

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA : I understand the Chairman's direction; please leave it to me.

Sir, may I know whether there was any reciprocal concessions given by India to Great Britain, and what has happened to that reciprocal concession, if any ? We could have also done away with it; since the decision taken by the United Kingdom Government was unilateral, we could have also done away with it on our part. What was the sudden provocation for the United Kingdom to put a levy of 15 per cent after terminating the agreement of 1939.

SHRI L. N. MISHRA : They have also got concessions, preferential treatment, on goods of a value of Rs. 17 crores per annum, that we import from the United Kingdom. We shall take a decision, till now, we have not. If they do not give us preference, how can they enjoy preference in our market ? It is logical.

About the second question, there is a history behind this. This decision was taken in 1969 by Mr. Crossland, President of the Board of Trade in the Labour Government, and this was done with a view to helping the local industry. But now they feel, as I saw in the United Kingdom, that their local industry is not going to gain out of this, it is countries like Portugal, Korea and Taiwan which will gain out of it, not the British industry.

SHRI V. B. RAJU : Sir, the Indo-British Trade Agreement of 1939 is in respect of certain trade preference for export from India. The 15 per cent textile duty was actually suggested but now the Agreement is being scrapped. What about the other items ? How is it going to affect our export trade as far as Great Britain is concerned apart from its entry into the ECM? Is the British Government going to levy duty on other items also because there are other items?

SHRI L. N. MISHRA : I have already replied to it. At present, it is confined to textile.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Next question.

सरकार द्वारा सूती वस्त्रों तथा अन्नक का निर्यात व्यापार और सूखे मेवों का आयात व्यापार अपने हाथ में लिया जाना

*2. डा० भाई महावीर :

श्री चित्त बासु :

श्री एम० पुरकायस्थ :

श्री प्रणब कुमार मुखर्जी :

श्री महेन्द्र कुमार मोहता :

श्री सीताराम जैपुरिया :

श्री लोकनाथ मिश्र :

श्री सुरज प्रसाद :

डा० शालिग्राम :

श्री अर्जुन अरोड़ा :

श्री कृष्ण कान्त :

श्री राजेन्द्र प्रताप सिंह :

क्या विदेश व्यापार मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि सरकार ने सूती वस्त्रों तथा अन्नक के निर्यात व्यापार और सूखे मेवों के आयात व्यापार को अपने हाथ में लेने के प्रस्ताव के संबंध में क्या सुविशिष्ट कदम उठाये हैं ?

{GOVERNMENT TAKE-OVER OF EXPORT TRADE OF COTTON TEXTILES AND MICA AND IMPORT TRADE OF DRY FRUITS

*2. DR. BHAI MAHAVIR : SHRI CHITTA BASU : SHRI MAHITOSH PURAKA-YASTHA : SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE: SHRI M.K. MOHTA : SHRI SITARAM JAIPURIA : SHRI LOKANATH MISRA : SHRI SURAJ PRASAD DR. SALIG RAM : SHRI ARJUN ARORA : SHRI KRISHAN KANT : SHRI RAJENDRA PRATAP SINHA :

Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE/

+ The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Dr. Bhai Mahavir. t [] English translation.

विदेश व्यापार मंत्री be pleased to state what specific steps Government have taken in respect of the proposed take-over of the export trade of cotton textiles and mica and the import trade of dry fruits?]

विदेश व्यापार मंत्री (श्री एल० एन० मिश्र) :
एक विवरण सभा-पटल पर रखा जाता है।

विवरण

देश के आयात तथा निर्यात व्यापार में राज्य अभिकरणों के भाग में उत्तरोत्तर वृद्धि करने की सरकार की नीति है। जहाँ तक निर्यातों का सम्बन्ध है यह नीति रही है कि राज्य व्यापार अभिकरणों के भाग का क्रम से विस्तार किया जाये। निर्यात की समस्याओं को सम्भालने के लिये राज्य व्यापार अभिकरणों को स्वयं अनुभव तथा दक्षता का विकास करना है। अतः इस सम्बन्ध में दृष्टिकोण यह रहा है कि अधिकतम निर्यात करने की आवश्यकता का ध्यान रखते हुए निर्यात व्यापार में सरकारी क्षेत्र के भाग में उत्तरोत्तर वृद्धि की जाये। सूती वस्त्रों और अन्नक के निर्यात व्यापार और मेंबों के आयात व्यापार को अपने नियंत्रण में लेने की प्रस्थापना के विषय में निम्नोक्त उपाय किये गये हैं:

1. **सूती वस्त्र :** वस्त्रों के निर्यातों के मार्गीकरण की समस्याओं का अध्ययन करने के लिये वस्त्र-आयुक्त की अध्यक्षता में एक अध्ययन दल गठित किया गया था जिसका प्रतिवेदन अभी प्राप्त नहीं हुआ है।

2. **अन्नक :** अन्नक के निर्यात व्यापार को नियन्त्रण में लेने के सम्बन्ध में एक परियोजना तैयार करने के लिये खनिज तथा धातु व्यापार निगम से कहा गया था। निगम ने इस व्यापार को अनेक क्रमों में अपने नियन्त्रण में लेने का सुझाव दिया है। बाजार के स्थिरीकरण और लघु अन्नक स्वामियों और निर्यातकों की दशा सुधारने के लिये निगम के अन्नक बाजार में प्रवेश करने के लिये कहने का विचार है।

3. **मेंबे :** भारत मेंबों का आयात मुख्यतः अफगानिस्तान तथा ईरान से करता है और किसी राज्य व्यापार अभिकरण द्वारा मेंबों का

आयात अपने हाथ में लेने के प्रश्न पर सक्रिय रूप में विचार किया जा रहा है। इराक से खजूरों का आयात सुस्थापित आयातकों द्वारा किया जाता है। राज्य व्यापार निगम ने छुवारों के आयात की छोटी सी शुरुआत की है। निगम को वर्ष 1971-72 में 40 लाख रुपये के छुवारों का संस्कृत-प्रोमान से आयात करने का लाइसेंस दिया गया है।

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

STATEMENT

It is the policy of Government to progressively increase the role of state agencies in the import and export trade of the country. As regards exports, the policy has been one of a phased expansion of the role of the state trading agencies. The state trading agencies themselves have to develop experience and skill in handling the problems of exports. The approach, therefore, has been one of progressive increase in the role of the public sector in the export trade consistent with the need to maximise exports. The following steps have been taken in respect of the proposed takeover of the export trade of cotton textiles and mica and the import trade of dry fruits':—

(i) *Cotton textiles*.—A study group under the Chairmanship of the Textile Commissioner has been set up to go into the problems of canalisation of exports of textiles. The report of the study group is awaited.

(ii) *Mica*.—The Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation was asked to prepare a project for take over of the export trade in mica. The Corporation has suggested taking over of the trade in stages. It is proposed to ask the Corporation to enter the mica market with

t [] English translation.

a view to stabilising the market and ameliorating the lot of small mica owners and exporters.

(iii) *Dry fruits.*—India imports dry fruits mainly from Afghanistan and Iran and the question of take over of imports of dry fruits by a State trading agency is under active consideration. Import of (wet) dates from Iraq is being made by the established importers. In import of dry dates, the STC has been introduced in a small way. The Government have been issued a licence for the import of dry dates from Muscat-Oman for Rs. 40 lakhs during 1971-72.

डा० भाई महावीर : श्रीमान्, इस बक्तव्य में कहा गया है कि बन्धों का निर्यात के मार्गीकरण को समस्याओं का अध्ययन करने के लिए, बन्ध आयुक्त की अध्यक्षता में एक अध्ययन दल गठित किया गया था जिसका प्रतिवेदन अभी प्राप्त नहीं हुआ है। तो मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि जब आप ने ऊपर यह लिखा है अधिकतम निर्यात करने की आवश्यकता का ध्यान रखा जा रहा है तो क्या इस दल ने जो सुझाव देने हैं उनकी यह सोच कर देना है कि अधिकतम निर्यात हो या कि सरकार ने यह निर्यात हाथ में लेना है यह तय कर लिया है और खाली उससे जो प्रश्न उठेंगे उनको विचार करने के लिए यह दल संगठित किया गया है ? दूसरे जो आप ने कहा है अन्न के निर्यात व्यापार को "क्रमों में" अपने नियंत्रण में लेने का सुझाव है। तो यह क्या क्रम है जिनमें उनकी अपने हाथ में लिया जायगा ? उनमें क्या यह क्रम भी है कि एक बार एम०एम० टी० सी० को उसमें कमीशन मिलने लगे चाहे बाकी के जो निर्यातक हैं वे ही अपना निर्यात करने रहें ?

श्री एल० एन० मिश्र : जहाँ तक बकिंग ग्रुप का सवाल है, उन्होंने अभी तक रिपोर्ट नहीं दी है लेकिन यह बात सही है कि सिद्धांततः हम लोगों ने तय कर लिया है कि कपड़े का, माइका का एक्सपोर्ट सरकारी क्षेत्र में लिया जाय और उसका कारण यह है कि जैसा कि मैं अपने पहले प्रश्न के उत्तर में कह रहा था, कि कपड़े का व्यवसाय बड़े संकट में गुजर रहा है और उसको

मदद की जरूरत है और हमारा ख्याल है कि निजी क्षेत्र उसमें और पुंजी नहीं लगा सकेगा। कहीं उनको मन्सोदी देनी होगी और कहीं उन की मदद करने पड़ेंगी और सरकार चाहेगी तो उस को कर सकेगी। लेकिन अभी तक हमने निर्णय नहीं किया है और जब रिपोर्ट आवेगी टेक्स्टाइल कमिशनर की तब उस पर हम विचार करेंगे।

श्री सुन्दर सिंह भंडारी : निर्णय किम बात का नहीं लिया, कि अपने हाथ में लेना है या फिर उसके डिटेल्स क्या होंगे ?

श्री एल० एन० मिश्र : जो स्टडी टीम बनायी गयी है वह डिटेल्स बर्क आउट करने के लिए है और सिद्धांततः यह निर्णय किया गया है, चुनाव के पहले ही यह निर्णय लिया जा चुका था कि इस देश में एक्सपोर्ट और इम्पोर्ट को पब्लिक सेक्टर में लिया जायगा यह नीति संबंधी निर्णय है और इसको हम ले चुके हैं और इस निर्णय में कपड़े, लोहे या अन्न की बात नहीं लिखी है, लेकिन हम ज्यादा से ज्यादा पब्लिक सेक्टर का एक्सपेंशन करना चाहते हैं। माननीय सदस्य को इस बात का ज्ञान होगा कि एक्सपोर्ट अभी 90 परसेंट प्राइवेट सेक्टर में है। हम इसमें पब्लिक सेक्टर को बढ़ाना चाहते हैं। अन्न को हम इसलिए लेने जा रहे हैं कि उसमें छोटी खानवाले हैं, जो मजदूर हैं उनकी आज उचित कीमत नहीं मिलती और बड़े-बड़े लोग कम दाम पर उसको खरीद लेते हैं और उसमें उन लोगों को नुकसान होता है। उनकी मदद करने के लिए हम स्टेट की तरफ से परचेज करना चाहते हैं और एम०एम० टी० सी० के जरिये से उसको बाहर भेजना चाहते हैं। डा० भाई महावीर ने ठीक ही कहा कि पुराने एक्सपोर्ट्स को ही रोकना चाहते हैं और उनके जरिये ही हम इस काम को करना चाहते हैं। अगर हम उनको बिल्कुल हटा दें तो उससे नुकसान होगा। उसे करने के बाद हम एम०एम० टी० सी० या जो भी एक कमेटी बनायेंगे उसके जरिये उसको अपने हाथ में ले लेंगे।

डा० भाई महावीर : मैं माननीय मंत्री जी का ध्यान आकर्षित कर पूछना चाहता हूँ कि क्या सरकार इस बात का अनुभव नहीं करती कि आज

अंतर्राष्ट्रीय मंडी में जो बख उद्योग है, जो उस के निर्यात करने वाले हैं उनमें बड़ी भारी प्रति-योगिता है, बड़ी स्पर्धा है और हमारे पांव उसमें टिक नहीं पा रहे हैं। हमारे पांव उस में उखड़ते जा रहे हैं। ऐसी स्थिति में हमारी सरकार द्वारा बख निर्यात को अपने हाथ में लेने का परिणाम यह होगा कि हमारा बख निर्यात घटेगा, यह निश्चित है क्योंकि जहां पर बारीकी की तरफ ध्यान देना होता है, क्वालिटी की तरफ ध्यान देना होता है, समय पर माल पहुंचाने की तरफ ध्यान देना है, सरकार की भारी भरकम मशीनरी उसे नहीं कर पावेगी। तो क्या हुआ, आप इस बात की परवाह किये बिना यह करने वाले हैं केवल इसलिए कि आपने चुनाव के वक्त घोषणा की थी ? वैसे तो आपने गरीबी हटाओ की घोषणा भी की थी, उसको ही आप पूरा कर दीजिए।

श्री सभापति : आप एक ही सवाल पुछिये।

डा० भाई महावीर : तो आखिरी बात यह है कि जो भेजे हैं उनके आयात के बारे में क्या सरकार को विदित है कि जो लाइसेंस दिये जाते हैं उनकी यहां बाकायदा एक मंडी है उसमें उन की कीमत कोट की जाती है बाजार में तो लाइसेंसों के इस भारी घोटाले को रोकने के लिए अब तक सरकार ने क्या किया है या केवल इस आयात को अपने हाथ में ले कर इस तरह के घोटालों के लिए और गुंजाइश बढ़ायी जायेगी ?

श्री एल० एन० मिश्र : सभापति जी, यह तो नीति में विश्वास रखने की बात है। कहीं तो यह विश्वास रहता है कि सरकार के माध्यम से कोई काम किया गया तो उसमें क्वालिटी नहीं रहेगी, वह घट जायेगी, लेकिन हमारा दूसरा ही विश्वास है। हम जानते हैं कि सरकारी क्षेत्र से जो चीजें बाहर भेजी गयी हैं उनकी क्वालिटी भी अच्छी रही है और उसमें हम ऊपर भी उठे हैं। यह सही है कि टेक्सटाइल्स में कंपिटिशन बहुत बढ़ गया है और हिन्दुस्तान की टेक्सटाइल का एक्सपोर्ट ऐसा होना चाहिए कि जिसके पीछे कुछ शक्ति हो और वह अपने को बाजार में टिका सके। इसके साथ ही ड्राई फूट्स का सवाल है। माननीय सदस्य का कहना ठीक है कि उसमें गड़बड़ी रही है और माननीय सदस्य को शायद

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SHRI CHITTA BASU : May I know from मालूम भी हो कि जो चीजें 4 रुपये किलो ईरान या अफगानिस्तान से आती हैं उनको हिन्दुस्तान में 16 और 20 रुपये किलो बेचा जाता है और 16 रुपये किलो की चीजें 80 रुपये किलो बेची जाती हैं। हम चाहते हैं कि एस० टी० सी० की तरफ से इस को लें। हम चाहते हैं कि एस० टी० सी० की तरफ उसको लाएं, हम बाजार में दुकान खोलना चाहते हैं जिससे प्राइस स्टेबिलाइज हों और जो 400-500 गुना मुनाफा कमाया जाता है उसको रोक सकें, इसलिए ड्राई फूट्स को पब्लिक सेक्टर में लाना चाहते हैं। इस साल हमने शुरू भी किया है छोटी मात्रा में।

the hon. Minister whether it is not a fact that the textile industry is offering stiff opposition to the take-over proposal of the Government ? May I further know whether the Government can assure the House that having regard to the fact that immediate take-over of the export of cotton textiles would facilitate bulk purchase and also end the evil practice of over invoicing by the private industrialists, the Government would take appropriate measures to take over the export trade before this year is out ? May I also know whether the Government has got any proposal to nationalise the textile industry in this country ?

SHRI L. N. MISHRA : I am grateful to Mr. Chitta Basu; he has given very good arguments which strengthen my case. So far as the question of take-over is concerned, as I have stated, we have set up a Working Group and we are waiting for the recommendations of the Working Group. About the take-over of the textile industry as such, there is no such proposal at the moment.

SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE : Sir, in the course of his reply, the Minister stated that the cotton textile industry is going through a crisis. He has also appointed a study group on the take-over of the export trade in that field. May I know from the Minister whether it is not a fact that without taking over the cotton textile industry and nationalising it would

be of no help to augment exports ? I would like to know whether he will assure the House that the Government is going to take over the cotton textile industry and nationalise it.

SHRI L. N. MISHRA : I have replied earlier that we are not taking over the industry as such. We have one organisation, the National Textile Corporation, which is managing a number of units. At the moment we do not want to take over. There are about 650 mills in this country and it is not going to be a very easy job.

SHRI M. K. MOHTA : Sir, simply taking over of the export trade is not going to result in increase in the export earnings of the country. May I ask the hon. Minister whether it is not a fact that the Mica Advisory Committee which was appointed by the Government last year, had recommended that the export levy on the commodity at the rate of 40 per cent *ad valorem* should be abolished forthwith and that the Government should see to it that sophisticated equipment is installed in the mines to modernise the existing mines so that the output may increase and our exporting capacity may increase ? I would like to know whether the Government has accepted this suggestion. If so, what action has the Government taken in this regard?

SHRI L. N. MISHRA : It is true that the committee has made a number of recommendations. This is about the mica industry as such. We are not going to take over the mica industry. We are going to take over only the purchasing part of it and the export part of it. Regarding the question of accepting the recommendations, they are under the active consideration of the Government. We feel that the industry needs help from us. It is in a very bad shape and it has to be modernised and it has to be helped financially and otherwise also.

SHRI M. K. MOHTA : What about my question regarding the 40 per cent *ad valo-*

rem duty ? Are you going to abolish it ?

SHRI L. N. MISHRA : I cannot say it now.

SHRI SITARAM JAIPURIA : Sir, there is no doubt about.....

MR. CHAIRMAN : I do not want to know whether you have doubts or not. Please put your question.

SHRI SITARAM JAIPURIA : I want to be a little more informed.

Sir, the hon. Minister has himself said that the textile industry is in a rather very bad shape. I am sure the hon. Minister is aware that the textile industry's thinking is export-oriented. I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to how then this change-over of agency, i.e., channelising of exports or take-over is going to increase exports. Secondly, he said about blocking of capital and the subsidy payment of fees being eliminated. Does he propose that the textile goods for exports will be purchased at the market price in India from the Mills and then exported, thereby avoiding blocking of capital and eliminating subsidy which as we all know is to subsidise the actual cost and realisation in export ?

SHRI L. N. MISHRA : These are matters of detail. We will have to wait for the recommendations of the Working Group.

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA : In view of the textile industry having difficulties because of shortage of cotton and the machinery being outmoded, how would government help in the export of the textile products unless they look into these two lacuna in the industry ? Will the personalised treatment that the export is getting now, so far as the cotton industry is concerned, be available once it is taken over by the government and put in the public sector ? If that is not so, how does the hon. Minister feel that it would boost up the textile market so far as export is concerned, only by taking it over unless

more cotton is available for production and I manufacture and the outmoded machinery I is replaced by modern machinery ?

SHRI L. N. MISHRA : The hon. Member Shri Misra has raised a very important point. It is correct that the textile industry has two or three chronic elements, one of which is its old and outdated machinery. We have asked the textile industry to come forward and avail of the facilities from the government. Even if foreign exchange is required, we are prepared to help them with that so that the industry does not suffer.

About cotton, I have stated already in the House that recently a scheme has been finalised in consultation with the Planning Commission, Agriculture Ministry and Finance Ministry to help the cotton growers with better and higher productivity and increased yield of cotton per acre. We are worse off than even countries like Egypt and Sudan. Our yield is very low and it has to be improved.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA : My first question is: Is the Working Group really working ? I want to know when it was appointed and how many times it has met and what progress it has made. Secondly...

MR. CHAIRMAN : Only one question.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA : Part (b) of my question is: What is the basis of the Minister's statement that the textile industry is facing trouble ? Only some units of the textile industry are facing trouble. Others are making profit. Part (c) of my question is : What precautions is the government taking so that the profits of the profit-making cotton textile mills are not diverted to other industries and are utilised for modernisation of the plant ?

SHRI L. N. MISHRA : The Working Group was appointed two-three months back. The Textile Commissioner was here only two days back. I asked him when he will be in a position to submit

the report. He said that the report will be submitted within a few weeks time. I has almost finished its work, he said. The report is under finalisation and he will be submitting it soon.

About the industry being in trouble, I did not say that every mill is in trouble. But the industry as such is in trouble because of outdated machinery and all that. Some units may be making profit because in many backward countries they can exploit people. But in the world trade, the industry cannot compete with others because of its out-dated machinery.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA : He has not replied to part (c) of my question as to what steps the government is taking to see that the profit is not diverted to other industries.

Sir, during the last twenty-five years...

MR. CHAIRMAN : No. I do not want any more question. Please sit down.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA : ... This is what has happened. Will the hon. Minister please explain ?

SHRI L.N. MISHRA : It is not a general question. It might be that individuals are doing. I do not think that there is any legal ban if some small mill makes profits and invests somewhere else. Anyway, I will look into this.

SHRI KRISHAN KANT : Sir, the hon. Minister has said that the health of the textile industry is not good. May I know from him whether is it not a fact that the health of the textile magnates is very good and some of them are overweight ?

SHRI JAGDISH PRASAD MATHUR : What about the Ministers ?

SHRI KRISHAN KANT : In view of this, may I know from the hon. Minister whether, when he says that there will be phased takeover they have fixed any target date by which the export trade in respect

of textiles and mica would be taken over and what steps have been taken for training the personnel to have experience in the export so that they may not face the same trouble as they are facing in the import of cotton when they are nationalising it ? What steps have been taken in this regard?

SHRI L. N. MISHRA : Sir, so far as the question of cotton trade is concerned, I will correct his impression. The Cotton Corporation has been doing exceedingly well. It is only one year old and it has done a good job.

About the health of the industry, Sir, I have stated that the cotton industry as such is not in good shape. The British cotton industry is not in a good shape and our cotton industry is out of date and is not in a competitive position and it has to be improved. About the other things, Sir, every Member has got the liberty to make any remark.

SHRI KRISHAN KANT : Sir, what about the phased programme ? What about the target date ?

SHRI L. N. MISHRA : So far we have not fixed any target date. The moment we receive the report we shall take a decision. As you know, Sir, this will have to go to the Cabinet and I cannot give a definite date. But it should not be long.

SHRI RAJENDRA PARTAP SINHA : Sir, It has been stated in the statement laid by the hon. Minister that so far as the mica trade is concerned, the Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation has suggested taking over of the trade in stages. Will the hon. Minister please let us know what those stages are ? He has not given any details. He has got the details. Will the hon. Minister please let us know when he proposes to take over the whole trade ?

Now, Sir, with regard to the dry fruits, the Minister himself has stated that the importers are making 400 or 500 per cent profits. I wonder whether the Minister is

aware of these scandalous things that are happening in the country with regard to the import of dry fruits. There is a whole gang in this. I wonder whether he is aware of that...

MR. CHAIRMAN : What is your question ?

SHRI RAJENDRA PARTAP SINHA : Sir, I know that so far as the export trade is concerned there is difficulty in taking over. But so far as the import trade is concerned, there should be no difficulty in taking over and he has just said that they are doing it in stages. He has just now said that.

MR. CHAIRMAN : What is your question, please ?

SHRI RAJENDRA PARTAP SINHA : Sir, he has said that they have taken up the import of dry dates only in a small way. What is the difficulty in taking over the entire import of this immediately? This is what I would like to know.

SHRI L. N. MISHRA : About taking over of the export of mica, I have stated that in the beginning it was thought that we might not disturb the present exporting agency or those people who are exporting and that we might appoint them as our accredited agents and they could go on exporting. But there is this Corporation also. That is what is meant by stages. Directly we do not want to enter into the field of export of mica.

As far as the import of dry fruits is concerned, it is a fact that they are making huge profits, the private people are making profits. But the question is this : We are importing dry fruits from countries like Afghanistan, Iran and Iraq and they have also to agree whether the State Trading Corporation or some other organisation should be allowed to import them or not and I do not want to go into details.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Yes, Mr. Bhupesh Gupta.. You do not want to put any question ? All right. Mr. Chatterjee. This is the last question. Mr. Chatterjee, do you want to put a question ?

SHRI A. P. CHATTERJEE : Yes, Sir. Only a very short question.

Will the hon. Minister inform whether he has any proposal to take over the textile mills. I have particularly in mind the Annapurna Cotton Mills of West Bengal which is locked up since October, 1970. It has very modern machines. For such textile mills, has the Government any proposal to take them over ?

SHRI L. N. MISHRA : Sir, we have no proposal to take over the industry. But individual mills we are taking over. The Textile Corporation has at the moment 28 or 30 mills. About this particular mill I have no information. If the hon. Member will write to me, I will see to it.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Next question.

PRODUCTION OF CONTROLLED CLOTH

*3. SHRI KRISHAN KANT :
SHRI ARJUN ARORA : DR.
SALIG RAM : SHRI
RAJENDRA PRATAP
SINHA :

Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE
विदेश व्यापार मंत्री be pleased to state

(a) what is the quantity of controlled cloth produced in the country during the first three quarters of 1971;

(b) what arrangements have been made by Government for its fair distribution within the country;

(c) whether all the mills have honoured the agreement to produce the necessary quantity of controlled cloth; and

†The question was actually asked on the floor of House by Shri Krishan Kant.

(d) if the answer to part (c) above be in the negative, what action has been taken by Government against them ?

THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN
TRADE/ विदेश व्यापार मंत्री (SHRI
L.N. MISHRA): (a) 177.85 million sq.
metres.

(b) There is no control on distribution of cloth. The State Governments keep a watch on distribution under the Essential Commodities Act.

(c) All the mills have implemented the new scheme effective from 1st June, 1971.

(d) Does not arise.

SHRI KRISHAN KANT : May I know from the hon. Minister whether is he aware of the fact that the prices of cloth have been increasing for the last six months, particularly of controlled cloth? Controlled cloth is not available at the fixed prices. May I know if this complaint has come before the Government. If so, what is being done by the Government ? Have they thought of taking over the distribution of the cloth in their hand ? Do they ensure that the State Governments are taking action under the essential Commodities Act? May I know also whether it is not a fact that handloom and power-loom cloth is being taken by the mills and sold as mill cloth at a profit of 40 per cent ?

SHRI L.N. MISHRA : As I have stated earlier, the prices of textiles have risen abnormally high, especially of coarse cloth. I have also stated that the production is not sufficient. As we know, Sir, the production of coarse cloth had come to 2.6 per cent as against the commitment of 25 per cent. In June we came with a formula and the mills were asked to produce 20 per cent. About the rise in the prices of superfine cloth, there is no control on these varieties. But if any shopkeeper, or trader sells coarse cloth at a higher price, the States Government is asked to take action under the Essential Commodities Act.