

STATEMENT

The Committee of Experts on Unemployment Estimates set up by the Planning Commission has submitted its report. Copies of the Report have been sent to the Parliament Library for information and use of Members.

2. The general conclusions of the Committee are :

(i) The concepts of labour force and of measurement of unemployment and underemployment in terms of man-years, as adopted in developed economies, are unsuitable for an economy like ours, with its preponderance of self-employment and production within household enterprise, and considerable seasonal unemployment or underemployment.

(ii) The past estimates of unemployment and underemployment have been unavoidably subject to an unknown margin of error. Such estimates presented in one dimensional magnitude are neither meaningful nor useful as indicators of the economic situation, and might, therefore, be given up.

(iii) Many of the limitations in the estimates of labour force, employment and unemployment are inherent in the socio-economic conditions of our country, and cannot be wholly overcome by conceptual refinements or improvements in the techniques of estimation.

(iv) Studies should be undertaken to obtain data on different segments of the labour force, taking into account important distinguishing characteristics such as—region, rural—urban residence, status of worker, educational attainment, age, sex, etc., and to identify separately the employment likely to be generated for different categories of workers in different sectors of the economy.

(v) Various suggestions have also been made regarding the collection and presentation of data by agencies such as the Census, National Sample Survey and Employment Exchanges.

3. The various suggestions are being examined in consultation with the specialised agencies dealing with employment and manpower such as the Central Statistical Organisation, the Institute of applied Manpower Research, the Directorate General of Employment and Training, the Registrar General's office etc. It will take some more time before the various suggestions made by the Committee and the comments received from the various organisations on the Report are analysed and to

decide what further studies and surveys should be taken up in pursuance of these recommendations.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER REGARDING STARRED QUESTION NO. 386 ANSWERED ON THE 10TH DECEMBER, 1969

VISITS OF MINISTERS TO FOREIGN COUNTRIES

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE, DEPARTMENTS OF ELECTRONICS AND SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH (SHRI K. C. PANT) : Sir, on behalf of Shri K. S. Ramaswamy I lay on the Table a further statement (in English and Hindi) regarding visits of Ministers to foreign countries correcting the statement laid on the Table of the House on December 18, 1969, with reference to Starred Question No. 386 answered in the Rajya Sabha on December 10, 1969. [Placed in Library. See No. LT—4646/70]

CALLING ATTENTION TO A MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

REPORTED UNPRECEDENTED SHORTAGE OF COTTON IN THE COUNTRY

SHRI M. K. MOHTA (Gujarat): Sir, I call the attention of the Minister of Foreign Trade to the reported unprecedented shortage of cotton resulting in abnormal rise in its prices and the contemplated closure of textile mills in the country.

MINISTER OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI L. N. MISHRA) : Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, in the light of the appraisal made sometime before the commencement of the current cotton year, it was expected that the cotton commercial crop was likely to be of a larger size than that of the last year. It was taken at 62.0 lakh bales as against 56.50 lakh bales last year. Even so, as in the past years, the anticipated crop was short of the requirements and an import programme of a reasonable and appropriate order was formulated. However, during the recent weeks, there have been reports of damage to the crop in Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and certain other areas. Consequently the size of the crop is currently estimated to be of the order of 57.0 lakh bales. It

forecast at this stage the size of the crop. The arrivals of crop into the market are expected to be smaller than in previous years. The result is that there is a pressure on the available supplies. Some of the mills have made purchases. Prices of cotton have shown a sharp rise. The current market prices are considerably higher than the prices at the beginning of the season and much more than the prices this time of the last year.

If this price trend persists, the expectations of higher exports or even maintaining the normal level would certainly be belied. The apprehension is that exports during the current financial year may fall short of the last year's level. Weaker mills may find it difficult to withstand the impact of the present high prices.

The cotton situation needs to be corrected and Government is giving careful consideration to the formation of measures necessary to assure adequate supplies of cotton at reasonable prices to all mills, so, that the objectives of maintaining exports, adequate supplies of yarn and cloth to the consumer and maintaining employment are achieved.

It would not be possible for me to spell out to-day what these measures could be but whatever steps are necessary including augmentation of supplies of cotton will certainly be taken. Whatever measures we take to meet the present situation, the interest of the cotton growers would certainly receive our utmost consideration and nothing would be done which might affect adversely their legitimate claim.

I understand that the industry itself is giving serious consideration to the present situation and I am sure certain satisfactory course of action would emerge as a result of the deliberations of the industry.

I might, in any case, say that a certain amount of discipline in cotton purchase by the mills would go a long way to relieve the present situation. On an earlier occasion, the industry did evolve and observe restraint in cotton purchase which had sobering effect on cotton market. I see no reason why this cannot be done at this stage. I am not aware of any move on the part of the industry towards closure of textile mills, and I see no reason if discipline in cotton purchase is observed why there should be any closure of the

mills. Some measures to call for restraint on current consumption of cotton may be called for.

Government is deeply concerned about the current cotton situation and its impacts on export, production, employment and availability of cloth for the consumer at reasonable prices. I can only assure the House that Government are seized of the problem and will soon evolve a set of measures to alleviate it.

SHRI M. K. MOHTA : Sir, I am very sorry to say that although the hon. Minister says that he is seized of the problem actually nothing has been done by the Government in this respect. The problem has definitely seized him. During a meeting of the Consultative Committee on Foreign Trade during the inter-session period it was amply brought to the notice of the Government that the supply position was going to be extremely tight and all the reports that are coming to the Government regarding the chances of the crop are not correct and unless Government took timely action to make more cotton available to the industry the total supply of cotton would be so acute that later on any measures that the Government might take may not prove very fruitful. At that time Members pressed the Government for arranging for the import of at least three lakh bales more of cotton in addition to the seven lakh bales that had been announced by the Government before that but all our pleas fell on deaf ears. I would like the hon. Minister to say categorically whether he considers the present price level of cotton as reasonable or not. If he says it is reasonable we have nothing further to say; if he wants to jeopardise the export effort of the country and expose the consumer to inflationary spirals we have nothing further to say but even in spite of the fact that the price levels are nearly double the support prices fixed by the Government it is now being said that the return to the farmer is uppermost in the mind of Government and I am afraid the situation will go from bad to worse. I would like to ask the hon. Minister specifically whether the Government has any plans to arrange for immediate further imports of cotton and if so what is the total extent of further imports that would be arranged?

May I know whether this will be done from the free foreign exchange areas or only from the PL-480 funds? That is my first question. My second question is this. Why is it that at the most in-

[Shri M. K. Mohta]

opportune time the Reserve Bank of India has relaxed credits curbs on the cotton trade, so that although the mills and the industry are allowed to hold stocks of a very limited nature, there is absolutely no limit on the traders holding stocks? The traders can hold 5,000 bales, 10,000 bales or 20,000 bales, any quantity they like. This is the direct result of the Reserve Bank if India's policy of relaxation of the curb on credit. In this connection, what is the Government's view and what further action would the Government take?

SHRI L. N. MISHRA : Mr. Mohta has accused me by saying that his words have fallen on deaf ears. I think Mr. Mohta has not cared to hear my statement. I have answered most of the points that he has raised. About farmers, it is a fact that we have to consider the interests of farmers and it is always in our mind. If once the farmers are getting a higher price we should not grumble like this. The question is whether the farmers are getting a fair, reasonable or a much more than reasonable price for their cotton. We feel that at this time the prices of cotton are abnormally high.

SHRI S. D. MISHRA (Uttar Pradesh) : What is the percentage ?

SHRI L. N. MISHRA : Do not get impatient.

SHRI S. D. MISHRA : It is not impatience, but it is really . . .

श्री ललित नारायण मिश्र आप बैठिए, मैं बनाता हूँ ।

श्री एस० डी० मिश्र : हम क्यों बैठें हम पूछ रहे हैं कि परसेटेंज क्या बढ़ा ।

श्री ललित नारायण मिश्र : बैठिए ।

श्री उपसभापति : वे जवाब दे रहे हैं ।

श्री एस० डी० मिश्र : ये कौन है बैठाने वाले ?

श्री ललित नारायण मिश्र : हम हैं बैठाने वाले, हम हाउस के पजेशन में हैं ।

श्री एस० डी० मिश्र : चरा इनको तमीज सिखाइए ।

SHRI L. N. MISHRA : I was stating that the price of cotton has already gone abnormally high. In some cases it is almost double. In October, 1969 the price was Rs. 1,575. Earlier it was Rs. 2,275. To a

lay it is Rs. 2590. In some cases it is more than fifty per cent and in some cases it is double. The prices have gone alarmingly high. The interests of the growers will be uppermost in our mind. At the same time the industry will not be allowed to die and we will be losing our exports also, as I have said in my statement. About measures, I have said that the question of importing American cotton will be looked into. As a matter of fact, we are thinking of importing more cotton. The earlier proposal was to import 8.25 lakh bales. Now, we are proposing to import 13.25 lakh bales and most of the increased imports will be under PL 480. Then, he wanted to know about the credit curbs. The matter has to be taken up with the Ministry of Finance and we shall take it up with the Ministry of Finance. I will again say that we should not do such things in a hurry as might jeopardise the interests of the growers. At the same time a balance has to be maintained, viz., how we can make the industry run, how the growers can get a fair price, how the growers' interests will not suffer, how the consumers' interests will not suffer. Therefore, we cannot act in a hurry, but some remedial measures have to be taken to meet the present crisis.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Mr. Chinai.

SHRI M. K. MOHTA : One brief question, Sir.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : You have already put two or three questions.

SHRI M. K. MOHTA : Only one brief question. It will be extremely brief. Is it a fact that capacity exists in the country for the manufacture of staple fibre if import of pulp is allowed and made available to this industry and this staple fibre can be used as a substitute for cotton ? If this is a fact, will the Government allow import of pulp which again will be much cheaper in terms of foreign exchange than the import price of cotton ?

SHRI L. N. MISHRA : This is a question about cotton prices. This is not a question about pulp or synthetics at the moment. This is one of the suggestions which the hon. Member has put forward, but at the moment I cannot say anything about it. My first worry is how to get cotton, how to allow these mills to run normally. This is my main worry. I am more worried about the availability of cotton.

SHRI BABUBHAI M. CHINAI (Maharashtra) : May I know whether the Minister is aware of the fact that during the course of November, 1969 to April, 1970 cotton prices have gone up by 54 per cent, wages have gone up by 8 per cent, and the average cost has gone up by 31 per cent? May I also know from the Minister whether he knows that in Maharashtra, specially in Vidharba and other areas, the production has come down to 50 per cent due to heavy losses as a result of heavy rain and afterwards drought so that there was crack in the land and therefore the crop has failed? Similarly about the crop in Gujarat which was estimated at about 19 lakh bales, since the last few days they have been saying that it will be 16 lakh bales. In view of this may I know from the Minister whether, in regard to the promised import of about 13.2 lakh bales which the hon. Minister has said, he has already planned to import this? I say this because whatever little he had planned in the past about Egyptian and Sudanese cotton still 64,000 bales are yet to be imported. Also in connection with PL-480 2 lakh bales have been promised to us for the last two months; yet we do not know whether the buying of these bales has been finalised, whether they are coming and when they are coming. What I would impress upon the hon. Minister is, in view of the fact that there is an acute shortage of cotton, in view of the fact that the Millowners' Association have passed a resolution to have a lock closure for 15 days in view of the shortage of raw materials, will the hon. Minister consider that such a situation had arisen in the year 1964 and it was decided both by the Government and by the employer and employees that we will close the mills once a week first, then after four weeks or so we will close only once in a fortnight, then after four weeks we will close once in a month, and phase it out so that the labour do not suffer, so that the raw material is fed to the industry to the utmost extent possible.

My another point is in the beginning of the season always the Ministry assesses the production to be near about 62 lakh bales. Ultimately after one month they come down by 1 lakh or 2 lakh bales. The position is the latest figure of assessment is about 56 lakh bales . . .

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Put the question.

SHRI BABUBHAI M. CHINAI : I am putting the question. If I do not give the background, it will not be possible to make it clear. I know you are in a hurry. But the Short Notice Question has taken

about 40 minutes. What I was suggesting was the Planning Commission has earmarked only Rs. 90 lakhs for more cotton production. If the Planning Commission can be persuaded to fork out Rs. 10 crores every year for a few years, I assure you that not only the cotton requirement of the country will be met but we will save nearly Rs. 80 crores to Rs. 90 crores by way of foreign exchange which we are wasting on this cotton import. May I know from the hon. Minister whether he has got such a plan in his hand?

Sir, one point in connection with the prices is this. These are the prices as compared to last year prices of today. Digvijay is more than Rs. 825. L-147 is more than Rs. 1050 (CP) and more than Rs. 1,000 (Berar). 797 is more than Rs. 750. 197/3 is more than Rs. 875. Wagad is more than Rs. 655. Manavadar is more than Rs. 750. And Surendranagar is more than Rs. 730. If we look at these prices, how is it going to benefit the industry by way of export? As he very rightly said, export will suffer. Export has started coming down. It was only the cotton yarn export which came to our rescue during the course of last year. This year neither the cloth nor yarn is going to help us if this is the price at which one has to buy cotton.

Finally, Sir, I want to impress upon the Minister and find out from him. Cotton mills are required to hold cotton only for 1/2 months generally. In Gujarat and other places it may be between 2/3 and three months. It is the traders who have got the upper hand this time because they can have the cotton kept with them for 12 months or 1/2 years or six months, whatever is necessary. Not only that. The National Textile Corporation is free to buy any amount of cotton they want at any price. Mr. Vasavada, Chairman of the National Textile Corporation, is sitting next to me here. Let me point out to the hon. Minister that the National Textile Corporation is hand in glove with a merchant, and that is the reason why these prices have been going up, up and up. He says, if two crores of the Indu Group are lost every year, what is wrong if twentyfive to fifty lakhs more are lost. If the public exchequer's money is defrauded like this, what to do? We must have a proper check on buying even if it be the National Textile Corporation. (*Time bell rings.*) Sir, a couple of minutes.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : You have taken 10 minutes.

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SHRI BABUBHAI M. CHINAI : Two minutes more. I am giving some information which the hon. Member can use.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : It is a Calling Attention Motion. You have already taken 10 minutes

SHRI BABUBHAI M. CHINAI : What I want to know from the hon. Minister is this. Does he know that the imported cotton is being sold openly in spite of the fact that they are not supposed to sell it? It is given under the plea of consumers. It is being sold in the open market in Bombay as 'Bombay Press'. Will not the hon. Minister care to look into it and ask the Textile Commissioer's Officer to see that this fraud is not committed by all those who have been doing it? I have been shouting from the house-top in the Consultative Committee. It has not been listened to. I hope, now when it is a full House, it will be listened to. Will the hon. Minister be good enough to assure that there will be no closure, no 15 days' closure, and no unemployment as envisaged, that if at all closure is necessary it will be only phased out. I may request the hon. Minister kindly not to say to us that it is receiving serious attention. Let us know what concrete steps he has taken or what concrete steps he intends to take. I do not want a reply right on the floor of the House. He may give it afterwards. But he must give it in the House and say that he has tried to phase it out so that there is no unemployment, there is no fall of production and the mills can be run according to schedule.

SHRI L. N. MISHRA : Shri Chinai has put a number of questions. Where and how to answer them is the problem.

Sir, as regards the purchase of cotton by the NTC, it is a fact that the National Textile Corporation has to purchase cotton. They have got mills under them, and they cannot do without purchasing. But, Sir, we have asked them to stop the purchases for some time, because for want of cotton in the market, it will be better that the National Textile Corporation contends itself with a stock of 15 days or so for the time being, and they can make purchases to a limited extent so that the market is not disturbed. It is a fact that the National Textile Corporation is a powerful organisation, and if it tries to purchase in the market, it can bring about an imbalance. But we have persuaded it not to have stocks of more than 15 days.

About imported cotton being sold in the open market, Shri Chinai has given me information. I will look into it and find out how far this is correct.

1 P.M.

The next suggestion that came from him was about the production of cotton in the country itself. Sir, this is the real problem. The productivity of indigenous cotton is very low in this country. Especially we have to increase the productivity of cotton per acre. For that we have to think of giving to the growers free pesticides, seeds, manure and better arrangement for the agriculturist. For that we will have to persuade the Planning Commission.

The hon'ble Member demanded more liberal funds. If it is done, there is no reason why in two or three years' time our position should not improve considerably.

He wanted to know why we are not going to get cotton from abroad. We are going to get cotton from abroad from U.A.R. and Sudan. In December, that is, five or six days after, 2 90 lakh bales will start arriving Under PL-480 so far 3 75 lakh bales have been allotted and actual purchase has been made of 62,000 bales. The balance is being negotiated, and I think after the Sudan and the U.A.R. cotton starts arriving in the country, much of the problem will disappear.

I must assure Shri Babubhai Chinai that there will be no closure of one day in a week or a fortnight; I do not anticipate that situation. We have some reason to believe that there will be no closure of the textile mills because we cannot afford it in the present situation; the nation cannot afford it; our economy cannot afford it. Therefore, every possible step will be taken. I must say that the countries who have been supplying us cotton have been extremely co-operative—U.A.R., Sudan and also America—from where we get cotton under PL-480. The increase of 5 lakh bales is also mainly under PL-480 programme.

Shri Babubhai Chinai referred to the position of prices. The hon'ble Member was more or less correct. I do not want to repeat the figures. There might be some difference. But more or less prices have gone much beyond what we had anticipated and, perhaps, it is very alarming in many senses.

The fear about the block closure of 15 mills is not correct. They will not be

pushed to that position. We shall give them cotton. I take the guarantee. Every possible effort will be made that cotton is available to them. The National Textile Corporation would also co-operate.

SHRI CHITTA BASU (West Bengal) : So you have yielded to their threats.

SHRI L. N. MISHRA : No, no. There is no question of yielding to any threats because if there is closure the workers will suffer. You do not realise that. The labour will get unemployed.

That is more important than what will happen to the mill-wallahs.

But I would say one thing that the mill-owners have also to realise the gravity of the situation. They must stop this rush purchase. They should also be satisfied with 15—20 days stock.

SHRI BABU HAI M. CHINAI : Mr. Deputy Chairman, one point on which I want an explanation. May I know from...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Mr. Mulka Govinda Reddy.

SHRI CHITTA BASU : There are other persons also.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : I have called Mr. Mulka Govinda Reddy. (*Some hon'ble Members stood up in their seats.*) Not all at once. We can only have one after another.

SHRI MULKA GOVINDA REDDY (Mysore) : Sir, it is true that the prices have gone up a little bit. But it is also true that growers of cotton are suffering every heavy losses for want of rains and other facilities. They have not been able to grow as much as they wanted to grow; they are suffering. In view of that, is it not desirable that the grower should get more prices and the prices should be stabilised at the rates that are now prevailing at present though it may be a little more than it should have been? The floor price that you have fixed is abnormally low. It may be a good incentive if the growers get more price for the cotton than they get so that we will be self-sufficient in production of cotton. What is the Government of India going to do with regard to the stabilisation of prices at more or less the present level?

SHRI L. N. MISHRA : Sir, I had said in my statement and also in answer to some supplementaries that the growers must be

assured of a fair price. In reply to Mr. Mulka Govinda Reddy also I say that nothing should be done which might deny the legitimate claim of the growers. But there is one thing. We must see what the price to-day is. The support price recommended by the Agricultural Prices Commission is Rs. 370, but the price to-day has jumped to Rs. 720.

SHRI MULKA GOVINDA REDDY : Rs. 370 is abnormally low.

SHRI L. N. MISHRA : I beg of the hon. Member to kindly realize the consequences of it, how the cost of production in this country will go up and how we will be able to maintain our traditional export in this situation. There cannot be two opinions on the question of giving incentives to the growers. But we will have to take an overall view of the economy also and we have to think of our exports also. Therefore, they must get a fair price, but not as fantastic a price as this which is more than double the price recommended. That is why we are saying that we will have to bring down the price. I am sure the price will stabilise in three or four or five weeks time. The price will stabilise, the moment foreign cotton starts arriving and rush purchase is stopped.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Mr. Kulkarni. Please put brief questions.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI (Maharashtra) : Yes as brief as the others have put.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : As brief as Mr. Mulka Govinda Reddy.

SHRI N. G. GORAY (Maharashtra) : Let us have a debate on this important question.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI : Sir, the Foreign Trade Ministry up to now seems to have taken *ad hoc* decisions on the entire set-up of the textile industry and growth of cotton in this country. Actually they are begging the question. I want to draw your attention to the entire problem. Nobody in this House will ever encourage or will ever tolerate a single closure for a single hour in the textile industry because that is giving the highest employment in this country. Having said this, I really do not understand his saying that the interests of the cotton growers will be protected. How are you going to protect the growers' interest with a paltry sum of Rs. 4 crores allowed by the Planning Commission? It has been highlighted

[Shri A. G. Kulkarni]

more than a hundred times that on an average two annas are given for one acre of cotton land and the cotton grown is mostly rain-fed. If really the cotton grower is to be encouraged, he has to be given new yields, he has to be given maximum money support. Otherwise, the Planning Commission in their ivory tower will be only doing book work. They do not know what they are doing. Sir, I should say that this is the last bell ringing in the textile sector. If you do not have a massive plan for massive investment and research on cotton growth, the problem is not going to be solved, and every year you will come before the House with one ailment or another in the textile industry.

Secondly, I have received telegrams from Coimbatore, Madras, Bhiwandi and other places about the rise in the price of cotton yarn to the extent of Rs. 10 per pound. Has the Government's attention been drawn to this fact? Unless the textile industry behaves itself, the decentralised sector, which is giving employment to a sizable number, will also be at the receiving end and they will not be able to do justice to their workers. Thirdly, I would like to know whether it is not a fact that the real malady in the textile industry is the difficulty of the weaker textile mills against the stronger and big textile mills. The weaker textile mills use 90 per cent of the indigenous cotton and their capacity is 65 per cent in the country. And the ailment is with 65 per cent of the textile industry. So you have to see that massive imports are made for the present. But that is not a solution. Do not beg the question. Do not have *ad hoc* decisions on this matter. These are the problems and I want the Government to go deeper into these problems. No hanky-panky business will ever solve the problem of the textile industry. For this purpose please put an immediate ban on the cotton to be stored by traders because traders and the stronger mill-owners under the garb of traders are withholding stocks from the market. This has to be stopped. You have to take action against the National Textile Corporation which has made massive purchases and which has been instrumental in raising the prices. For the present please give more opportunity to the co-operatives of growers to hold their own stocks and to supply to the Cotton Corporation of India because unless the Cotton Corporation of India is activated and unless it holds buffer stocks, this problem cannot be solved. Please assure us that the Cotton Corporation of India will hold adequate buffer stocks for this purpose.

SHRI L. N. MISHRA : The real answer

to the problem has been given by Mr. Kulkarni himself. The problem will continue till we have indigenous production. And for that cotton growers will have to be helped. There cannot be two opinions about it. I agree with Mr. Kulkarni entirely and he has been agitating for this and I am one with him on this. We must have a long-term solution to this problem. Today the situation is something very very acute and we have to meet this acute problem. . . . (Interruption) . . . as we have done by importing cotton and by taking some other measures. About banning the traders from withholding the stocks, it is a suggestion for action and we will consider it. The other thing is about the bigger and smaller mills. That problem is there and we will have to look into it. About the Cotton Corporation of India maintaining buffer stocks, we have a desire to do so, but the Cotton Corporation of India came into being only three or four months back and we have a number of problems to face. And from next year the CCI might probably be in a position to maintain buffer stocks. Money will be available to them and as and when such crisis comes, they will release cotton for the use of the mills. This is a suggestion he has made and this is one of their objectives and they will be attending to it. . .

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI : What about the decentralised sector? Rayon prices have gone up.

SHRI L. N. MISHRA : I think, Sir, I have nothing more to say.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI : Rayon prices have gone up.

SHRI L. N. MISHRA : Sir, he is naturally worried about it. When cotton prices go up, naturally rayon prices also will go up. We have to see that rayon prices do not go up.

SHRI KALYAN ROY (West Bengal) : We are talking about the fear of further closure of the textile mills all over the country. Even now, on the 19th November the honourable Minister of Foreign Trade has stated in this House that 16 textile mills have already been closed down in West Bengal where unemployment is most acute and 30,000 workers have been affected. And most unfortunately we find, according to the report placed on the Table of the House, that the Central Government, in order to help rather more Maharashtra, more Gujarat, more Tamil Nadu and U.P., has taken over so far 7 cotton textile mills in Maharashtra, 5 in Gujarat, 4 in Tamil Nadu, 2 in U.P., 4 in Madhya Pradesh, 1 in Pondicherry and 1 in Rajasthan; yet

not a single textile mill has been taken over so far in West Bengal. And the reply usually is that the matter is under consideration of the Government. . .

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Mr. Kalyan Roy the question is regarding prices.

SHRI KALYAN ROY : I know, Sir, I would not follow the procedure of Mr. Babubhai Chnai. My only question, is how long the honourable Minister of Foreign Trade would go on with this policy of naked discrimination against West Bengal. How long would they go on with this policy of delaying a final decision for taking over even one textile mill as a token from West Bengal? When will this discrimination come to an end? At least one mill could have been taken over.

SHRI L. N. MISHRA : There is no question of discrimination. It is a fact that in West Bengal a number of mills are closed and the workers are jobless. This problem is before us and we have discussed it with the National Textile Corporation. They are seized of the matter. Some of the mills will be taken over by the Corporation. Perhaps Shri Kalyan Roy forgets the conditions for taking over the mills. The State Government has also to take some interest. He had a government in West Bengal. He should have come forward then. Maharashtra and U. P. have co-operated with us because after all only 51 per cent will be provided by the Union Government. 49 per cent has to come from the State Governments. And there are other conditions also. The Textile Corporation is negotiating with the West Bengal Government and I believe the latter will come forward to agree with the proposal of the National Textile Corporation. If Shri Kalyan Roy has some influence on the West Bengal Government, he can exercise that influence.

SHRI CHITTA BASU : The figures given by the hon. Minister have already cleared the confusion. He has said that the actual estimated production in the year is 57 lakh bales. I have also gone through the statement given by the mill-owners' association regarding the crises in the textile industry wherein they have claimed that the average monthly requirement of cotton is of the order of 5 lakh bales. In all the total requirement of the textile industry is not more than 60 lakh bales . . .

AN HON. MEMBER : 65 lakh bales.

SHRI CHITTA BASU : All right. The government have already announced their decision to import 13 lakh bales of cotton. Where is then the scarcity ?

It comes to 70 lakh bales whereas the need is only 65 lakh bales. I accuse the government that only in order to satisfy the tycoons in the textile industry they have agreed to give them certain concessions without taking into account the interests of either the textile workers or the cotton growers. Ignoring their interests, the government have yielded to the pressure of these industrial tycoons.

So much is talked about price increase. Is it not a fact that the growers are only getting 10 per cent more than what they got in the last season whereas the price of cloth has been increased from 20 to 30 per cent ? Is this a fact or not ?

Will not the massive import of cotton from Sudan, United States and the UAR ultimately lead to the depression of the price of the indigenous cotton and therefore deprivation of a good price which the growers in the country would otherwise get? If so, what protection the government is going to give to the growers of the indigenous cotton?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : That will be enough.

SHRI CHITTA BASU : This is my third question, Sir.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : You have already put three questions. How many questions are you going to put?

SHRI CHITTA BASU : This is my last question, Sir.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA (Uttar Pradesh) : Now he is putting them in the question form, Sir.

SHRI CHITTA BASU : I would like to know, Sir, whether the Government would consider extending the operation of purchasing the indigenous cotton also and whether there is a proposal from the Maharashtra Government to have monopoly purchase of the indigenous cotton and what has happened to the proposal of the Maharashtra Government?

SHRI L.N. MISHRA : Sir, there is no yielding to any pressure; I will say that first. There is no question of yielding to any pressure. Where is the pressure? He says the prices are rising and he says that we have gone in for imports. There is no question. Our estimate was that we would have 62 lakh bales of cotton indigenously and the revised estimate is 57 and the difference is 5 lakh bales and we

[Shri L. N. Mishra]

are now negotiating for five lakh bales under PL-480. He has not quoted correctly. I do not want to go into details.

SHRI CHITTA BASU : The figures are with you. I have quoted his figures, Sir.

SHRI L.N. MISHRA : You are wrong. You have not quoted correctly. Our figures show that we expected 62 lakhs of bales of indigenous one. Now, we expect 57 lakhs and earlier our decision was to import 8.25 lakh bales because we are going to be short by 5 lakhs of the indigenous one. We are negotiating for 6.5 lakh bales through imports, especially under PL-480.

About the question of concession, there is no concession at all. I do not think anyone is going to get any concession. There is no concession at all. He says that we are against the interests of the workers and the farmers. I say even now that the growers' interests are uppermost in our minds. But the question of balance has to be maintained. That is why we are doing something which might stabilise the prices at a certain level, which should be a reasonable level, not low, but it should be fairly high. Perhaps he does not know that even last year or the year before last the prices of cotton were much above the prices recommended by the Agricultural Prices Enquiry Committee. It is much above that and this time it is fantastically high. That is why we have come to this operation.

About the Cotton Corporation of India, I am one with Shri Chitta Basu and I want it to be more active and make indigenous purchases of cotton. Perhaps, next year they will show better performance. This year they had hardly six weeks' time before the season and therefore, it could not make much purchases. Next year the Corporation should make indigenous purchases, especially in view of the present situation.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Mr. Kurian.

DR. K. MATHEW KURIAN (Kerala) : Sir, there is a report of the Bombay and Ahmedabad Textiles Mills' Association to have a closure for at least fifteen days and later on, in April for another fifteen days. I think it is a device to create a false scare in this country regarding cotton supplies. I would support Shri Chitta Basu's point, that taking into account whatever figures are available regarding internal production

and now the increased imports allowed by the Central Government, the supply position does not warrant closure of mills by the textiles mill-owners. We have also figures to show that the cotton prices have not risen by more than 10 per cent compared to the highest price in last season and, on the other hand, we find that cloth prices have been increasing at a higher rate.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : He has already said that. You ask the question.

DR. K. MATHEW KURIAN : My specific question is whether, compared to the prices of agricultural products generally, the Minister will consider the increase in cotton prices to be abnormal as stated in the Calling-Attention Motion. I would point out that the increase in cotton prices which were depressed for the last few years, and which have spurted now, compares favourably with the agricultural prices generally and therefore, we should not create an unnecessary scare in the country regarding cotton prices. I would also ask the hon. Minister why there has been such an unpardonable delay in activating the Cotton Corporation as a purchaser of indigenous cotton. I would like the hon. Minister to make a statement soon in this House regarding long-term programme for increasing cotton supplies. The Hon. Minister has said that this is left to the Planning Commission. Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, every developmental Ministry sends the ball back to the Planning Commission at its back. They have got used to it. They know it very well that for the next five years the resources are not going to be made available.

I want a clarification. From where will the resources come?

SHRI L.N. MISHRA : Most of the questions I had answered earlier.

About the Cotton Corporation, perhaps the hon. members forget that it came into being on the 1st of September, and by that time it was very late for it to go into operation this year. That is why the Cotton Corporation did not make direct purchases this year.

I have assured earlier, and I assure today also; that the Cotton Corporation of India will make indigenous purchases of cotton in the coming year, that is, the next year, and it will maintain and it should maintain, good buffer stocks to meet the demands of emergent situations.

About the comparing of these prices with agricultural commodities, I do not

want to go into details. Sir, we want that the growers and agriculturists should get their due. They have been denied their due so far. But, Sir, for the last few years the position has been improving. Last year it was Rs. 700 or Rs. 800. But today it is something like Rs. 500 per bale. The prices have been abnormally high, and we have to meet the situation; otherwise not only the industry will suffer but the whole exports will go down.

श्री सुन्दर सिंह भंडारी (राजस्थान) : श्रीमन्, माढ़े आठ लाख बेलम इपोर्ट करने का फैसला पहले ही ले रखा था। मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि माढ़े आठ लाख बेलम मे से अभी तक हिन्दुस्तान में कितना आ चुका है और टैक्सटाइल इंडस्ट्री को उममें से कितना हिस्सा अवेलेबल किया जा चुका है ?

मेरा दूसरा वाल यह है कि जब यह सरकार को पता चला कि 11 बार हमारे देश में रुई का उत्पादन 5 लाख बेलम कम होगा तो यह कब पता चला ? 5 लाख बेलम की इस पूर्ति को करने का फैसला कब किया गया और जो बात कहने कही है कि 62 के बजाय 57 लाख बेलम ही उपलब्ध होंगी, तो यह फिरग जैसे ही मार्केट में आई कि 5 लाख बेलम की कमी होगी तो इस स्केअर को दूर करने के लिए सरकार ने कौन से इफेक्टिव कदम उठाये ? दिसम्बर के अन्त तक यह 5 लाख बेलम की जो एडीशनल कमी की बात सामने आई, इसकी पूर्ति करने के लिए क्या अगले महीने के आखीर तक कुछ एडीशनल इंगार्ट स्प्ललाई की किस हद तक व्यवस्था की जाएगी ? मके सबध मे क्या सरकार कुछ आकड़े दे सकती है ?

मेरा तीसरा और आखिरी सवाल यह है कि मैं सरकार से यह जानना चाहूंगा कि पिछले 4 वर्षों में पर एकड़ इनक्रीज के बारे में सरकार के पाम कुछ स्टेटिस्टिक्स है, क्या फिगर्स है कि कितना पर एकड़ इनक्रीज इन पिछले 4 वर्षों में हुआ है; क्योंकि इस पर पिछले 4 साल में विवाद हो रहा है ?

श्री ललित नारायण मिश्र : जहां तक इनक्रीज पर एकड़ ईल्ड का सवाल है, वह सूचना मेरे पाम नहीं है। यह सूचना मैं प्रपन करके माननीय सदस्य को बाद में दूंगा।

जहां तक यह बात है कि बाहर से आने का मवाल है, माननीय सदस्य को मैं बता दूँ कि हम अभी तीन चार जगह से मंगा रहे हैं।

श्री सुन्दर सिंह भंडारी : ऐक्चुअली कितना आ गया है, वह फिरग चाहिए।

श्री ललित नारायण मिश्र : अभी नहीं आया है। वहां भी सीजन होता है। पुराना काटन लेना चाहते हैं क्या ? नया काटन होगा, तब आएगा।

श्री सुन्दर सिंह भंडारी : यह माढ़े आठ लाख बेलम मगाने का फैसला कब हुआ था ?

श्री ललित नारायण मिश्र : मैं बताता हूँ, आप सतोंप रखिए।

जैसा कि मैंने कहा, यू० ए० ग्रार० और सूडान मे, दोनों को मिला कर 4.5 लाख बेलम है और 3.75 लाख बेलम पी० एल० 480 से है, कुल 8.25 लाख बेलम आने को था, उसके आने का इम तरह से कार्यक्रम बनाया गया था कि 3.90 लाख बेलम दिसम्बर में आ जायगा, उसका आना दिसम्बर में प्रारम्भ हो जाय और फिर उसके बाद अमेरिका का आयेगा। माननीय सदस्य को शायद पता नहीं है, शायद नहीं जानते हैं कि जब वहां मे मौदा हो जाता है तो उसका अमर यहां के बाजार पर पड़ता है और अगर हम यह कर दें, कोटा खोल दे कि यह अमेरिका से आगे होने जा रहा है या यू० ए० ग्रार० या सूडान मे आगे होने जा रहा है, तो फिजिकली आ जाने की बात नहीं, वैसे भी उसका अमर बाजार पर पड़ता है, क्योंकि एक साल भर के लिये योजना बनती है, लेकिन जब सरकार तय कर लेती है कि इनका काटन अमुक मुल्क से आने वाला है, तो उसका बाजार पर अमर पड़ना है। अगर कहें कि 5 लाख बेलम को मगाने वाले हैं, तो जो एक पैतिक फैला है या जो डर फैला है कि इस साल काटन नहीं होने वाला है उसका वह अमर खन्म हो जायेगा और इसका अमर बाजार पर पड़ेगा तो कीमत गिर जायगी। जो टैक्सटाइल कमिश्नर है और इस मे सम्बन्धित जो और लोग हैं, वे कहते हैं कि अगर हम अपना कोटा बाहर का खोल देगे तो कीमत काबू मे आ जायगी और वह घट जायगी।

आपने कहा कि यह कब पता चला, तो प्रारम्भ मे यह थोड़ा अनुमान लगाया गया था कि 62 लाख

[श्री ललित नारायण मिश्र]

बेल्स की उपज होगी, उसके बाद जुलाई, अगस्त में, सितम्बर में बाढ़ के बाद क्राप खराब हुई, तब यह पहले पता चला, तब लोगों ने जोड़ा और आकड़ा लगाया तो समझा कि करीब 5 लाख बेल्स की देश के भीतर की उपज कम होगी। इसलिये वह आना चाहिये। माननीय सदस्य ने पूछा कि हमने शुरू में ही क्यों नहीं तय किया लेकिन एक बात थी कि हम देखना चाहते थे कि जो बातें कही जा रही हैं, वे सही हैं या नहीं और किसान को थोड़ी सी ज्यादा कीमत मिल जाय तो इसमें क्या नुकसान की बात हो सकती है, हमने उसकी प्रतीक्षा की, लेकिन जब हमने देखा कि अब इसमें ज्यादा इंतजार करने से स्थिति और भी खराब हो जायगी। उस समय कारंबाई जरूरी समझी गई, तब यह निर्णय किया, इसी लिए हम लोगों ने सोचा कि 5 लाख बेल्स ज्यादा मंगाने की बात की जाय और वह पी० एल० 480 के अन्तर्गत ही महंगाई जाए।

SHRI N.G. GORAY : The Minister has himself described the situation as alarming and acute and he has said that every effort will be made to see that mills do not close down. It is very ironical that only to-day morning I got a telegram from the Tapti Mill workers that this mill has closed down. I do not know whether it is due to shortage of cotton or something else but I point out that this process has already started. Two questions I wanted to ask. One is whether the Government had suspicion that because cotton merchants were very much against this National Cotton Corporation and because it has been formed, there is a sort of conspiracy to create a scarcity artificially and to push up the prices so that there is a crisis in the cotton industry and the textile industry throughout India? If that is so, what is the Government going to do about it?

Secondly if the Government feels that the situation is so alarming, will it not consider convening a tripartite meeting of the workers' representatives, millowners' representatives and themselves to evolve some plan or formula by which the closing down of mills could be averted and the consequent labour unrest also could be averted?

SHRI L.N. MISHRA : I am thankful to the Member for suggesting the convening of a tripartite meeting but my feeling is—and that is the feeling of the other technicians engaged in this business—that such a situation should not arise where for shortage of

cotton, one is to close down the mills. The mills might close down for other reasons but for want of cotton the mills would not be allowed to close provided these things are not done, namely, rush purchases, hoarding, etc. Even today I have seen reports that they have stocks for 3½ to 4 months or even for six months. Why should they have stock for even six months? They have to be persuaded to release those stocks and they will be persuaded and asked to do and they will have to do so and cotton would be available in the market. Therefore the situation has not become that bad to think of closing down the mills and if such a situation comes, we will take the help of labour leaders like Shri Goray, etc. About this mill conspiracy against the Cotton Corporation of India, it is a fact that the coming up of this Cotton Corporation of India was not received very well by the cotton traders. I will not use the word 'conspiracy', but it was not welcomed by vested interests. They may not welcome it, but the country has welcomed it. Now our Cotton Corporation of India will do its job, and next year we will see that it has a better buffer stock. Now the last thing. Mr. Bhandari wanted to know the figures of production per acre. I have got the figures just now and for his information. I may tell him that during the First Plan period it was 94 kgms. per acre, during the Second Plan period it was 105 kgms. per acre, during the Third Plan period it was 108 kgms. per acre and in 1968-69 it was 124 kgms. per acre. It is going up of course, but it is not good at all, it is not satisfactory.

SHRI N.G. GORAY : Is it the lowest in the world?

SHRI L.N. MISHRA : Perhaps. Compared to the average production in the other countries of the world we are very bad. To proceed further, Sir, USSR has got 700 kgms. per acre. Mexico has got 730 kgms. per acre. The UAR has got 650 kgms. The USA has got 470 kgms., Sudan has got 330 kgms. Therefore we are very bad in this respect.

SHRI SUNDAR SINGH BHANDARI : Why are we bad?

SHRI S.D. MISRA : Sir may I know from the hon. Minister whether it is not a fact that during the last eight or nine years about ten or eleven committees have been appointed about these cotton textiles and the cotton sector and, in spite of that, for the last four years the production of cotton has been ranging generally between 52 and 60 lakh bales?

This is one point. In spite of that nothing has been done. And Sir, is it not a fact that about 75 mills today have stocks to last only ten days? It has been reported to us that 75 mills today have stocks of cotton to last only ten days? Of course this is also correct that certain mills have stock to last 2½ months or 3 months. This is also a fact. But how will he ensure that that the other mills are not closed? Then, Sir, lastly, can he assure us that, in spite of the increase of about 30 to 60 per cent in the price of cotton this year over last year's price of cotton, the controlled cloth, which is about 25%, and the non-controlled cloth, which is about 75%, that in both the categories, the price charged to the consumer will not increase? And if he is in a position to say 'yes' will he take into account the fact that the cost of the cotton component is about 50% more than what it was previously? And what is the magic through which he can give the assurance that, in spite of this increase in the price of cotton, there will be no increase in the price of 75% of the non-controlled cloth and 25% of the controlled cloth? What is the mechanism he is thinking of? Can he assure that there will be no increase in the price of cloth? We are told that the Bureau of Costs, his organisation, is studying the cost structure, etc. If they make any recommendation—I think they will make some recommendations—will the Government decline to accept those recommendations? What is the position in these regards?

SHRI I. N. MISHRA : Mr. Misra has tried to make out a case for a price raise also while trying to protect the interests of the consumer.

SHRI S. D. MISRA : Not at all. Did I make any such suggestion? I asked him whether he can assure us that there will be no increase in the prices of controlled cloth and non-controlled cloth.

SHRI I. N. MISHRA : But indirectly he tried to make out a case for a raise in the prices. This question of a raise in the prices of textiles was raised in the other House yesterday, and I told that House that the matter had been referred to the Bureau of Industrial Costs and Prices. But today I say there is no question of giving any rise to any variety of textiles. Now the hon. Member asked what will be our reaction to the recommendations of the Bureau. This will be seen after the Bureau reports because, as you know, we are not obliged to accept the recommendations of the Bureau or even of the Tariff Commission. Government will take its own decision in

its own judgment. We are not obliged to accept what they say or what they do not say. We will have our own decision, and today I say there will be no rise in price in any variety of textiles.

SHRI S. D. MISRA : Let the Minister tell us about non-controlled items, whether there will be increase.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA : Sir, I welcome the declaration of the Minister that there will be no block closures as advocated by some mill magnates. I hope the Government will stick to this declaration.

SHRI SUNDAR SINGH BHANDARI : Which you are yourself doubtful.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA : Well, sometimes.

Sir, may I know what steps do the Government propose to take to ensure a fair distribution of indigenous as well as imported cotton to mills in all parts of the country because the Minister himself has said a little earlier that some mills have stocks for more than 3½ months while others have for only two weeks? What steps do the Government propose to take to remedy this situation and in the matter of imported cotton may I know if the attention of the Government has been drawn to the widespread complaint that cotton textile mills in U.P. get very little quantity of imported cotton and the imported cotton is utilised mainly by mills at Ahmedabad and Bombay for producing superfine and very costly cloth, much of which is not exported at all?

SHRI L. N. MISHRA : About this complaint of U.P. I would like to say that we make the allotment of imported cotton on loom basis. Two months back I had met the textile people and as a matter of fact they were complaining to me that the millowners from Gujarat and Maharashtra should get more share of the imported cotton and they wanted to have some other formula through which they could get more. Our decision was to allot it on the loom basis and that still continues and no matter whether it is U.P. or Bengal or Bihar, they get imported cotton on the loom basis.

About how we can ensure a regular or a fair supply of cotton to the mills, it is a very pertinent question. I am thinking of having first a meeting with the Textile Commissioner's organisation and also the Textile Advisory Committee and we will persuade those people who have got three to four months' stocks or larger stocks to release some stocks for giving to those

[Shri L. N. Mishra]

mills which have not stocks. Some way will have to be found to meet this emergency or this scarcity.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Mr. Vasavada, last question.

SHRI G.A. APPAN (Tamil Nadu) : What about me ? I have been asking for time. I have a very important question to ask.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : All Members want to ask important questions; there is no doubt about it but we have to consider the time available to us.

SHRI G.A. APPAN : As a textile man, I should be given a chance.

SHRI S.R. VASAVADA (Gujarat) : Sir, the Government have told us that there is shortage of cotton in the country but it is too early to say so. I want to advise the Government not to be panicky but the fact remains that some cotton has to be imported. The cotton season has just started and the cotton is coming in. Why should there be any question of closure at all? The Government have assured us that there will be no closure. I only want to make three suggestions arising out of the assurance given to us.

Firstly, it is true that some mills may have got large stocks because of their capacity to buy and other mills have got very low stocks, as low as even five or six days' stocks. This Government can by an executive order ask the mills that have large stocks to pass on some of their stocks to other mills. It has been done in the past and that is the way of ensuring a fair distribution of cotton to all the mills in the country.

Regarding closure the hon. Minister hopes and expects co-operation from the Cotton Mills Federation and the Millowners Association. Merely by hoping co-operation does not come forth in this country. This industry is in the habit of crying 'wolf has come', 'wolf has come' though it has never come to their door. Here in this case also the Government will have to issue orders through the Textile Commissioner's organisation that no mill shall be permitted to close down. If there is any shortage of cotton, cotton can be transferred from one mill to another. Thirdly and lastly there has been some reference to the price of cotton going up because the Government-owned organisations have started buying cotton. I would

request the hon. Minister to place before this House the stock position of cotton with the mills owned by Government during the last fortnight and the total number of bales purchased by the National Textile Corporation during the last fortnight.

SHRI L.N. MISHRA : As you know, Mr. Vasavada is an expert on textiles and he is the Chairman of the National Textile Corporation. His opinions are always valuable and we look forward to the suggestions made by him with interest. About laying a statement on the Table of the House about the stocks held by the mills under the National Textile Corporation and the private mills I will try to get it and if I get the statement I will lay it on the Table of the House.

SHRI M.M. DHARIA (Maharashtra) : A very small question. I feel that this House is not convinced by the hon. Minister's decision to import 5 lakh bales more, when the cotton has just started coming. Even according to Mr. Mohta, who is not here, 65 lakh bales are required by this country and according to the estimates circulated by the Mill Owners' Association, they expect that the production would be 58 lakh bales. This plus 8 lakhs amounts to 66 lakh bales. The need is for 65 lakh bales and taking into consideration the past carry-over, which must be something at least, the decision to import, that was taken earlier, was enough. I think the Government has now committed itself to import 5 lakh bales more. Is it not because of pressure from the big monopolists in the country? The Government should immediately pass an order, so that no mill should possess a stock of more than fifteen days or one month's requirement. It should take all possible steps for proper distribution. Mal-distribution is the real worry, not lack of production. Secondly the whole picture, the sad picture today is because of the haphazard, unco-ordinated and unsystematic policies of the Government and we have been importing cotton worth Rs. 90 crores or Rs. 100 crores every year. At this rate during this Plan we may be importing cotton to the tune of Rs. 500 crores and the Planning Commission only allows Rs. 5 crores for the development of new varieties of cotton. Why not the Government take a drastic decision whereby we do not import cotton worth Rs. 100 crores every year? You please see that more amount is invested and better production and better yield per acre is achieved. Thereby the whole malady could be overcome. Under these circumstances, will the hon. Minister assure this

House that the present lack of co-ordination will come to an end and that there will be a co-ordinated effort? Every time we are given the figures of Egypt and America and now we are tired of these figures. We want to know what this country has been doing in this respect, what the Government is doing in this respect. Will the hon. Minister assure this House that all possible efforts will be made in this direction? He has just taken charge of the Ministry and so I cannot say that he is responsible for it. Will the hon. Minister assure this House that he will take the initiative in getting better production and better distribution, so that we will not be functioning under these big bogies, artificial bogies created by these big mills?

SHRI SUNDAR SINGH BHANDARI : When he is conspiring, why should he not be held responsible?

SHRI M. M. DHARIA : Please leave it to me.

SHRI L. N. MISHRA : The hon. Member is very correct when he says that the remedy lies not in importing cotton but in increasing the yield per acre. We have not done much about it and I must confess it. We are trying to have some plan. We had a plan earlier also, but that could not get through for want of finance. I agree with the suggestion put forward by the hon. Member. We will take up the question with the Agriculture Ministry, the Planning Commission and the Finance Ministry and see what can be done. I am hundred per cent with him. Unless indigenous production goes up, there is no solution to the problem. When he said about pressure, I have not yielded to any pressure. Perhaps I have not been able to talk to him. Pressure for increased import has been going on for weeks and weeks and I did not accept it at all. I was not prepared to have more of imports. But when I saw physically, when I went through all figures and I was told that export was going to suffer and we must import something, that is why we agreed for import. But we have not yet negotiated the deal. We have decided ourselves that we should have 5 lakh bales more of import, but we have not yet negotiated that deal. When we find that it is not necessary, we shall stop it. There is nothing which can stop us from not importing cotton, either PL480 or UAR or Sudan. About the stock of the mills. I agree with Mr. Dharia and also Mr. Vasavada that we have got to see what stock each mill should have in the present situation. The mills cannot have free play and cannot be allowed to go the way they

like. The overall situation in the textile industry has to be taken into account and the decision has to be based on the reality of the situation.

SHRI G. A. APPAN : One question.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : We had all questions thrashed out. There are no other questions left.

SHRI G. A. APPAN : May I know from the hon. Minister whether it will not be possible for him to cut the import of cotton and save foreign exchange...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : That question Mr. Dharia has asked. Why are you putting the same question? The Minister has just now replied.

SHRI G. A. APPAN : When is he going to implement the policy of calling for statistics of cotton with every mill?

SHRI L. N. MISHRA : I have answered it already.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

THE TEXTILES COMMITTEE (FIRST AMENDMENT) RULES, 1970

वैदेशिक व्यापार मंत्रालय में उपमन्त्री (चौधरी राम सेवक) उपसभापति महोदय, आपकी आज्ञा से मैं बन्त ममिति अधिनियम, 1963 की धारा 22 की उपधारा (3) के अधीन, बन्त ममिति (पहला मसौदा) नियम, 1970 को प्रकाशित करने वाली वैदेशिक व्यापार मंत्रालय की अधिसूचना जी० एम० आर० न० 297, दिनांक 13 फरवरी, 1970 की एक प्रति (अंग्रेजी तथा हिन्दी में) सभा पटल पर रखता हूँ।

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-4376/70]

NOTIFICATION UNDER THE INDUSTRIES (DEVELOPMENT AND REGULATION) ACT, 1951

चौधरी राम सेवक : मैं उद्योग (विकास तथा विनियमन) अधिनियम, 1951 की धारा 18-क की उपधारा (2) के अधीन वैदेशिक व्यापार मंत्रालय की अधिसूचना एम० आर० न० 3118, दिनांक 16 मिनम्बर, 1970 की एक प्रति (अंग्रेजी तथा हिन्दी में) भी सभा पटल पर रखता हूँ।

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-4377/70]