

PRODUCTION AND EXPORT OF PASHMINA WOOL

*458. **SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK:** Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the total quantity of pashmina wool produced in India in 1956-57;

(b) the quantity consumed in India and that exported outside during that period; and

(c) the foreign exchange earnings therefrom?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI SATISH CHANDRA): (a) Only small quantities are produced in India: exact information regarding its production in 1956-57 is not available.

(b) About 200 maunds are known to have been consumed in India in 1956: 1150 maunds were exported during the same period.

(c) Rs. 18 lakhs in 1956.

SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK: May I know whether pashmina is exported in its raw form or it is manufactured and then the finished products are exported?

SHRI SATISH CHANDRA: Sir, raw pashmina wool is exported. There is also an export of pashmina cloth but that is not classified separately in the statistics kept by us.

SHRI M. VALIULLA: Pashmina wool is imported from Tibet and then it is exported but the answer said that some of it is produced in India also. May I know in what parts this wool is produced?

SHRI SATISH CHANDRA: Only very small quantities are produced in India. The rest is imported from Tibet.

SHRI KISHEN CHAND: This pashmina wool is used in manufacturing

pashmina cloth in Kashmir. Now that it is being exported out of the country in a raw condition, may I know what effect it is having on the pashmina industry in the Kashmir State?

SHRI SATISH CHANDRA: Sir, only surplus quantities are exported. Whatever quantity is required by the indigenous producers is first allotted to them and only the surplus is sent out.

SHRI B. K. P. SINHA: May I know the State in which pashmina wool is produced and also the climatic conditions and altitude necessary for rearing the sheep which produce pashmina wool?

SHRI SATISH CHANDRA: Almost the entire quantity is imported from Tibet.

SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK: May I know whether Government have thought it fit to convert the raw wool into finished products?

SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH: As my hon. colleague has already explained, it has been our constant endeavour to convert raw wool into finished products. A complaint came both from the Punjab importers and the Kashmir importers that there has been great accumulation and that the indigenous industry is not taking it off. So, we called a general conference and decided that for every bale exported, they will have to surrender a certain quantity to the local manufacturer. Every local manufacturer is fully satisfied with the quantity of pashmina made available to him. So, it is our constant endeavour to see that more and more raw wool is converted into finished products in this country.

SHRIMATI MAYA DEVI CHETTRY: Sir, pashmina wool comes from Tibet via Kalimpong. Are Government getting that? If so, what is the quantity?

SHRI SATISH CHANDRA: Some quantities are coming from Tibet via Darjeeling.

SHRIMATI MAYA DEVI CHETTRY: It comes from Tibet.

SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH: No separate statistics are kept because it comes from Kalimpong and from Kulu and other areas in Gangtok and Tibet and also from border areas of Kashmir. It comes from several areas and we do not keep any separate statistics.

SHRI B. K. P. SINHA: May I take it that it is imported and it not produced in India?

SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH: It is so, Sir.

SHRI KISHEN CHAND: It is not a fact that the sheep which produce pashmina wool is reared at a height of 11,000 feet and that there are parts of the Himalayas where this sheep is reared?

SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH: The presumption is correct, Sir. This particular type of wool grows only in cold climates and therefore it is reared in those areas. The Kashmir Government has also a pilot scheme to increase the production of pashmina wool in that area.

*459 and *460. [*The questioner (Shri Tajamul Hussain) was absent. For answers, vide col. 3297, infra.*]

STEPS TAKEN TO POPULARIZE HANDLOOM CLOTH IN FOREIGN MARKET

*461. **SHRI AMOLAKH CHAND:** Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of handloom cloth produced in the year 1956-57; and

(b) what steps are being taken by Government to popularise handloom cloth in the foreign market?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI N. KANUNGO): (a) The estimated production of handloom cloth during 1956-57 was 1599 million yards.

(b) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

Action taken by Government to popularise handloom cloth in foreign markets

1. The All India Handloom Fabrics Marketing Co-operative Society has been set up with a view to promoting inter-State and export sales of handloom cloth. This Society is due to take over the External Marketing Scheme from the Madras State Handloom Weavers Co-operative Society who are just now functioning as agents of the All India Handloom Board. Under the External Marketing Scheme sales emporia have been established at Colombo, Aden, Singapore, Bangkok and Kuala Lumpur. Handloom Cloth Marketing Officers have been posted at Colombo, Baghdad, Rangoon and Singapore.

2. A rebate of six naya paise in the rupee is allowed on exports of handloom cloth by Weavers Co-operative Societies or State Trading organisations.

3. The All India Handloom Board has been participating in the more important Exhibitions/Fairs held in foreign countries. Displays of select varieties of handloom cloth as well as publicity are made during such occasions.

4. The All India Handloom Board participated in the Indian Industries Fair and Exhibition held during the U.N.E.S.C.O. conference at Delhi in 1956.

5. The Government of India has a Trade Centre in the U.S.A. where a wide range of handloom fabrics is displayed.