

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.

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH): (a) to (c) Government have constantly under their consideration measures to improve the production of the cotton textile mills. The suggestion that working hours should be increased is one of the suggestions made in this context. The reaction of the labour organisations has not been obtained, and no decision has been taken so far in respect of this suggestion.

12 Noon

CALLING ATTENTION TO A
MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC
IMPORTANCE

SITUATION ARISING OUT OF POLLUTION
OF DRINKING WATER IN DELHI

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri I. K. Gujral.

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL (Delhi): Sir, I call the attention of the Minister of Health to the following matters of urgent public importance and I request that she may make a statement thereon—the serious situation arising out of pollution of drinking water in Delhi.

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH (DR. SUSHILA NAYAR): Sir, consequent on heavy rains in Delhi and surrounding areas of Punjab during the present monsoon season, there was heavy flooding of the low-lying areas and villages upstream of Wazirabad pumping station. A breach of Drain No. 8 Diversion occurred on 3rd/4th September, and this accentuated the position. A large quantity of water from this Drain started draining into the river Jumuna passing over fields along the Badli dumping ground. Tests of several samples of water have been continuously taken from the 4th September, 1964 onwards at various points, namely, Drain No. 8, low-lying areas between Drain No. 8 and Burari Nala, north of Badli dumping ground at Wazirabad and Okhla pumping station and the results thereof show

that the quality of the raw water in so far as the chloride contents are concerned, started deteriorating from the 5th September, 1964 onwards when at Wazirabad pumping station it was 22 parts per million, rising up to 32 p.p.m. on 7th September 1964. The latest report on 8th September 1964 shows the chloride content as 31.6 p.p.m. At Okhla the chloride content has been varying, starting from 26.4 p.p.m. on 4th September 1964 falling to 20 p.p.m. on 5th September 1964 and again rising to 36 p.p.m. on 6th September 1964. The latest test report on 8th September 1964 shows that it was 27 p.p.m. The test results give an indication of increase in pollution due to organic matter.

In order to meet the situation, the dose of pre-chlorination, as well as post-chlorination, has been stepped up. Although there have been no adverse bacteriological reports either from the water works laboratory or the municipal health laboratory, the matter of rising chloride content was brought to the notice of the Municipal Medical Officer of Health on 6th September 1964, who, in turn, brought it to the notice of the Director-General of Health Services and, on his advice, it was considered desirable to inform the public to boil the water before drinking as an additional measure of safety. This announcement was made through the All India Radio and the Press.

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL: The hon. Minister has just said the pollution was first noticed on the 5th, but consultations were going on on the 5th and 6th, two days, and then the announcement was made. Now, having made the announcement to the public, did the Government or the civic body take steps to see: (i) as to why the announcement was not made on the 5th and (ii) having advised the people to drink boiled water, did they take steps to see that the water was boiled in public restaurants and other such places where drinking water is given?