

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: The death of Mahatma Gandhi took place some ten years ago. May I know why it has taken so long to finalise this?

SHRI K. C. REDDY: It was discussed the other day here when we considered the Rajghat Samadhi Bill. I can add nothing more to that.

SHRI V. K. DHAGE: Architects were commissioned, and four of them were given Rs. 10,000 each. May I know on what basis they were commissioned?

SHRI K. C. REDDY: It was an outright figure. It was a figure fixed by the Government for that purpose.

PRODUCTION OF CLOTH IN EXCESS OF PLAN TARGETS

•777. SHRI DEOKINANDAN NARAYAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of cloth produced by textile mills in the years 1956-57, 1957-58 and during the last five months, of the year 1958-59 in excess of the target figures fixed in the Plan; and

(b) the quantity of coarse cloth produced in those years in excess of the production in the year 1955-56?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI SATISH CHANDRA): (a) and (b). A statement is laid on the Table of the HOUSE.

STATEMENT

(a) The target of production of cloth for the mill sector of the textile industry was finally fixed at an annual production of 5,350 million yards to be achieved at the end of the Second Five Year Plan Period. No separate targets to be achieved during each year of the Plan, have been fixed. The actual production of mill cloth during the years 1956-57, 1957-58 and the first five months of 1958-59 was as follows:

	(Million yards)
1956-57	.. 5,421
1957-58	.. 5,179
1958-59	.. 2,065
(first 5 months)	

(b) The production of coarse cloth in the year 1956-57 and 1957-58 and 3 months of 1958-59 was in excess of the production of coarse cloth in 1955-56, by 227 million yards, 505 million yards and 100 million yards respectively.

SHRI DEOKINANDAN NARAYAN: Your statement shows that in 1956-57 the production was 5,421 million yards. In 1957-58 it came down to 5,179 million yards. May I know the reasons for this fall?

SHRI SATISH CHANDRA: Lesser offtake in the export market, lesser consumption at home, and closing down of certain mills due to accumulation of stock and mismanagement.

SHRI DEOKINANDAN NARAYAN: While the production has come down, the production of coarse cloth in 1957-58 is double that of 1956-57. May I know the reason for this increase in the production of coarse cloth? Because in 1956-57 it was 227 million yards while in 1957-58 it was 506 million yards, more than twice.

SHRI LAL BAHADUR: It was mainly due to the rebate which was sanctioned when the excise on cloth was increased. The rebate was very attractive and it was only given to the coarse cloth. Hence the production went up and it has therefore led to accumulation of cloth.

SHRI DEOKINANDAN NARAYAN: May I know if it is a fact that this increase in the production of coarse cloth has hit both the handloom cloth and khadi?

SHRI LAL BAHADUR: I do not think so. In fact the production of handloom cloth has increased, and of course there is no competition with Khadi.

SHRIMATI SAVITRY DEVI NIGAM: May I know, when it was noticed that the production of coarse cloth was increasing beyond expectations, whether any order or circular or reminder was given to these mills to stop the production of coarse cloth?

SHRI LAL BAHADUR: It is all in the private sector. They felt that they would be able to make good profit out of the sale of coarse cloth, but when we came to know that it had resulted in accumulation, the rebate was withdrawn.

SHRI P. C. BHANJ DEO: May I know if the Government are taking any effective steps to counteract the adverse effects in the overseas trade of Indian cotton textiles?

SHRI LAL BAHADUR: Yes, Sir. We are taking some steps. This matter was recently considered by the Export Promotion Council on Textiles, and it has also been considered by the Textile Enquiry Committee whose report has been submitted to Government. They have made definite proposals how to promote our exports of textiles. "We have considered the recommendations of both the bodies and we propose to take steps very soon."

SHRI N. R. MALKANI: Have any steps been taken so that such a procedure is not adopted hereafter?

SHRI LAL BAHADUR: We have now changed the structure of the old excise duty, and as the rebate has also been withdrawn I do not think there will be an increased production of coarse cloth which could not be consumed in the country or which could not be exported.

SHRI DEOKINANDAN NARAYAN: May I know if it is not a fact that the stocks at present in the mills of coarse cloth are greater than other varieties?

SHRI LAL BAHADUR: It is quite correct. In fact, the accumulation is mostly that of coarse and medium cloth, and our exports also are mostly of that cloth. Therefore, the hon. Member is right in saying that the accumulation is of that kind of cloth.

SHRI M. BASAVAPUNNAIAH: Has the Government received any reports that some fictitious returns are being given regarding the production of coarse cloth because of the rebate consideration?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Are you aware that some fictitious returns are being given on account of this rebate? That is his question.

SHRI LAL BAHADUR: I have got no information.

SHRIMATI SAVITRY DEVI NIGAM: May I know if on the one hand the rebates have been withdrawn, the excise duty on the other hand has also been withdrawn?

SHRI LAL BAHADUR: The structure of excise duty in fact is a complex proposition. I cannot explain it just now.

SHRI H. P. SAKSENA: Will the withdrawal of rebate make the cloth meant exclusively for the poor people more costly than it is today.

SMA LAL BAHADUR: The difficulty is that the taste of the people has changed. Even those coming from the rural areas ask for fine and superfine sarees and dhoties.

SETTING UP OF COMMITTEES FOR THE EVALUATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF LABOUR AWARDS ETC. IN STATES .

*778. SHRI N. C. SEKHAR: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the State Governments which were advised to set up committees for the evaluation and implementation of labour awards, enactments, agreements and settlements etc. and which have already set up such committees;

(b) the States which have opposed the setting up of such committees; and

(c) whether the Government of India have set up such a committee at the Centre?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI ABHAY ALI): (a) All State Governments and Union Territories were asked to set up Committees. Governments of Punjab,