

SHRI P. S. RAJAGOPAL NAIDU: May I know if there is a scheme in the Madras Government to take over all these private electric supply distribution companies?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: It is a different question.

DR. P. C. MITRA: What is the rate of interest and how long . . .

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: When loan is not given, where is the question of interest?

SHRI D. A. MIRZA: How many rural areas will be benefited by this lift irrigation scheme, Sir?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No, no. This is not lift irrigation.

Questions are over.

SHORT NOTICE QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

ACCUMULATION OF CLOTH STOCKS IN BOMBAY

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

(a) whether it has been brought to the notice of Government that accumulation of cloth stocks with the mills in the country, particularly in Bombay, has been mounting giving rise to apprehension of closure of marginal units;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(c) to what extent the present accumulation has exceeded the normal stocks holdings consistent with economy; and

(d) what are the remedial measures taken or proposed to be taken by Government to restore normal conditions in the stockholdings of the mills?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MORARJI R. DESAI): (a) Yes. Sir. Some of the centres including Bombay have reported somewhat higher stocks than usual.

(b) For the time being wholesale and retail dealers are apparently not buying as much cloth as usual. The general tightness of the money market has partly contributed to the slackness in the cloth trade. The position is, however, expected to improve during the forthcoming festival seasons.

(c) The total stock with the textile industry at present is estimated at about 5.53 lakhs of bales made up of 3.31 lakhs of bales unsold and 2.22 lakhs of bales sold but not yet taken delivery of by the trade. Equated to the current rate of production this will mean that the industry carries just over seven weeks' production. It is not very abnormal for the industry to carry stocks of this magnitude.

(d) Individual cases of textile mills requiring finance for rehabilitation of plant and machinery etc. so as to bring down the cost of production and also improve the competitive selling capacity are considered for grant of financial assistance by way of loan from the National Industrial Development Corporation.

SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK: May I know, Sir, whether this accumulation is not far in excess of the accumulation which obtained in 1953 when the Government came to take prompt action for the clearance of this?

SHRI MORARJI R. DESAI: Sir, the production in 1953 was less than the production now and yet, the accumulation in October, 1953, was 4.29 lakhs of bales of unsold cloth and also in September, 1953, it was 3.88 lakh bales of unsold cloth. Therefore, it was much more than what it is now. The production was much less then.

SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK: May I know whether the present accumulation has in any way reacted on the production of cloth?

SHRI MORARJI R. DESAI: Not yet, Sir.

SHRI D. A. MIRZA: Is it not because of the exorbitant price of the cloth that people are not able to go in for it?

SHRI MORARJI R. DESAI: People have gone in for it even when the prices were high.

श्री देवकीनन्दन नारायण : क्या मंत्री महोदय यह बतलाने की कृपा करेंगे कि गये दो, चार महीनों में कपड़े का एक्सपोर्ट बहुत कम हो गया है, कपड़े का बाहर जाना बहुत कम हो गया है? और क्या इस वजह से ही यह स्टॉक्स एकत्रित हो गये हैं?

श्री मोरारजी आर० देसाई : जा रहा है, इतना कम तो नहीं हो रहा है। मगर बहुत ज्यादा तो नहीं जाता है यह बात भी सही है।

SHRI LALCHAND HIRACHAND DOSHI: Was not the closure of mills during the last six months due to financial difficulties?

SHRI MORARJI R. DESAI: It is difficult to say that it was on account of financial difficulties only or on account of any accumulation of stocks. But their financial difficulties have been due to mismanagement or to uneconomic conditions or to want of rejuvenation of machinery.

DR. R. B. GOUR: Will the hon. Minister be pleased to tell us whether this accumulation of stocks is in factories where mechanisation of looms has taken place or in other factories?

SHRI MORARJI R. DESAI: Mechanisation has taken place in very few mills. In some of them, there is some

stock. I cannot say they are quite free from it.

श्री पी० एन० राजभोज : मैं मंत्री महोदय से यह पूछना चाहता हूँ कि शोलापुर में कितनी मिलें बन्द हुई हैं और वे क्यों बन्द हो गई हैं? मेरे पास उनकी बहुत सी तकरारें आई हैं, इसलिये मैं यह पूछना चाहता हूँ।

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: It is only about Bombay.

SHRI MORARJI R. DESAI: It is just like a disease. Factories also have their diseases.

SHRI R. U. AGNIBHOJ: What is the effect on the consumer in the country owing to its accumulation?

SHRI MORARJI R. DESAI: The effect is that the consumers get a better deal, because the prices do not go up.

SHRIMATI SAVITRY DEVI NIGAM: May I know, if it is true that the textile industry people are not satisfied with their small profit and that is why they are creating this artificial crisis?

SHRI MORARJI R. DESAI: Nobody is satisfied with small profits. I do not think even the hon. Member will be satisfied.

SHRI B. K. P. SINHA: May I know, Sir, if the prices are already of such an order that the internal supply exceeds the demand, where is the use of imposing these additional excise duties?

SHRI MORARJI R. DESAI: There is no justification of taking off the excise duties at present.

श्री पी० एन० राजभोज : शोलापुर की जो मिलें बन्द हो चुकी हैं उनके लिये गवर्नमेंट क्या करना चाहती है? क्या मंत्री महोदय बतलाने की कृपा करेंगे?

SHRI MORARJI R. DESAI: An enquiry committee has already been appointed.

SHRI D. A. MIRZA: Will the Government take steps to bring down the prices of cloth in the interest of the consumer?

SHRI MORARJI R. DESAI: Sir, this is not an arbitrary question. The consumer cannot profit by the closure of the mills.

SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK: May I know, Sir, whether it is a fact that the wholesalers and retailers are not keen to have their normal offtake because there is consumer resistance?

SHRI MORARJI R. DESAI: There may be several reasons. But mostly because the existing stocks are not sold, they are not taking new stocks.

SHRI LALCHAND HIRACHAND DOSHI: How long do the Government propose to wait till they take any action with regard to accumulation of cloth?

SHRI MORARJI R. DESAI: Until the appropriate time.

श्री राम सहाय : क्या श्रीमान् ने इस बात की कोई सरखे की है कि भारतवर्ष की सब मिलों में कितना कपड़ा स्टॉक हो गया है ?

श्री मोरारजी आर० देसाई : फिगरस तो हमारे पास हैं ।

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ KAPOOR: May I know, Sir, whether the Government is contemplating to buy all that stock and give it at a lower price to the people who need it?

SHRI MORARJI R. DESAI: It is a suggestion for action. But there is no such consideration before Government, and it is not likely to be before Government at any time in the near future.

SHRI H. P. SAKSENA: Do Government ever think of issuing a directive to the textile industry to lower down the prices in order to clear all the accumulated stocks?

SHRI MORARJI R. DESAI: That is for them to consider, not for Government to tell them.

SHRI AMOLAKH CHAND: May I know, Sir, whether the working of the mills has also gone down—the mills were running with two shifts or three shifts—because of this accumulation of stocks?

SHRI MORARJI R. DESAI: Not appreciably yet.

SHRI LALCHAND HIRACHAND DOSHI: Is it not a fact that this accumulation is particularly acute with regard to the rough type of cloth and not the superior type of cloth?

SHRI MORARJI R. DESAI: It is difficult to say that.

ACCOMMODATION FOR LOW INCOME GROUP GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES

13. **SHRI B. SHIVA RAO:** Will the Minister of WORKS, HOUSING AND SUPPLY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any survey about the accommodation available for the low income groups of Government employees in New Delhi;

(b) if not, whether there is any such proposal under the consideration of Government; and

(c) whether the problem of accommodation in the Capital will be tackled from the stand-point of the special needs of Government employees, belonging to Class III and Class IV?

THE MINISTER OF WORKS, HOUSING AND SUPPLY (SHRI K. C. REDDY): (a) and (b). No special survey is necessary. Under the present Allotment Rules, all Central Government employees in Delhi and New