

is always that of the State Government.

SETTING UP OF NEW RADIO STATIONS IN
ANDHRA PRADESH

♦337. SHRIMATI SEKTA YUDHVIR: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to set up two more Radio Stations in Andhra Pradesh, one at Kurnool and the other at Visakhapatnam; and

(b) if so, what will be the capacity of the Stations and when they are expected to start functioning?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (DR. B. V. KESKAR): (a) and (b). The Government, is at present considering the setting up of medium wave transmitters at various places in the country in order to provide a better coverage of broadcasting. The suitability of places in Rayachota and Visakhapatnam area for the location of transmitters and their capacity is being examined while considering the scheme for this expansion. These transmitters are expected to start functioning during the Third Five Year Plan.

श्री राम सहाय : क्या मैं जान सकूंगा कि आंध्र प्रदेश के अलावा और किसी प्रदेश के लिये ऐसी स्कीम आप के विचाराधीन है ?

डा० बी० वी० केशकर : स्कीम तो सारे देश भर के लिये है। चूंकि सवाल आंध्र प्रदेश के लिये था, इसलिये मैं ने उस का उत्तर दिया।

•338. [The questioner (Shri. B. N. Bhargava) was absent For answer, vide cols. 1468-69 infra.]

RISE IN THE PRICES OF COTTON TEXTILES

•339. DR. Z. A. AHMAD: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

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be pleased to refer to the answer given to Starred Question No. 38 in the Rajya Sabha on the 10th February, 1960, and state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the prices of cotton textiles have been rising sharply in recent months;

(b) if so, what is the extent of rise of different varieties of cotton cloth as compared to the position for the last 3 years;

(c) what are the reasons for this rise in prices; and

(d) what steps Government have taken to bring down the cloth prices?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI N. KANUNGO): (a) to (d). A note giving the required information is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Cotton textile prices which were high in 1956 declined after imposition of higher excise levy in September 1956 and remained more or less steady till middle of 1959. Prices have been showing an upward trend from August 1959. The extent of increase varies from variety to variety and from mill to mill; it has generally risen by about 40 per cent, in the coarse and lower medium variety and smaller margin for the finer varieties.

(c) The increase is attributable to increase in the price of cotton, higher wages and also to speculative activity in certain quarters.

(d) Government have allowed adequate imports of cotton including short-staple cotton to meet the full requirements of the industry. Government have urged the industry to bring down prices and keep them under check by opening retail shops and displaying price lists prominently. The Industry have promised to cooperate and are already taking certain steps.