

SHRI G. RAJAGOPALAN: I have not got the information about 'C' class.

SHRI RAGHAVENDRARAO: What is the number for 'C' class?

SHRI G. RAJAGOPALAN: The number for 'C' class is given in the Statement.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Is the hon. Minister aware that there is widespread discontent among artists of all description about the management and administration of the All India Radio at Calcutta?

MR. CHAIRMAN: This is a large question: That there is widespread discontent about the work of the All India Radio Station at Calcutta among all categories of artists 'A', 'B' and 'C'.

SHRI G. RAJAGOPALAN: Artists are classified as 'A', 'B' and 'C' through Foreign Exchange Requirement of the Private Sector for Industrial Development during the Second Plan Period.

SHRI BABUBHAI M. CHINAI: Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total foreign exchange requirement of the private sector for industrial development in the Second Plan period;

(b) how much of it has so far been made available;

(c) what is the industry-wise break-up?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH): (a) to (c) figures are being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha in due course.

MR. B. V. KESKAR: Effect on Handloom Industry of Reduction in Excise Duty on Medium Cloth and Abolition of Sales Tax on Mill Cloth.

SHRIMATI SAVITRY DEVI NIGAM: Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to

state whether it is a fact that with the reduction in excise duty on medium cloth and abolition of sales tax on mill cloth, the handloom industry is facing a crisis?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

It is not possible as yet to assess the effect of the reduction in excise duty on medium cloth on the handloom industry. The abolition of the sales tax has had no effect on the handloom industry as it has been replaced by the additional excise duty on mill cloth. In view however of representations received regarding accumulations of handloom stocks in various States Government decided to give a special rebate of 6% in addition to the existing rebate of 6% for a period of 2 months with effect from 11th April, 1958 to clear the accumulated stocks. This special rebate is applicable to all retail sales of handloom cloth by weavers' co-operative societies and State-owned depots and to all wholesale sales by weavers' co-operative societies. It is expected that this will clear to a considerable extent the accumulated stocks.

SHRIMATI SAVITRY DEVI NIGAM: What is the approximate cost of the handloom cloth stocks which have been accumulating with the co-operative societies in the depots in the States?

SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH: It is about Rs. 310 lakhs or less than a month's production.

SHRIMATI SAVITRY DEVI NIGAM: Is it a fact that some of the representatives of the handloom industry have made a statement that this huge stock cannot be cleared within two months in spite of the small reduction which has been given?