

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE AND SUPPLY (CHOWDHARY RAM SEWAK): (a) No, Madam.

(b) There has been some increase in the price of Bengal Desi Cotton but as this variety of cotton constitutes only a fraction of the total quantity of cotton used in the production of coarse yarn and cloth, the effect of the increase in its price on the cost of production of coarse yarn and cloth has been marginal.

(c) No, Madam.

(d) In order to check the rise in prices of cotton including that of Bengal Desi, an immediate shipment of 1.25 lakh bales (Indian) of PL-480 cotton has been arranged. Besides, bank advances to trade have been restricted.

#### PRICE OF VISCOSE STAPLE FIBRE

504. SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA: Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE AND SUPPLY be pleased to state:

(a) the price of viscose staple fibre produced by the Gwalior Rayon Silk Manufacturing Co. Ltd., in 1961 and what has been the yearwise increase thereof up to 1968; and

(b) what was the price of raw material used for the production of viscose staple fibre in 1961 and what has been the increase or fall in the price thereof yearwise from 1961 to 1968?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE AND SUPPLY (CHOWDHARY RAM SEWAK): (a) Ex-factory prices of viscose staple fibre

excluding excise duty produced by M/s. Gwalior Rayon are as under:—

May 1961 to 1965—Rs. 3.72 per kg.

From 1966 onwards—Rs. 4.26 per kg.

(b) No import of rayon grade pulp has been allowed for Gwalior Rayon Silk Manufacturing Co. from the licensing period 1965-66. Prior to this the *c.i.f.* price of imported rayon grade pulp ranged from Rs. 950 to Rs. 1050 per tonne depending on the source of supply, freight and other incidental charges, etc.

#### MAINTENANCE CHARGES OF CIVILIAN HOUSES IN CANTONMENTS

505. SHRI A. G. KULKARNI:

SHRI G. R. PATIL:

SHRI S. B. BOBDEY:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the rent of civilian houses on lease with the army in various cantonments;

(b) whether any arrangement has been made for the maintenance and repair of these houses, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government propose to increase the maintenance charges by increasing the annual rent?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SARDAR SWARAN SINGH): (a) The rent of houses taken on lease for the Army varies from house to house and is specifically indicated in the lease agreements concerned.

(b) Generally, the lease agreements provide for the maintenance and repair of the houses by the lessor. In certain cases, Government also undertake to maintain and repair the houses.

(c) No, Madam, as the likely maintenance charges are taken into account at the time of entering into a lease.