

COUNCIL OF STATES

Wednesday, 10th December 1952

The Council met at a quarter to eleven of the clock, MR. CHAIRMAN in the Chair.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

SCRAP MICA

*172. SHRI V. K. DHAGE : (a) Will the Minister for COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state how the scrap mica available in the country is utilised ?

(b) Is any scrap mica exported ? If so, what is the quantity and value of scrap mica exported during the last three years ? To which countries were these exports made ?

(c) What is the customs revenue earned during the last three years from the export of scrap mica ?

THE MINISTER FOR COMMERCE (SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR) : (a) A small quantity is used in this country in the manufacture of motor tyres, grease and boiler laggings, and in dusting mica splittings. In addition, there are a few firms which are planning to manufacture micanite. The rest is exported.

(b) Yes. A statement giving the information required is placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix III, Annexure No. 45.]

(c) No customs duty is levied on the export of scrap mica.

SHRI V. K. DHAGE : Is the Government planning to prohibit the export of scrap mica ?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR : Recommendations have been made to that effect and we are considering them.

SHRI V. K. DHAGE : Has the Mica Enquiry Committee made any recommendations in this regard ?

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SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR : Our information is that the Mica Enquiry Committee have recommended the banning of exports of scrap mica.

SHRI V. K. DHAGE : Has the mica trading interests protested against the banning of exports of scrap mica ?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR : It was the mica trading interests that have made that recommendation to us.

PROF. G. RANGA : May I know what steps Government are taking in order to help this mica industry which is going through an unprecedented depression ?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR : This question is with regard to scrap mica, Sir. About mica proper, I want notice.

HANDLOOM CLOTH

*173. SHRI B. V. KAKKILAYA : (a) Will the Minister for COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state whether Government are aware that thousands of bales of handloom cloth are lying undisposed of in the country ?

(b) Do Government propose to find an outlet for these accumulated goods ? If so, how ?

(c) Have Government any plan to ensure the handloom workers a regular supply of yarn and regular sale of cloth ? If so, what is it ?

THE MINISTER FOR COMMERCE (SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR) : (a) Reports that handloom cloth is not moving have been received.

(b) and (c). The measures taken by Government in this direction have already been referred to in reply to the Unstarred Question No. 39 on the 8th December 1952.

I may add that recent exports of handloom cloth have been very encouraging. The figures for October have been the highest during this year, about 6 million yards.

SHRI B. V. KAKKILAYA : Does the Government contemplate buying the stocks of handloom cloth and export them at subsidised rates ?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR : We purchase handloom cloth to the extent of our requirements, but there is no idea of subsidising exports at the moment.

SHRI GOVINDA REDDY : Is it a fact that a Government officer has been sent abroad to explore the possibility of exporting handloom cloth ?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR : An officer of the Textile Commissioner's Office in Bombay has been sent abroad, but to my knowledge he has not yet returned.

SHRI K. C. GEORGE : Does the Government propose to get calendering machines to improve the quality of handloom cloth ?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR : I do not think we are purchasing any calendering machines to improve handloom cloth. We expect the handloom industry itself to purchase these.

SHRI B. V. KAKKILAYA : Have the Government got any scheme for affording relief to these handloom weavers ?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR : That is our intention. As hon. Members are aware, the mills have been asked to curtail their production in respect of *dhoties* by 40% with a view to seeing that handlooms increase their production.

SHRI B. V. KAKKILAYA : Does the Government contemplate giving any relief to the unemployed weavers ?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR : There has not been any question of giving relief to the weavers as such, but the Government have spent about Rs. 9 lakhs during the last two years to help the handloom industry. I would go further and say that the Government are contemplating imposing a cess of three

pies per yard on mill-made cloth, and the bulk of the amount realised by the cess is to be utilised on fostering the development of the handloom industry.

SHRI T. S. PATTABIRAMAN : Are the Government purchasing all their requirements of cloth from the handloom industry ?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR : As I said earlier, we have been purchasing from them to the extent that we require, but I have not the figures at the moment.

SHRI P. SUNDARAYYA : Is it a fact that the Madras Government has been giving some relief to the handloom weavers in that State ?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR : I should like to have notice of that question. I am not sure whether the Government of Madras have done anything by way of specific relief.

SHRI D. NARAYAN : May I know how many handlooms have remained idle during the last six months ?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR : There has been a phenomenal increase in the number of handlooms in the country during the many years. The number of handlooms in undivided India in 1940 was 22 lakhs. Now it is 28 lakhs. It is not surprising, therefore, that some of the handlooms are idle.

COMMITTEES APPOINTED BY PLANNING COMMISSION

*174. SHRI M. VALIULLA : Will the Minister for PLANNING be pleased to state :

(a) what are the Committees appointed by the Planning Commission to give effect to India's Five Year Plan; and

(b) the amount spent so far on those Committees and also on the Planning Commission ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR PLANNING AND IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI J. S. L. HATHI) : (a) A statement is laid on the Table of the Council.