

mills or the dealers are free to sell at lower than the stamped prices?

SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH: We have sent out circulars. I myself have made public announcements over the radio. We have made this known and I have positive information that several mills have reduced their prices by 10, 12 or 15 per cent. below the stamped prices.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA: May I know, Sir, if the prices stamped on cloth are prices given by the mills themselves and not fixed by the Government and whether the Government is contemplating any steps to evolve prices based on Government's own compilations?

SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH: The prices are being based and ratified on Government's own policy.

SHRI N. SRI RAMA REDDY: May I know, Sir, when the mills are prepared to sell textiles at a price less than what is stamped, why the stamping itself should not be done at a lower rate?

SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH: Actually we have to do the stamping on a certain economic basis and data, and in the case of 60 to 65 per cent. or even 70 per cent. of the cloth of popular varieties, the stamping of prices has really kept them within the reach of the common man. Otherwise the tendency would be for the prices to go up. In the case of superior and superfine varieties of cloth, according to the cost factor their prices are stamped and complete freedom is given to the buyers and sellers to reduce the price to a lower level as they think best.

SHRI K. SANTHANAM: May I know, Sir, in that case why the stamping of fine varieties of cloth should not be given up, because it is of no use according to the Minister?

SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH: These are also not so definite. All dhoties and sarees which are for common

wear come under that class. Therefore, we cannot give it up.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Next question.

EXHIBITION HELD IN PARIS

*432. **SHRIMATI NANDINI SATPATHY:** Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the exhibition arranged at Paris in the Third week of November, 1962, by the Indian Ambassador was sponsored by the Government of India;

(b) if so, whether State Governments were approached for supply of exhibits; and

(c) what were the objects exhibited there?

THE MINISTER OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH): (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

(a) No; it was also not "arranged" by the Ambassador but he knew of it and was invited to open it. It was not an "exhibition" but a sales show arranged by the Galeries Lafayette, a famous French Departmental Store, as a pre-Christmas sale campaign.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Among the art and handicraft products from different countries displayed at the Departmental Store, goods from India were also put on sale and the concentration was on Indian goods. These were imported by the firm from India and were allotted a special enclosure. Besides earning publicity for Indian goods, the Departmental Store was able to sell a considerable number of items. The selection of goods was carefully and tastefully made by a representative of the firm who visited India, stayed in the country for 5 weeks and made a regional selection. The display was also regional.