

[Shri Brahmananda Panda.] any"? I think a second reminder has gone. (Time-bell rings.) Five minutes more.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN <SHRI  
AKBAR ALI KHAN): Not Ave  
minutes. There is a statement to be  
made by the Commerce Minister.

SHRI BRAHMANANDA PANDA' I will sum up- I will again say that when passions die down, sense will dawn on us and we will give some attention to Sanskrit learning in our country. Dr. Radhakrishnan always spoke of the progress of our traditions. That does not merely mean the progress of the democratic institutions that have been built up during these years, but also the progress of those traditions that relect our culture and that have sustained us as a civilised community- through thousands of years. Sir, I tell-you. I again repeat, that I am for Sanskrit and I will always be for Sanskrit because Sanskrit is essential] not merely as a link language for India but it is essential also for building up the Indian personality. Every nation has its own personality. But what are we to be proud of to-day? We are proud of other inheritances which may or may not remain with us because as things are moving we may have to repent of many things that we are doing to-day. Therefore, Sir, I say that we need not petrify ourselves into a new caste system. As Mr. Mani significantly pointed out the other day, Mr. Chatterjee, the Marxist is more reasonable in the lobby and in the Central Hall than in this House. We have reached a stage in India where we should try to communicate amongst ourselves and find out a way so that we can free ourselves from this impasse and see that our democracy and welfare State have their day and our commitment to socialism is fulfilled for a happy fut e genera tion.

### STATEMENT BY MINISTER *RE* PRODUCTION AND MARKETING OF COTTON TEXTILES

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI DINESH SINGH): Mr. Vice-, Chairman, Sir, Hon'ble Members have, from time to time, expressed their keen interest in our textile industry. I have, myself, been keeping a watch over the situation and have kept in touch with the various interests concerned. The House is aware that this is one of our oldest industry which for various reasons has not always been able to keep pace with modern developments. There is no easy solution to the problems that face this industry. However, we are attempting •measures—both long term and short— which may help the industry to resolve these problems with courage and confidence.

Production of both cloth and yarn has been running at levels below those attained in 1964 and 1965. Despite a good harvest, the earlier expectations of a revival of the demand for cotton textiles has still to materialise. A satisfactory cotton crop was reaped last year and adequate imports were arranged. Although there has been a fall in the prices of cotton from the levels prevailing in November [December, 1967, ,et the price of the principal raw material of the industry has been ruling above last year's ceiling prices. At the same time, in the interest of the consumer, it was not possible to sanction any increase in the prices of controlled varieties of cotton textiles over the levels fixed a year ago. As a result of various factors, the profitability of the industry has declined and more particularly some of the units which produce coarse and lower medium varieties of cloth have had to face considerable difficulties.

I should not like to take up the time of the House to discuss, on this occasion, the long term measures we are contemplating but it has been felt that the success of these measures will

be seriously jeopardised if certain unavoidable adjustments in the pattern of production, marketing and excise duties of cotton textiles are not made with immediate effect. These measures have been evolved after discussion with the industry and with other concerned interests. The interest of the weaker units of the industry is sought to be safeguarded and adequate protection is also being provided to the consumer especially the weaker sections of the community, which is unable to bear greater burden.

It will be recalled that under the system currently in force every mill unit is legally required to produce not less than 40% of its total production in varieties subject to controls or to meet the requirements of Defence and export markets. With effect from May 2, 1968, this legal obligation is being scaled down to 25%. With effect from the same date superfine, fine and higher medium categories of dhoties, sarees, long cloth shirting and drill will be decontrolled. The principal categories required for mass consumption namely dhoties, sarees, long-cloth, shirting and drill, made in coarse and lower medium categories will, however, continue to be produced and marketed under the present system of controls.

Although it would no longer be obligatory on the part of the mills to produce and market controlled cloth of the higher medium categories, arrangements are proposed to be made to enable mills at their option, to produce and market in lieu of their obligation, upto 10% of their production of higher medium categories of long cloth and shirting in the calendar year 1967. The intention is that certain popular varieties of shirting and long cloth of the higher medium varieties would be marketed at prices to be fixed and stamped with the prior approval of the Textile Commissioner.

As the Hon'ble Members are aware, the Textile industry has been pressing for increasing the price of controlled

varieties of cloth based on present multipliers. It has not been possible for the Government to agree to this—However, with a view to restoring financial viability, particularly of the weaker section of the industry and also keeping in mind the interest of the consumer, it has been agreed to allow a 2% increase in ex-mill prices of controlled varieties of cloth except grey dhoties and sarees. At the same time, certain adjustments are being made in excise duties with a view to ensuring in the interest of the consumer, that almost all of the increase in ex-mill prices allowed in respect of controlled varieties of cloth in the coarse and lower medium categories is absorbed by the Exchequer, and is not passed on to the consumer. Thus, for the controlled varieties of coarse and lower medium cloth, processing surcharges are being abolished. Grey stage duty on uncontrolled varieties of lower medium cloth is also being reduced from 3 paise to 1½ paise per sq. metre. In respect of the higher medium category, the present disparity in the concessional rates applicable to the controlled varieties and the standard rates leviable on the rest is being removed through an upward revision in the former and a downward adjustment in the latter. As a result, the grey stage rate on all such cloth is being equalised at 2½ paise per sq. metre. The processing duties are also being similarly equalised at 1½ paise per sq. metre for the bleached, dyed and printed cloth, at 25 paise per sq. metre for Mercerized and 40 paise per sq. metre for the Shrink proof varieties of such cloth. There is no change in the existing duty structure on the fine and superfine cloth.

As for the decentralised sector, a corresponding reduction is being made in the processing surcharges applicable to coarse and lower medium handloom and powerloom cloth so that their competitive position vis-à-vis the mill sector is maintained. It is hoped that a general improvement in the processing surcharges applicable would also prove beneficial to them—

[Shri Dinesh Singh.]

The changes in the area of control will permit greater flexibility in the pattern of production and more efficient utilisation of their installed capacities. A scheme has been evolved in consultation with the industry to secure that firstly, adequate quantities of controlled categories of cloth are produced and marketed, and secondly, the mill units which satisfy the Textile Commissioner that they will face exceptional difficulties in carrying out their obligations in full by producing either controlled varieties of cloth or for meeting the requirements of export markets and defence are able to transfer a part of their obligation to other mill units which are both able and willing to produce and market controlled categories of cloth in excess of their legal obligation. To this end, the mill units which are permitted to transfer their obligation will be required to deposit in a special fund a sum at the rate of 6 paise per sq. metre for the shortfall in its legal obligation. From this fund an incentive will be provided to the mill units which produce controlled varieties of cloth in excess of their legal obligation. This incentive may vary from quarter to quarter. For the first quarter commencing May 1968, the rate of incentive will be fixed at 4 paise for each square metre of controlled varieties of cloth produced and marketed in excess of the legal obligation subject to a ceiling equal to one-fourth of the total production of these varieties for the calendar year 1967.

It would have been noticed that these shortterm measures have been devised to achieve greater efficiency and at the same time augment the earnings of weaker units. The interest of the consumer, especially in the weaker sections of the community has also been safeguarded.

Government will provide some additional credit facilities to the APEX Handloom Co-operative Societies in order to increase their capacity for purchasing and- stocking "of yarn. This should help to ease the difficulties

which face some of the spinning mills in the South.

Before I conclude, I should like to add that the industry is being encouraged and helped to introduce some improvements in its export promotion scheme so that export sales of cotton manufacture including hand-loom products, yarn, hosiery, ready-made garments as well as mill-made cotton textiles are stepped up. Against the actual performance of Rs. 77.6 crores in 1966 and Rs. 88.0 crores in 1967, the target set for the year 1968-69 is Rs. 120 crores. The increase in export sales will, I am confident, help the cotton textiles industry to increase its efficiency and to contribute to the country's foreign exchange resources.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA (Uttar Pradesh): Sir, the first thing which I want to know is how the policy which he has announced in the House today appeared in the newspapers yesterday morning. Everything which he has announced just now was available in print in the newspapers yesterday morning.

SHRI A. D. MANI (Madhya Pradesh): What is wrong with that?

SHRI ARJUN ARORA: There is everything wrong with that. Mr. Mani is a newspaperman first, a parliamentarian later. He knows that policy announcements, when the Parliament is in session, must be made in the House first and not through Hitavada. May I know who is responsible for this leakage and what steps the hon. Minister proposes to take to ensure that at least in his Ministry such a leakage does not occur again? Secondly, Sir, I want to know why it is that the Minister has consulted only the industry. In his statement at least at four stages he has said that this has been done in consultation with the industry and others. Now who are the others? There is a Cotton Textile Control Advisory Board appointed by the Government, this

very Ministry, of which I happen to be a Member representing Parliament. But that body has not been consulted on such an important change in the policy pertaining to control of cotton textiles. As a matter of fact that body appears to have been forgotten by the Ministry. I want to know who those others are who have been consulted, because my information is that others are also industrialists operating in another garb. Thirdly, Sir, I want to know why it is that the Government has taken upon itself the responsibility of providing the resources and the wherewithal for modernisation of the textile industry which is in the private sector. This industry made fabulous profits for 20 years and squandered away its resources and now the Minister, the consumer, the Government and the people at large are held responsible for modernisation. Why does he not pin down the responsibility on the proprietors of the industry for modernisation? Fourthly, Sir, this House passed an enactment during the last year to enable the Ministry to tackle the problem of sick cotton textile mills. Nothing has been done in pursuance of the provisions of that enactment and the so-called sick mills are closing one by one. What steps does the Government propose to take in the matter?

SHRI DINESH SINGH: Sir, I am equally concerned about the leakage to which the hon. Member has referred. May I assure him that no leakage has been intentionally made by our Ministry as such? Of course, this matter has been under discussion for some time and various solutions and possibilities that we might have had have been to some extent known. I do not think even what has appear-

I in the newspapers this morning is exactly what I have said. There is a variation in that from the actual announcement I have made. - So, there has not been a leakage of the actual decisions. Of course, the trends in this direction have been known because there is very little else that could

have been done in this matter. But may I say that I equally regret that there has been this newspaper story?

So far as consultation is concerned, Sir, I did mention here that I had consulted the industry and other interests which included the labour. I have had the opportunity to discuss this matter with some labour leaders also.

SHRI CHITTA BASU (West Bengal): Who are they whom you have consulted over this matter?

SHRI DINESH SINGH: So far as the Cotton Textiles Advisory Committee is concerned, I regret very much that we did not consult the Committee of which the hon. Member is a distinguished Member but on these matters, at times it becomes difficult for detailed consultation but we have been trying to consult the people who, we thought, would be interested and I am sorry that I had left out this consultation with the Member because I know he takes a keen interest in it.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA: You did not consult the body which was constituted for the purpose.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI AKBAR ALI KHAN): That is what he says and he is regretting it.

SHRI DINESH SINGH: The third point the Member mentioned was about modernisation and he knows very well that on every possible occasion I have said that it is the primary responsibility of the industry itself but what can we do in a situation in which we have a threatened do-sure of mills and a large number of workers being thrown cut of employment and our own economic activity retarded? Whatever is the punishment or anything else we may have to do so far as the owners of the mills are concerned, we have really our primary responsibility to keep this industry going and also to see that the labour does not suffer for whatever reason it may be. The hon. Member will appreciate that if these closures

[Shri Dinesh Singh.] take place, he will be one of the first—and quite rightly—to raise the matter here. Therefore, if we take prior action to prevent these closures, he should not blame us. Of course he has every right—and I share his views—to say that the industry should have done this itself over this period of time. So far as the question of the Bill is concerned, which was approved by this House in the last Session, may I say that the Textile Corporation has since been registered as a company and we are now in the process of completing its personnel. I hope" it will start functioning this month or very soon thereafter. I have to discuss with the Chief Ministers and others and I am awaiting an opportunity to discuss with them. Perhaps it would be possible during the meetings of the N.D.C. here but we are very actively engaged in it and very soon we shall be able to announce the composition of this Corporation.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI AKBAR ALI KHAN): New Member. I am sure you will be very brief. Only clarifications.

SHRI M. R. VENKATARAMAN (Madras): I will state it as briefly as I can. I hope the statement of the Minister will be furnished to us expeditiously.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI AKBAR ALI KHAN): Yes.

SHRI M. R. VENKATARAMAN: I would appeal to you to see that some time is fixed before the end of this Session for at least half an hour in which the matter can be further discussed.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI AKBAR ALI KHAN): All right. You want discussion? You do not want any clarification.

SHRI M. R. VENKATARAMAN: I will make a statement.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI AKBAR ALI KHAN): You cannot

make a statement. You come direct to clarification.

SHRI M. R. VENKATARAMAN: I am not satisfied with the statement now made.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI AKBAR ALI KHAN): That is not clarification. If you are not satisfied that is a different thing. I will consider your request for a discussion. I will pass it on to the Chairman and he will consider it but if there is any particular point you want to ask, certainly I will give you an opportunity.

SHRI M. R. VENKATARAMAN: I would like to know why the statement in spite of what the Minister has said about the interests consulted about this, does not contain, as an organic part of it, the concern which the Government wishes to extend in respect of the workers. It is not merely a production problem. It is an entirely big social problem. I happen to know, though I have just now become a Member of the House, that the Minister and the Government of India are apprised of the difficulties of this industry particularly in the South where it has taken an acute form. The Madras Government had called the owners as well as the trade union representatives and with the Government representatives they tried to work out a solution. They sought the help of the Government of India so far as some financial help was needed. There were discussions in respect of that. The owners had urged three points—with reference to -the accumulated stocks with reference to the removal of the excise duty and removal of controls a little more. I am constrained to state that the mill-owners get more or less what they have been asking for. They get the export help they get the concession in respect of excise duties and they also get a reduction in control. The area of control is reduced for them. My point is what is to be done with reference to the number of mills that have closed down? What about the workers thrown out of employment? It is not enough to tell the workers that a Textile Corporation has been

registered or this sort of a Corporation has been set up. It does not help them. I want to strike only a note of warning that things have to be quickly attended to. I wish only that the Minister's statement contained some concern about it. There is nothing to show that. The mill-owners have come out with the threat of a weekly closure for two days while some mills are already closed in Tamil Nad. This is going to be a very big social problem. It is not like any other industry. It is our biggest industry. Therefore, I would like a discussion on this and I have got suggestions to make.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI AKBAR ALI KHAN): Regarding the labour, I would ask the Minister to clarify. There are many others. You cannot go on speaking on clarification.

SHRI DINESH SINGH: All the steps we are taking is to ensure that there is no closure which will render the workers unemployed and the economic activity paralysed. We are not taking any of these steps to help the millowners as such. If we did not have this labour consideration, we would not have worried about the closure of the mills. So, the entire effort is to see that the workers do not lose their employment.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI (Maharashtra): As a matter of clarification, first I want to congratulate the Minister for a very rational policy, on textiles.

SHRI A. D. MANI: Congratulation? are not proper.

SHRI CHITTA BASU: It is not the occasion to congratulate the Minister.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: You do not know the textile industry. Really, actually while congratulating the Minister for a very rational policy and for a rational solution to the malady of the textile industry I want

to request him to clarify on 2 or 3 points. I quite understand certain concessions given to the millowners as regards processing duties, slide-back, etc. He has also rightly conceded that the interests of the decentralised sector will not be handicapped but I have my own doubts about it. I want to know whether he himself is satisfied as regards the interests of the decentralised sector being pegged at the old competitive disadvantages already given to the handloom and powerloom sector. Secondly, I want to know whether this occasion should not have been prudently used by the Ministry for linking these concessions with modernisation because no textile magnate in this country who has fattened for the last 20 years by exploiting the consumer is going to modernise the industry of his own will- I would request Mr. Dinesh Singh, the Commerce Minister, to utilise this opportunity and see that the profits which will accrue as a result of these concessions are linked to modernisation of the industry. I can understand very well that there are difficulties; how they can be linked is also a difficulty, it has to be talked over, but I will only.....

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI AKBAR ALI KHAN): Put the third question if you have any.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: Yes, I only throw a suggestion that the concessions should be linked with modernisation of the industry. The third point is this. I am one with Mr. Arjun Arora in what he says. Now the Commerce Ministry has created certain non-official organisations for discussion purposes but I am very sorry to say and to assert that in the last three years the Cotton Advisory Board has not had a single meeting Is the Textile Commissioner's office working? What are the Ministry officials doing? Where are the non-official interests? When the textile industry was in the doldrums for the last two years, was the Textile Commissioner sleeping? What action had

[Shri A. G. Kulkarni.]

the hon. Minister taken against the Textile Commissioner who had not called a single meeting of the Cotton Advisory Board to consult them as regards this textile malady? So I strongly support Mr. Arjun Arora and say that the Textile Commissioner had been lightly treating all these advisory boards introduced by him. Lastly only one clarification I seek because it has come out of the Commerce Minister's own version. He had said that the Textile Corporation is being organised and its personnel is being served. As per my own reliable personal information, based on that, I should say this. For heaven's sake please do not appoint bureaucrats, do not place even retired Government servants either at the head of the Textile Corporation or as personnel employed in the Textile Corporation. Please utilise the young talent. You have got it and it is available in this country because textile industry has been an old industry in this country. For heaven's sake please do not appoint Joint Secretaries and Deputy Secretaries as the head or the directors of this Corporation.

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA (Orissa): You can use his skill and experience. He is an experienced man in the textile industry, in the co-operative sector.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: Mr. Lokanath Misra, that I can plead myself, but I do not want to plead for myself.

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA: That is why I pleaded for you.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: I am not interested in that. "What I want to say is that the Commerce Minister must see to it that even no retired Government official is appointed to this Corporation. He must make a categorical statement on that.

SHRI DINESH SINGH: Regarding the first point made by Mr. Kulkarni, may I say that I have seen that these adjustments that are being made in

the duty structure do provide the same competitive position to the decentralised sector as it has today? The margin is the same. Regarding modernisation, what he has mentioned about some kind of a linkage was very much in our minds but, as he has himself admitted, it became very difficult to translate it into any kind of direct linkage. But it is our expectation that, not only with profits, but even at some loss to them, the textile industrialists would seriously join in for modernisation of the industry; otherwise they will bring down this whole industry. And as soon as the Textile Corporation starts functioning, we propose to bring forward some schemes, and I shall be very glad to discuss these with the hon. Member, and I must say that he has been very helpful, Sir, in giving suggestions from time to time, in this House and outside, and in the committees, which has been very useful. He has asked me to say categorically that we shall not appoint a bureaucrat as the head of the Textile Corporation, and that is my endeavour, Sir.

SHRI M. K. MOHTA (Rajasthan): Sir, may I request the hon. Minister to state what is the exact position today about the contribution of five crores of rupees that was reported to have been promised for export promotion, because a number of rumours are going on that this contribution is going to be withdrawn? And secondly, in view of the fact that yarn is accumulating with textile mills on the one hand, and the handlooms and powerlooms are remaining closed on the other, is the Government thinking of abolishing the excise duty on yarn so that the handlooms and powerlooms may work more and the yarn could also be lifted from the mills?

SHRI DINESH SINGH: May I say that this is why, because of the rumour which the hon. Member has mentioned, I went out of my way to mention about the exports in this Statement, and say that we are not proposing to reduce any of the faci-

lities that we have offered for exports. So far as the excise duty on yarn is concerned, there is no proposal to withdraw it.

SHRI K. SUNDARAM (Madras): The hon. Minister said that credit facilities will be extended to the apex co-operative societies in order to help the spinning mills, but he has not mentioned to what extent these credit facilities will be given to these societies and what is the magnitude of the stocks that have been accumulated, and whether the credit facility alone will be sufficient to relieve the burden of these spinning mills. This is one point. He also said that the competitive capacity of the organised industry and the decentralised sector will be maintained, that whatever was before, the same thing will be maintained. This is exactly the trouble now. The difference has been narrowed; the gap has been narrowed, and this has been the trouble with the decentralised sector. Why the Government has not thought it fit to widen the gap again? And a third point, Sir; the real problem for the spinning mills is the very heavy excise duty on the sized beams. But in the Minister's Statement nothing has been mentioned. Does the Minister feel that this very small credit facility extended will solve the problem of these spinning mills?

SHRI DINESH SINGH: Sir, since I have not mentioned any amount, I do not know wherefrom the hon. Member got the idea that it will be small. It is our intention to make adequate credit available to help them to tide over the difficulty.

SHRI K. SUNDARAM: I would like to know what is the magnitude of the stocks and what is the extent of the credit that you are going to provide. That is the clarification I seek.

SHRI DINESH SINGH: This is a matter that we have to discuss with the people concerned. The Special Secretary in our Ministry was in Madras last week and he has had an

opportunity of discussing this matter, and we are now in the process of completing our decision in this matter. So far as the gap between the centralised and the decentralised sectors is concerned, Sir, whatever has been the present position has been maintained. I do not think that this in itself is any kind of disincentive to the decentralised sector. There may be other difficulties that they are facing. Now in trade and commerce it is a continuous process of difficulties and better days. When there are better days no hon. Member comes here and says, "They are making profits; please take away a slice". But if there are some difficulties everyone comes and pleads for mitigating the difficulties. In business everybody talks of the market, the operation of the market and the effect of demand and supply and all the rest of it on the market. Therefore, they should not get scared when they happen to pass through rainy days. It is part of business; they will make profit one day and incur loss another day. I, as a Member of the Government, cannot guarantee that they will always make profits.

SHRI CHITTA BASU: Whenever there is decontrol or partial decontrol, it has been our experience that there is price rise. May I know from the hon. Minister, by way of further extending the concessions to these textile mill-owners, what is the guarantee that the prices of the coarse varieties or the middle varieties of cloth will not be increased? What is the guarantee and what steps will the Government take in case there is any price rise? This is number one.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI AKBAR ALI KHAN): They are under control; Government have not decontrolled the coarse varieties of cloth.

SHRI CHITTA BASU: It has been further extended and it may cause a rise in prices. It has been our experience that any concession has.



[Shri Chitta Basu.]

caused a rise in prices, as in the case of coal, as in the case of sugar. Again I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government is aware of the fact that a large number of textile workers are still without employment. If so, what steps do the Government propose to take to provide them with employment at an early date?

Thirdly, why is the Government proposing to help these mill magnates with funds from the public exchequer in this piecemeal manner instead of considering straightway the nationalisation of the whole industry?

SHRI DINESH SINGH: Sir, however sympathetic one may be to the idea that the hon. Member mentioned at the end, the resources of the Government do not permit such a step immediately.

So far as the question of price rise is concerned, I have said that there will not be any appreciable price rise. There may be some marginal rise because this one duty is being given up and one concession is being given. So far as controlled varieties are concerned the prices will be printed and stamped on the cloth itself and there is no question of any rise because all the prices—whatever they are—will be printed on the cloth itself.

As for employment, all the steps that we are taking are to provide employment to these people.

श्री रेवती कान्त सिंह (बिहार) : यह बात विदित है कि टैक्सटाइल इन्डस्ट्रीज में अभी तक टैक्सटाइल वर्कर्स बहुत बड़ी तादाद में बेकार हैं और सरकार की यह जो नयी इन्डस्ट्रियल नीति लागू होगी इसका असर भी मजदूरों पर पड़ेगा। मैं सरकार से यह जानना चाहता हूँ, जैसा कि मंत्री महोदय ने प्रारम्भ में बतलाया था, इस नीति के बारे में

मजदूरों में जो असर पड़ने वाला है उसके लिए उन्होंने मजदूरों के प्रतिनिधियों से भी बातें की हैं? मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि मजदूरों के जितने भी सेन्ट्रल आर्गनाइजेशन हैं क्या सभी सेन्ट्रल आर्गनाइजेशन से बातें की गई हैं ?

SHRI DINESH SINGH; I regret to say it was not possible to consult all of them. But some of them we did consult. We did not consult all in the industry, but only some of them.

श्री रेवती कान्त सिंह : किन सेन्ट्रल संस्थाओं से बातें की गई हैं, मैं नाम जानना चाहता हूँ ।

(No reply.)

SHRI K. P. SUBRAMANIA MENON (Kerala): The hon. Minister announced concessions in the existing excise duty. What guarantee is there that these concessions will be passed on to the consumers instead of being appropriated by the mill magnates themselves?

SHRI DINESH SINGH; There are not many concessions as such. What we have done is this. Certain sectors of cloth production such as fine, superfine, medium, etc. have been decontrolled. Under control they had differential rates of duty, I mean some of them. When they have been decontrolled such duties have changed. Therefore, for those categories we have tried to bring down the duty in one respect and to increase the duty in other respects so that it is a stabilised duty for them. Of course, we have given some concessions to the coarse and medium varieties so that the consumer's cost does not go up.

श्री सूरज प्रसाद (बिहार) : मैं यह जानना चाहूँगा कि अभी आयने जो

नाति एलान की है वह नीति कामसे मिनस्ट्री की है या कैबिनेट का फैसला इस संबंध में हो चुका है ?

श्री दिनेश सिंह : यह गवर्नमेंट का फैसला है ।

**PERSONAL EXPLANATION .BY  
SHRI R. K. PODDAR**

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI AKBAR ALI KHAN): Shri R. K-Poddar wants to make a personal explanation. So I call upon him to do very briefly-

SHRI R. K. PODDAR (Bihar): Mr. Vice-Chairman, I am very thankful to you for giving me this opportunity to offer my personal explanation on certain references that were made against me and another Member who have been elected to this House recently. The charges, which were deplorable and reckless, are false, baseless and untrue and I just cannot understand on what basis a leader of an All-India Party like Shri Rajnarain has shown his ignorance in stating that I have come to this House without the support of any party. I would like to say through you for his information, Sir, that my candidature had been very well supported by the Soshit Dal of Bihar and the votes

were not bought as has been stated by Shri Rajnarain. In stating this it seems, he has expressed and displayed his embarrassment over his candidate losing and his frustration over the indiscipline that seems to be growing in his party. I would like to state on behalf of the party which has sent me to this House that they have behaved like a disciplined army and have proved their mettle time and again. In saying that votes were not bought I would like to refer him to some of the statements that have been made by senior members of the party to which Shri Rajnarain belongs. I would request him not to throw stones at others when he himself is living in a glass house. I can only say that I deny all the charges and allegations made against me and further state that they are false, untrue and wrong and without any base. Thank you, Sir.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI AKBAR ALI KHAN): The House stands adjourned till 11 A.M. tomorrow,

The House then adjourned at sixteen minutes past six of the clock till eleven of the clock on Thursday, the 2nd May, 1968.