

(a) the number of Gram Ekaies, I State-wise, set up so far in the country;

(b) the State-wise target fixed for Gram Ekaies for the Third Five Year Plan period; and

(c) the amount sanctioned and spent On each Gram Ekai?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI N. KANUNGO) : (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

EXPORT OF HANDLOOM CLOTH

*134. SHRI RAM SAHAI (ON BEHALF OF SHRI DEOKINANDAN NARAYAN) : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for decline in export of handloom cloth during the last several months;

(b) how much handloom cloth was in stock on 31st December, 1961; and

(c) the reasons for which orders for 'Bleeding Madras' from America have practically stopped for a year or so?

THE MINISTER OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH): (a) There has been some decline in the export of handloom cloth recently largely due to keen competition from fabrics produced by Japan and China and due to the setting up of new textile mills in the traditional countries in South East Asia.

(b) Exact information is not available.

(c) There has been no stoppage in the exports of "Bleeding Madras" Fabrics to the U.S.A. during the last two years.

श्री राम सहाय : यह जो जानकारी अभी नहीं प्राप्त हुई है उसको प्राप्त करने के लिये क्या आप प्रयत्न करेंगे ?

श्री मनुभाई शाह : जहां तक स्टॉक का ताल्लुक है मुल्क के अन्दर कितने हा डिपो में हैंडलूम क्लॉथ पड़ा हुआ है। वह तो मुल्क में इधर उधर बहुत से हैं और वह जानकारी न तो प्राप्त की जा सकती है और न वह यहां दी जा सकती है।

SHRI K. S. CHAVDA: The export of handloom cloth in 1953 was for Rs. 10 lakhs. In each of the years 1954, 1955 and 1956 it was of the order of Rs. 8 lakhs. From 1957 to 1961, it was round about Rs. 5 lakhs. That means, there has been a continuous decrease in our exports in a period of nine years. May I know, Sir, what effective steps the Government intend to take to increase the export of hand-loom cloth?

SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH: All these lakhs are really crores. The exports, to which the hon. Member has referred, have been of that order. It is true that during the last three years there has been a fall in our exports. We are trying to give incentives in the form of dyestuffs etc. Also, we are now trying to revise the scheme so that not only will we be improving our exports to the original standards, but also exceed that. The real difficulty, as I said, is that all those countries, to which most of our handloom cloth is to go, are setting up their own textile manufacturing units, both in the composite sector as well as in the powerloom sector. Yet I appreciate the anxiety of the House to step up our exports.

SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA: May I know, Sir, whether it is a fact that handloom cloth cannot be produced at competitive rates because the producers cannot get the raw materials at competitive prices?

SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH: That is not so. What the hon. Member previously has narrated covers really, a period of nine years. The six years before were such that all the raw materials were in good supply. It is only in the last three years that there has been some shortage of raw materials. There are many other reasons besides the raw materials question.

SHRI A. B. VAJPAYEE: May I know why the Government has no exact information in regard to the stocks on 31st December, 1961?

SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH: There are so many shops throughout the length and breadth of the country which are selling handloom cloth. We do not keep a register of every shopkeeper in this country to know what the exact stocks are. But we do get information whenever there is any severe accumulation of production, which calls for governmental action. No such information has come to us of any such accumulation at all.

SHRI AKBAR ALI KHAN: Has the hon. Minister any agency, apart from the Embassies, to study why these exports have fallen in foreign countries?

SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH: Yes, Sir. As the House knows, several delegations have gone abroad. The All India Handloom Board and the Handloom Export Organisation are constantly in touch with it and they have sent deputations abroad. There are several reasons which have been studied. Some of them I have pointed out and we are further examining in what manner we can boost up our exports, both by the improving the quality at home as well as by giving larger incentives for exports.

SHRI M. RUTHNASWAMY: May I know whether the demand for 'Bleeding Madras' has risen in other countries, in other parts of the world, as compensation for the fall from the U.S.A.?

SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH: Very small quantities are brought outside the U.S.A. With regard to the U.S.A., we propose to see that it is developed further in that area.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Questions are over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

SEPARATE STATE FOR INDIANS IN SOUTH AFRICA

*113. SHRI A. D. MANI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to the statement of Professor V. Oranje, Professor of Social Sciences of the University of Pretoria, to the effect that Indians in South Africa should have a separate State • and

(b) if so, what is the Government's reaction to the suggestion?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI LAKSHMI MENON) : (a) Yes, Sir. Government's attention has been drawn to the statement of Professor V. Cronje, as reported in the Indian press.

(b) It would appear that the Professor was speaking for himself and that his suggestion is not supported by the Government of South Africa. The Minister of Indian Affairs, Mr. W. A. Maree said in February, 1962 that his Government's policy was not to establish a geographical Indian state but that the Indians would have their own residential areas in which they could establish their own municipalities to deal with their own affairs on a municipal level.

Government of India's attitude to the policy of Apartheid, of which the above is a further manifestation, is one of complete detestation.