

REVISION OF COST STRUCTURE OF PAPER AND NEWSPRINT

1451. SHRI M. C. SHAH : Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration for upward revision of the cost structure of paper and newsprint to provide incentive to entrepreneurs to enter the industry; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI K. V. RAGHUNATHA REDDY) : (a) and (b) The question of upward revision of prices (and not the cost structure) of Paper and Newsprint from all its aspects is at present under consideration of Government and it is therefore not possible to give the details at this stage.

†INCENTIVE PRICES TO COTTON GROWERS

1287. SHRI SITARAM JAIPURIA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal under the consideration of Government for ensuring incentive prices to the cotton growers for their produce;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether the State Governments are being consulted in this matter?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI) : (a) No specific proposal for the grant of incentive prices to cotton growers is under Government's consideration. Attention is in this connection invited to the statement made in this House on the 10th August, 1967 in which it had been pointed out that the principal objective Government had kept in view in deciding its price policy for cotton for 1967-68 was to assure the grower a fair remuneration for his produce and to assure the consumer the supply of controlled varieties of cloth at reasonable prices.

(b) Does not arise.

†Transferred from the 18th December, 1967.

(c) In formulating cotton price policies, the State Governments have been consulted from time to time.

‡शिलांग की बढ़ती हुई ऊंचाई

1259. श्रीमती विद्यावती चतुर्वेदी : क्या इस्पात, खान और धातु मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि शिलांग की ऊंचाई प्रति वर्ष बढ़ती जा रही है;

(ख) यदि हाँ तो इस दिषय में क्या निष्कर्ष निकाले गये हैं; और

(ग) क्या इस प्रकार की प्राकृतिक घटना से शिलांग शहर तथा अन्य क्षेत्रों को कोई खतरा होने की सम्भावना है?

‡[†]INCREASING ALTITUDE OF SHILLONG

1259. SHRIMATI VIDYAWATI CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND METALS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the altitude of Shillong city has been increasing every year;

(b) if so, what are the findings in this regard; and

(c) whether there is any likelihood of any danger to the city and other areas as a result of this natural phenomenon?

इस्पात, खान और धातु मंत्री (डा० एम० चन्ना रेड्डी) : (क) से (ग) अभी तक किये गये भूवैज्ञानिक अध्ययनों से पता चला है कि शिलांग का समस्त पर्वार १०० मिलियन वर्षों में वर्तमान ऊंचाई पर पहुँचा है। तथापि हर साल शिलांग की ऊंचाई बढ़ने का कोई पक्का प्रमाण नहीं है। शिलांग शहर तथा उसके आस-पास के क्षेत्रों को खतरा होने का कोई प्रश्न नहीं उठता।

‡[THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND METALS (DR. M. CHANNA REDDY) : (a) to (c) The Geological studies

†Transferred from the 15th December, 1967.

‡[] English translation.

undertaken so far have revealed that the entire Shillong Plateau has risen to the present height through 100 million years. However, there is no definite evidence to show that the altitude of Shillong has been increasing every year. The question of any danger to the Shillong city and its surroundings does not arise.]

FLONG-TERM FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS OF TEXTILE MILLS

1345. SHRI A. G. KULKARNI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state whether Government are aware of the long-term financial requirements of the textile mills for modernisation purposes and if so, what steps Government propose to take in this respect?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI MOHD. SHAFT QURESHI) : The Hon'ble Member's attention is invited to part (d) of the statement attached to the reply to Unstarred Question No. 221 answered on the 23rd November, 1967. As was stated therein, the financial requirements for the rehabilitation of the Textile industry during the Fourth Plan had been variously estimated but that the Planning Sub-Group on Textile Machinery had estimated the requirements of machinery and equipment for rehabilitation and modernisation at about Rs. 160 crores based on 1963-64 f.o.b./ex works prices.

To assist the rehabilitation and modernisation of the textile industry, the following steps have been taken :—

- (i) The Industrial Development Bank of India has evolved a scheme of giving deferred payment guarantee for the supply of indigenous textile machinery to the cotton textile industry for rehabilitation and modernisation purposes;
- (ii) Banks have been asked not to charge more than 8 per cent to their customers;
- (iii) Deferred payment schemes have been extended to 7 years in deserving cases;
- (iv) The limit on credits for availing of rediscounting facilities by the Industrial Development Bank of India has been increased from Rs. 25 lakhs to Rs. 50 lakhs per unit per year; and

- (v) The Industrial Development Bank of India, etc., have been advised to consider applications from the textile industry for loans required for modernisation.

Besides, the proposed Textile Development Corporation, which is likely to be set up shortly, would supplement the efforts of the industry and the specialised financial institutions, towards rehabilitation and modernisation of the industry.

TDEVALUATION OF THE CEYLONESE RUPEE

1381. SHRI K. P. MALLIKAR-JbNDU: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) what are the repercussions of the devaluation of the Ceylonese Rupee on our exports and imports; and

(b) what measures Government have taken or propose to take to meet the situation?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI DINESH SINGH) : (a) and (b) In consequence of the devaluation of the Ceylonese Rupee certain qualities of Indian tea may face increase competition. A reduction in export duty is however not considered to be necessary to meet the situation.

12 NOON

RE A POINT OF PRIVILEGE

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA (West Bengal) : Sir, I rise on a question of privilege which should be taken up first. The question of privilege is taken up first immediately after question Hour and I have taken your permission and written also.

MR. CHAIRMAN : After the Prime Minister has made a statement about the Australian Prime Minister.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : The Prime Minister is very important, so is privilege. Sir, she can wait a little.

श्री राजनारायण (उत्तर प्रदेश) : प्रिविलेज मोशन पहले आना चाहिये चाहे प्राइम मिनिस्टर हो या कोई मिनिस्टर हो ।