

SHRI DAHYABHAI V. PATEL : 'Parkkalam'.

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA: Secondly, in view of the changed attitude of the U. S. A. towards Soviet Russia, our Bhupesh Gupta's friend, and China, our enemy. . .

SHRI GODEY MURAHARI: His friend? Are you sure ?

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA: Russia is Mr. Bhupesh Gupta's friend. Our enemy is China. In view of the changed attitude of the U. S. A. towards both these countries, what is the reaction of the Government of India in the matter ?

SHRI DINESH SINGH: What reaction can I say ? He talks of friends and enemies, and he has more authority in the sense that his party can talk about these things. As a responsible member of the Government I have no authority to talk of friends and enemies in the same manner.

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA : But the point is I did not want my reaction. I wanted Government's reaction. He wants my reaction. Am I in the Government? I want this reaction, the Government's reaction to this matter of the changed attitude of the U. S. A. towards U.S.S.R. and China. What is the reaction of the Government of India? I am worried about it. If you want my independent reaction, individual reaction, I am prepared to give it. But does the country need my individual reaction or yours?

SHRI DINESH SINGH: Where is the question of my reaction just now? The question is, the hon. Member talks of some countries as friends, he talks of other countries as enemies. He wants me to react. I have not got the authority to do it.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: You have the authority not to treat any country as enemy.

MODERNISATION OF TEXTILE INDUSTRY

*440. SHRI A. G. KULKARNI : Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE AND SUPPLY be pleased to refer to the reply to Starred Question No. 577 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 16th December, 1968 and state :

(a) whether any decision in connection with the appointment of a group in the Planning Commission to consider a scheme of assistance to the Textile industry for modernisation has been taken; and

(b) if not, how Government propose to arrest the crisis in the Textile Industry ?

THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN TRADE AND SUPPLY (SHRI B. R. BHAGAT) : (a) A Working Group has already been appointed by the Planning Commission to formulate proposals for the textile industry during the Fourth Plan period and the Working Group has *inter-alia* examined the question of modernisation of the industry.

(b) Does not arise.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI : May I know from the Government whether they are aware that apart from the study by the Planning Commission and the Cell there were two Committees appointed by the Gujarat Government and the Maharashtra Government? One is called the Manu-bhai Shah Committee and the other is called the Kogekar Committee. May I know whether the Government have studied the salient features of the recommendations of those Committees particularly with reference to modernisation ? As you know, our modernisation per worker is about 17 per cent as against 40 per cent in Hong Kong. We are very poor in that.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Do not make speeches. Try to put a question. If you take the whole time, what about others?

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: You have allowed others...

MR. CHAIRMAN: You go ahead.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI : May I know in this connection, as our productivity is very low, whether the Government has given serious thought to the recommendations of both these Committees as well as the availability of funds for modernisation? What is the view of the Government on this ?

SHRI B. R. BHAGAT: It is true that these two Committees went into this question and although they were appointed by different States, they have given thought and recommended over matters similar to the problems that are facing the whole country, and modernisation is certainly the most important problem of them and it is being looked into. Even today a number of measures have been taken to facilitate modernisation in the textile industry.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Chinai.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: Sir, I will ask my second question.

MR. CHAIRMAN: There is no time.

SHRI BABUBHAI M. CHINAI: In view of the fact that the textile industry has been passing through a crisis for the last several years and since the hon. Minister has just now said that certain steps have been taken to modernise the textile industry, may I know whether he is aware that by revising the excise duty and by making it *ad valorem* on certain varieties the tax has gone up by 500 to 1,000 per cent? Also may I know whether there is any provision which the Government is intending to make to take up the closed mills by the good mills so that the textile industry can be saved? As you know, it is very well known that nearly 34 mills have been closed down. May I know whether government is taking into consideration the wider aspect of employment also in considering these matters?

SHRI B. R. BHAGAT: Yes, Sir. As for the taking of old mills by the new, that is one of the recommendations of some of the Committees which have been set up. That is also being examined. In all these matters, whether it is modernisation or rehabilitation, enormous funds of money are required. We have to look at this from all points of view, even excise and other matters must fit into this, so that the industry must be put on a stable basis. Any suggestion, any criticism, will certainly be considered.

SHRI BABUBHAI M. CHINAI: Sir, I want to make a submission. This question came up at the end of the Question Hour. I would like to submit that you please permit a discussion on this very important aspect. It is a very important matter.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I will consider but I must tell the Member that the Budget discussion is coming up and certainly you can then mention about this.

The Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

APPOINTMENT OF MORE JOINT SECRETARIES IN PRIME MINISTER'S SECRETARIAT

*435. SHRI A. D. MANI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to expand the Prime Minister's Secretariat by the appointment of two more Joint Secretaries; and

(b) if so, what work is proposed to be assigned to these Joint Secretaries?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI): (a) and (b) Presumably, the Hon'ble Member has in mind the creation of a post of Joint Secretary in the Prime Minister's Secretariat in lieu of a post in Director's grade which had become vacant. Such an appointment cannot be described as an expansion of the Secretariat. The resulting position is that the Secretariat would have two Joint Secretaries in place of a Joint Secretary and a Director. Indeed, this was the position until January, 1966 when an officer in the grade of a Director was appointed in place of a Joint Secretary because of the level of the seniority of the officer concerned. I am sure, the Hon'ble Member and the House would not expect me to describe the internal working of the Secretariat and the distribution of work between its various officers.

सूती वस्त्र के मूल्य में वृद्धि

*441. श्री निरंजन वर्मा : क्या बंबई के व्यापार तथा तृतीय मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) सूती वस्त्र के मूल्यों में लगातार वृद्धि को रोकने के लिये भारत सरकार द्वारा क्या कदम उठाये जा रहे हैं ;

(ख) 1967 की मूल्य सूची की तुलना में, 1968 में वस्त्रों की मूल्य सूची में कितनी वृद्धि हुई है ; और

(ग) क्या कपास की कम पैदावार भी मूल्य वृद्धि का एक कारण है ?

INCREASE IN THE PRICE OF COTTON CLOTH

*441. SHRI NIRANJAN VARMA : Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE AND SUPPLY be pleased to state :

(a) the steps that are being taken by the Government of India to check the constant increase in the prices of cotton cloth;

[] English translation.