

the Second Five Year Plan and the directives contained therein are being implemented

SHRI S N MISHRA Sir, as I have indicated in the main reply itself, there is no rigid kind of recommendations contained in the Second Five Year Plan. What we want to ensure is that the broad common approach in regard to land reforms is maintained by all the States, conditions in different States have to be taken into account. So far as this fact is concerned, I would require separate notice.

SHRI V PRASAD RAO Am I to understand that in spite of the directives of the Central Committee on Land Reforms the States are pursuing their own line?

MR CHAIRMAN In spite of the directives of the Central Committee on Land Reforms are they pursuing their own independent plans? That is what he asks.

SHRI S N MISHRA This is much too general a question, Sir.

*112 [The questioner (Shri R' G Agarwala) was absent. For answer, vide col 97 infra.]

IMPORT OF FOREIGN COTTON

*113 SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state

(a) the total allocation for import of foreign cotton for the year 1957-58 and the quantity of actual arrivals,

(b) how these figures compare with the normal consumption figures of the Indian mills, and

(c) what is Government's policy in regard to import of foreign cotton?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI N KANUNGO) (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

(a) The total quantity of foreign cotton allocated for import so far during the cotton season 1957-58 is 307,760 bales of 400 lbs each comprising 1.65 lakhs Egyptians, Sudans, East Africans and other sterling area cottons and 142,760 bales American cotton under the Aid Programme. Further allocation would follow in due course, if necessary. Actual arrivals as on 5-4-1958 are 215,703 bales.

(b) The annual estimated consumption of foreign cotton by mills in India is about 6 lakhs bales of 400 lbs each. With the carry-over from the last season together with the imports of current season, it is expected to maintain comfortably the supply position of foreign cotton for the mills.

(c) The Government's policy is to import only such varieties as are not grown in the country in sufficient quantities to meet the requirements of the mills taking into account the availability of foreign exchange. Normally cottons stapling 1-1/16" and above are permitted to be imported in such quantities based on the actual requirements of the textile industry. The requirements of the industry are measured by reference to the normal consumption of various foreign cottons.

SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK May I know, Sir, what was the carry-over stock from the last season?

SHRI N KANUNGO I have not got the exact figure of the carry-over. Anyway, it is usually about 40,000 bales.

SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK In what proportion is the allocation made between the established importers and the millowners?

SHRI N. KANUNGO: It is all practically for users.

SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK: May I know whether it is a fact that the established importers are taking undue advantage of these import restrictions and are stocking the cotton in order to get higher prices for the cotton imported?

SHRI N. KANUNGO: No, Sir, that position has not arisen at all.

SHRI V. C. KESAVA RAO: What is the total quantity of cotton imported?

SHRI N. KANUNGO: The total quantity imported so far is 185,000 bales.

SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK: The statement says that the normal consumption of the country is of the order of about six lakhs of bales of foreign cotton and the allocation for import for the year 1957-58 was 307,000 bales. May I know how the difference is going to be met?

SHRI N. KANUNGO: The figure of 185,000 bales represents only the arrivals, the actual physical arrivals at the ports. Further supplies are on the ships and also have been contracted for.

SHRI N. M. LINGAM: May I know the steps taken to grow cotton in our own country, cotton of the longer staple variety, and also the extent to which we have been successful in reducing the imports of cotton of this variety?

SHRI N. KANUNGO: Efforts are being made; but in the measurable future it is not possible that the best qualities of the Egyptians, the Sudanese etc., will be available in the country.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: May I know the countries from which the foreign cotton is imported?

SHRI N. KANUNGO: It is in the statement. It is from Sudan, Egypt, East Africa.

LEGISLATION CONCERNING WORKERS IN THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY

*114. DR. R. B. GOUR: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state the steps taken by Government to bring before Parliament legislation concerning workers in the construction industry?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI ABID ALI): The matter is under examination.

DR. R. B. GOUR: Since when has this matter been under consideration, Sir? This question is being discussed for the last three or four years. The Standing Labour Committee in Madras took a decision and the recent meeting of the Standing Committee in October last year also took a decision, a unanimous decision in this regard. How long, I would like to know, will this matter remain under examination when concrete recommendations have already been made?

SHRI ABID ALI: Sir, regulations have already been framed and the Central P.W.D. contractors have been directed that they should comply with these things concerning the workers, for example, payment of fair wages to the labourers, compliance with the rules framed by Government for the protection of health and sanitary arrangements for the workers, provision of maternity benefits, provision of huts, etc. Also, the Minimum Wages Act, the Payment of Wages Act, the Workmen's Compensation Act and the Industrial Disputes Act have already been made applicable to these workers.

DR. R. B. GOUR: Has this been made applicable to the workers by law?

SHRI ABID ALI: By regulations This is one of the terms of the contract.