

PROF. G. RANGA: Is it not a fact that millions of our agriculturists are similarly unemployed during off season in the country and Government so far are not doing anything to relieve their distress?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: This question is only about Nilokheri. Your question is far beyond its scope.

PROF. G. RANGA: No, Sir, what is the special idea in picking out a particular small colony and trying to provide them full employment when all over the country Government are not doing anything at all for others similarly placed?

(No reply.)

DR. SHRIMATI SEETA PARMANAND: Is Government aware that the system of agriculture that is in practice at Nilokheri is not profitable and if the answer is in the affirmative, is Government thinking of taking any steps to revise it.

SHRI J. S. L. HATHI: My information is that agriculture carried on at Nilokheri is not much different from agriculture carried on in the rest of the country and that it is profitable to the extent to which it would normally be.

SHRI H. C. MATHUR: Is it not a fact that a family cannot subsist on what it gets from the land which has been allotted to the family and they have to look to outside sources for their sustenance?

SHRI J. S. L. HATHI: During off season they generally do some labour work. It is not possible to provide them all. During off season when they have no other work, they have to look to other jobs—labour and other things.

SHRI H. C. MATHUR: My question is whether the land allotted is sufficient to give full sustenance to one's family.

SHRI J. S. L. HATHI: I think the land allotted is about five to six acres.

SHRI H. C. MATHUR: What is the requirement of a single family? And what is the yield of land allotted?

SHRI J. S. L. HATHI: The yield is about Rs. 5,000 per annum. The need would vary depending on the number of members in a family.

SHRI H. C. MATHUR: Out of 6 acres, you get 5,000? Is it rupees or what?

SHRI J. S. L. HATHI: Yes, yes, rupees

SHRI C. G. K. REDDY: By selling it or by cultivating it?

SHRI J. S. L. HATHI: It is irrigated land.

SHRI H. C. MATHUR: What are the irrigation charges?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: That is going beyond the question.

PRODUCTION OF FINE AND SUPER-FINE CLOTH

*620 DR. SHRIMATI SEETA PARMANAND: Will the Minister for COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Japan produces fine and superfine cloth from the short staple Indian cotton;

(b) whether Indian mills import Egyptian cotton for producing superfine cloth; and

(c) whether Government have restricted the import of foreign long staple cotton?

THE MINISTER FOR COMMERCE (SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR): (a) It is understood that in Japan, some short staple Indian cotton is used in mixture with other cottons for spinning fine yard.

(b) Yes.

(c) Imports are permissible only under licence. Licences are issued according to requirements.

DR. SHRIMATI SEETA PARMANAND: Does Government think it consistent with its drive for austerity to implement the Five-Year Plan successfully, to allow the import of foreign cotton into the country?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: Yes, to the extent needed. Our production of cotton is not sufficient to meet the requirements of our mills. It is in any case consistent with commonsense.

DR. SHRIMATI SEETA PARMANAND: Though it is quite easy from the point of view of commonsense to understand this, may I ask Government whether it would not be better to start the making of superfine and fine cloth without importing this foreign cotton and spending our currency? At any rate it is not possible to produce fine cloth from that.

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: The fact of the matter is that we export a very small quantity, not more than 250,000 bales of cotton, because it is not spinnable here with our equipment. At present we import large quantities—10 to 12 lakh bales—of superior variety, both from the United States and Egypt, in order to see that the textile industry runs smoothly and that the production is kept at the maximum. There is no relation between the quantity exported of cotton which we cannot spin and the quantity imported of cotton which we can use.

SHRI KISHEN CHAND: What efforts have been made by Government to spin fine yarn from Indian cotton which is exported to Japan and utilised there for spinning fine counts?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: My hon. friend is labouring under a misapprehension. The large bulk of the cotton that is actually exported is of shorter count, 10 to 12 counts. What the Japanese are doing is, with their far more efficient production units, they

mix this cotton with finer cotton and evolve a new type of cotton on which they can spin 30s and 40s.

PROF. G. RANGA: Is it not a fact, Sir, that complaints have been received from mills in our country that they are not being allotted sufficient quantity of Indian cotton on the ground that they used to import Japanese cotton in the past and that they are allowed only a particular percentage of their consumption?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: I am unable to grasp the import of the question. But the fact is that all the available Indian cotton is allotted to all the mills concerned. We do not propose to keep away Indian cotton. It is in nobody's interests to keep away Indian cotton from the Indian mills. But in addition to the Indian cotton we do require a certain amount of cotton from outside, depending on the conditions in each year. For instance, this year, we did not think it worth while to import Japan cotton because of price factor and the rest. But we purchased a little more of American cotton.

PROF. G. RANGA: What is the present policy of Government, Sir? Is it to import less and less long staple cotton from America, from Egypt, i.e., from abroad, or to continue the earlier policy of importing more and more of it?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: The present policy, as my hon. friend knows, during all these three years has been to encourage the production of finer type of cotton in India. And during the last three years the country has made very good strides in this direction. Naturally, the policy is to encourage the production of such cotton to the maximum possible extent.

SHRI J. R. KAPOOR: Sir, I understand that Japanese mills are able to produce fine cloth out of short staple cotton because of the superiority of their machinery. That being so, do the Government propose to permit the

import of such Japanese machinery into India so that our short staple Indian cotton could also be made to produce fine cloth here?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: We should heartily promote that idea if somebody is there to import.

IMPORT OF FOOT-WEAR

*621. SHRI RAHMATH ULLAH: Will the Minister for COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any steps have been taken by Government to stop the import of foot-wear into India; and

(b) if so, what are these steps?

THE MINISTER FOR COMMERCE (SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR): (a) Import of foot-wear into India was banned till 3rd March 1953. From 1st March import duty on foot-wear was raised to 100 per cent. *ad valorem* or Rs. 1-8-0 per pair whichever is higher and simultaneously a token import of 10 per cent. of half of best year's imports has been allowed for the January-June 1953 period.

(b) Question does not arise.

SHRI M. VALIULLA: May I know after putting this customs duty on the import of foot-wear, whether they have also begun to come in?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: I presume so, Sir. I have not the figures with me.

SHRI M. VALIULLA: What are the kinds of foot-wear that are specially wanted in India?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: The fact that the import is only token—to the extent of 10 per cent.—does show that we do not think that larger amounts should come in. It is a question of importing a little of the quality stuff in order to promote improvement of the stuff in our own country, as also adding a little wanted revenue to the Exchequer.

SHRI T. V. KAMALASWAMY: In view of the fact that India is the largest exporter of hides and skins, will Government consider the advisability of encouraging export of foot-wear?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: Yes, we are encouraging exports.

9 A.M.

IMPORT OF CAPITAL GOODS FROM RUSSIA

*622. SHRI RAHMATH ULLAH: Will the Minister for COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) what are the capital goods imported into India from Russia in the year 1952-53; and

(b) what is the percentage of these goods to the total imports into India the same year from all foreign countries?

THE MINISTER FOR COMMERCE (SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR): (a) and (b). A statement giving the required information is placed on the Table of the Council.

STATEMENT

Description and value of capital goods imported into India from Russia during 1952-53 (April-December 1952) and its percentage to the total imports from other countries.

(Approximate value in '000 Rs.).

I. Plant and machinery from Russia—

1. Agricultural machinery	5	
2. Pumping machinery.	24	
3. Textile machinery	6	
4. Machinery, other sorts	1.65	2.00

II. Plant and machinery from countries other than Russia. 62,58.00

III. Grand total of imports of plant and machinery. 62,60.00

IV. Percentage of imports from Russia to imports from all foreign countries. .03 %