective of location of the user mills.

(c) and (d) In view of the scattered production centres, large varieties of cotton and differently situated user mills, effective implementation by law of exactly uniform price of raw cotton for the whole country is considered not feasible.

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OBITUARY REFERENCES

MR. CHAIRMAN : Before we proceed to the next item of the agenda, I have to refer to the passing away of Shri M. D. Tumpal-

liwar, Shri K. Madhava Menon, Shri Tara Shankar Banerjee, Prof. A.R. Wadia, Dr. Syed Mahmud and Maj. Gen. Sahib Singh Sokhey, six of our ex-Members, and Shri Suraj Mall Saha and Dr. B. N. Antani, two of our sitting Members.

Shri M.D. Tumpalliwar was born in 1910 and was educated at Nagpur. He joined the Satyagraha movement in 1930 and underwent imprisonment several times. He was a Member of this House from 1956 to 1962 and at the time of his death he was a member of the Maharashtra Legislative Assembly.

Shri K. Madhava Menon, born in 1897, was educated at Madras. He initially joined Government service but later on resigned to plunge into the freedom movement and underwent imprisonment on several occasions. He was a Member of this House from 1954 to 1966 and his contributions as a parliamentarian have been noteworthy.

Shri Tara Shankar Banerjee was born in 1898 and was educated at Calcutta. He took an active part in the freedom struggle and was imprisoned several times. Shri Banerjee took up writing in 1932 and within a short period proved himself a great novelist. During his lifetime over 100 of his books were published and each of them portrayed, in his own masterly fashion, the life he saw around him. He was awarded 'Padma Shri' in 1962. He was a nominated Member of the West Bengal Legislative Council from 1952 to 1960 and a nominated Member of this House from 1960 to 1966.

Prof. A. R. Wadia, born in 1888, was educated at Bombay, Oxford and Cambridge. A great scholar, Prof. Wadia had held several important positions in different educational institutions. From 1953 to 1962 he was Director, Tata Institute of Social Sciences. Prof. Wadia represented India in several International Seminars and was the Author of some important books. He was also a member of the University Grants Commission. In 1961 he was awarded 'Padma Bhushan'. Prof. Wadia was a