

FALL IN EXPORT OF TEXTILES TO AFRICA

234. SHRI N. SRI RAMA REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for the recent fall in textile exports to African countries; and

(b) the measures adopted or proposed to be adopted by the industry to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH): (a) (i) Growth of indigenous textile industry and consequent increase in production of items like Grey Sheetings and drills, which used to form a major portion of our exports of Cotton Textiles to Africa.

(ii) A change in the taste of the people from grey goods to white, bleached and superfine goods or to piecegoods of other fibres such as silk & synthetic fibres.

(iii) Competition from other countries.

(b) (i) A Trade Delegation from India sponsored by the Cotton Textiles Export Promotion Council is likely to visit African countries shortly.

(ii) The Silk and Rayon Textiles Export Promotion Council proposes to invite a delegation consisting of African and Indian businessmen to visit India.

(iii) It is proposed to conduct market surveys in some of the African countries.

STABILITY IN PRICE OF RAW JUTE

235. { SHRI NIREN GHOSH:
SHRI ARJUN ARORA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state the steps taken by Government recently to maintain stability in the price of raw jute?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH): The price of raw jute began to rise from early July 1964 on rumours of a smaller crop in India and in Pakistan as compared to the preceding season. The following steps have been taken to arrest this trend:

(a) The East India Jute and Hessian Exchange has imposed margins on T.S.D. Contracts at specified levels of prices;

(b) No minimum purchase quotas are being issued to the jute mills;

(c) The Jute Buffer Stock Association has been authorised to release its holdings;

(d) A maximum limit for holding stocks of jute has been prescribed for each mill to ensure equitable distribution and to discourage the more prosperous mills from buying large quantities.

The price of Assam Bottom variety delivered at Calcutta, which had risen to Rs. 125.92 per quintal (equivalent to Rs. 47 per maund) has since come down to Rs. 107.17 per quintal (equivalent to Rs. 40 per maund).

†WORKING HOURS IN TEXTILE MILLS

79. SHRI SANKAR PRATAP SINGH DEV: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry of Commerce has proposed an increase in the working hours of labour in textile mills in the country;

(b) if so, what is the reaction of the labour organisations to this proposal; and

(c) whether any final decision has been taken in this regard?

†Transferred from the 8th September, 1964.