

PROF. N. R. MALKANI: May I know, Sir, how many hand-made blankets were purchased by the Government?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: Apparently, I have got figures with me with regard to woollen textiles other than blanket clothing and blankets i.e., jerseys, socks, hosetops, vests, etc. and the value of these purchases is Rs. 35.75 lakhs.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You want to know about blankets, and he gives you information about other things!

PROF. N. R. MALKANI: May I know, Sir, whether very large orders to the tune of 70, 80 or 90 lakh blankets were pending for enquiry before a Committee and no decision has been made?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: These are detailed questions on specific items and when a general question of this type is put we are not expected to look up each item of purchase and how much amount is spent on it.

PROF. N. R. MALKANI: I do think, Sir, if you want to encourage cottage industries and production of hand-made articles, these are not details, but these are basic matters.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Let us not have a discussion on that.

PROF. N. R. MALKANI: Some time back a sub-committee was appointed to give specifications about the purchase of hand-made articles. Has it reserved any articles and said this must be only hand-made and no other?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: A Committee was set up to draw up a list of the items with regard to which purchases could be made from hand-made or cottage industries sector. They have drawn up a tentative list. The limitation is that preference should be given to hand-made or cottage industries product if the article is one

out of that list which has been drawn up; but it should be appreciated that Government's requirements have to be met and if they cannot be met from this sector, then we have to go out so that the requirements are in position in time.

PROF. N. R. MALKANI: Sir, my question was different, and the reply is quite different. My question was whether any reservations had been made or not. And I suggest that when the Khadi Board is under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, then certain orders should be placed with them. It is your own goal.

MR. CHAIRMAN: That is a suggestion for action.

REBATE ON SALES OF HANDLOOM CLOTH

*843. PROF. N. R. MALKANI: Will the Minister for COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state the reasons for sanctioning a reduced amount in 1954-55 for rebate on sales of handloom cloth?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI N. KANUNGO): The amounts sanctioned for rebate during 1953-54 could not be utilised by the State Governments in full mainly due to absence of suitable machinery which had to be set up. The balances had to be re-allocated to them for expenditure during the year 1954-55, thereby reducing the need to draw on the Budget Grant for the latter year.

PROF. N. R. MALKANI: Sir, I find from this report that in 1953-54, a rebate of Rs. 90,80,000 was sanctioned as a grant, whereas in 1954-55, the amount sanctioned is only Rs. 2,44,000. Why is there this great fall in the grant of rebate from Rs. 90 lakhs to Rs. 2 lakhs?

SHRI N. KANUNGO: As I have said earlier, the grants sanctioned in the earlier year had not been utilised because of lack of machinery.

PROF. N. R. MALKANI: Is it expected that this will now be completely spent during the current year, and there will be no such.....

SHRI N. KANUNGO: In fact, more amount has been spent, and for the next year, the amount will be much higher.

PROF. N. R. MALKANI: Sir, I find here that so far as the grants and loans are concerned, in 1953-54, there was a grant of Rs. 1,47,00,000, whereas in 1954-55, it comes to only Rs. 67 lakhs. Why is there this great fall in the grants? There is a great increase in the amount of loans, but there is a great fall in the amount of grants.

SHRI N. KANUNGO: Sir, the reason is the same. The earlier grants could not be utilised, and they were carried over to the next year.

PROF. N. R. MALKANI: Sir, is the hon. Minister aware that the grants were to the tune of Rs. 578 lakhs, whereas we have spent only Rs. 110 lakhs, and nothing more?

SHRI N. KANUNGO: As the machinery gets into shape, the momentum of spending is greater. In the current year and in the next year, the expenditure will be much higher.

SHRI S. MAHANTY: Why has the Government collected cesses from the people in the absence of any machinery to utilise the same?

SHRI N. KANUNGO: The administrative machinery is being built up.

SHRI S. MAHANTY: No, Sir. My question is this. The hon. Deputy Minister said that because there was no machinery, the amount could not be spent. Now what I ask is this. Why did the Government go on realising the cess, in view of the fact that it had no machinery?

SHRI N. KANUNGO: The machinery was there, but it was not adequate to cope with the amount of spending.

PROF. N. R. MALKANI: Sir, rebate has been granted on wholesale sales and not on retail sales in respect of the same commodities. May I know as to why it is given on only wholesale sales, and not on retail sales in respect of the same commodities?

SHRI N. KANUNGO: The rebate can be given only at the source, on wholesale sales.

PROF. N. R. MALKANI: Is there any apprehension that that rebate may not be passed on to the customer?

SHRI N. KANUNGO: No. Because all of it is handled by the co-operative societies.

SUPPLY OF ELECTRICITY IN DOMESTIC SECTOR

*844. DR. SHRIMATI SEETA PARMANAND: Will the Minister for IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have authorised the Electric Supply Companies in India to serve the domestic sector with standardised A.C. 220 volts current; and

(b) whether any representations were made to Government from Calcutta and Bombay to allow only 110 voltage for domestic supply in new connections by using transformers and gradually change over completely to 110 voltage as it is more economical in the consumption of current?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI J. S. L. HATHI): (a) The voltage of supply to consumers is regulated in terms of electric licences issued to the companies; whereunder most companies supply power to domestic consumers at 220 volts.

(b) No, Sir. The opinion that 110 volts supply is more "economical in consumption of current" is incorrect