

Shri Karmarkar: Yes, Sir.

Shrimati Benu Chakravarty: What are the small-scale industries for which these machines have been imported?

Shri Karmarkar: I should like to have notice for a full answer to that question, but, for instance, some of the machines mentioned here are: the treadle spinning machine, the treadle weaving machine, the needle-making machine. Machines for the bamboo industry have been received and they have been sent to Assam where the particular type of bamboo is available. Then there are the job printing press and the oil expellers which I have already mentioned.

Shrimati Benu Chakravarty: May I know if any of these machines has been used for the formation of co-operatives? The Minister says they have been used by the States. Have any of the machines been given over for the formation of co-operatives?

Shri Karmarkar: No, Sir.

Shri N. P. Damodaran: The hon. Minister said that these machines are intended as models. May I know whether any attempt has been made or there is any scheme to produce such machines in India?

Shri Karmarkar: As I said certain duplicates have been produced and they have been sold, particularly the job printing presses and the oil expellers. I think my hon. colleague the Minister for Rehabilitation will perhaps be able to give more information on it.

The Minister of Rehabilitation (Shri A. F. Jain): These machines have been duplicated on an experimental scale and while some of the machines like the printing press, power-driven oil expellers etc., have been produced on a large scale, other machines like the plastic projectors have been manufactured in small dimensions—just one or two—and have not been put on the market.

Short Notice Question and Answer

PRICES OF COTTON AND CLOTH

Shri Sinhasan Singh: Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the price of cotton has increased;

(b) whether Government have raised the sale price of medium and coarse cloth;

(c) the reasons that have led Government to increase the price of these varieties of cloth; and

(d) whether this increase was decided by Government on the representation of the millowners?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari):

(a) Yes.

(b) Yes.

(c) and (d). Prices of cloth are revised ordinarily every quarter according to the Tariff Board formula. Prices of fine and superfine cloth which are predominantly made out of foreign cotton were revised, as usual, for the quarter April-June 1952. In the case of coarse and medium cloth, which is made of Indian cotton, owing to uncertainties in the cotton market, it was decided to continue the previous prices for the month of April. The question of price revision was taken up again in April, of coarse and medium varieties, but no agreement with the mill industry was possible, as, for one thing, they claimed they had bought Indian cotton at the time when high prices were ruling and that the costs of manufacture had also gone up. An enquiry into the manufacturing cost was promised and pending such enquiry prices were revised according to the Tariff Board formula for the month of May resulting in decrease of 5 per cent. and 24 per cent. over the previous quarter's prices. As a result of the enquiry into the manufacturing cost, prices were again revised from the 1st of June making due allowance for increase in wages and other items of manufacturing charges. The result is a slight increase of .7 per cent. to 2.59 per cent over the May prices.

Shri Sinhasan Singh: In comparison with the increase in the price of the cotton piecegoods, may I know what is the percentage of increase in the price of the cotton itself?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: When the revision was made in the month of June, the question of increase in the price of cotton was not taken into account. Actually, when revising the prices in May according to the Tariff Board formula, what had to be taken into account was merely the question of the decrease in the price of cotton.

Shri Sinhasan Singh: I find that there has been a decrease in the price of cotton, while in the price of piecegoods there has been an increase. How do Government explain this? Is it due to increased labour costs?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I accepted the Short Notice Question because there was a mis-apprehension in the minds of the public that the recent announcement of an increase of 0.7 to 2.59 per cent. in the price of cotton goods owing to increased manufacturing costs was an ad hoc increase in the prices of coarse and medium varieties. Actually, that is not the case. In May, prices were substantially reduced,—as I said, from 5 to 24 per cent. Therefore, the reduction in the prices effected in May was substantial and that was due to the reduction in the price of cotton. In this case, the slight increase was due to the taking into account of the increased manufacturing costs, largely due to increased wages and dearness allowance, and this increase happens to be almost a microscopic increase.

Shri Sinhasan Singh: What was the precise reason for this increase? He has said it is not due to increase in cotton prices. Is it then due to increase in labour charges?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I have said that the further revision that had been promised to the mill industry in May was an enquiry into the manufacturing costs, and it is as a result of this enquiry that this small increase of 0.7 to 2.59 per cent. has been given.

Shrimati Renu Chakravarty: May I know what exactly is the increase in labour wages?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: The enquiry was conducted by the Textile Commissioner attached to my Ministry and I think he has taken into account the increase in wages. Actually, I have not asked him to work out these figures separately, but assuredly there has been a slight increase in dearness allowance and has led to the rise in prices.

Shrimati Renu Chakravarty: But the cost of living index is the same.

Mr. Speaker: I do not think any useful purpose will be served by pursuing this question. The hon. Minister has stated that he accepted the Short Notice Question, because he wanted to explain or make a statement regarding the increase. Obviously, from his reply it appears he is not prepared to supply all those details.

Shri Velayudhan: He may give them during the discussion. This matter also may be raised then.

Mr. Speaker: During the discussion, all points can be raised provided they are relevant and within limits.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

FERTILISERS PRODUCED AT SINDRI

*885. **Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** Will the Minister of Production be pleased to state:

(a) what is the rate at which the fertilizers produced in Sindri Factory are made available to the cultivators;

(b) what would be the rate in Madhya Pradesh;

(c) what was the amount of fertilisers imported into India in each of the months November 1951 to April, 1952; and

(d) what was the price paid for the imported fertilisers per ton?

The Minister of Production (Shri K. C. Reddy): (a) The Sindri fertilizers are at present released to the State Governments at a uniform pool price of Rs. 380 per long ton f.o.r. Sindri through the Central Fertilizer Pool of the Ministry of Food and Agriculture. The distribution within the States of the supplies so released is the sole concern of the State Governments who fix the retail price for the supplies after adding to the pool price freight and other incidental charges. The retail prices in different States will thus vary according to the freight and other charges paid by them.

(b) About Rs. 440.

(c) November 1951 ...	6,451 tons
December ..	15,380 ..
January 1952 ...	6,552 ..
February ..	13,785 ..
March ..	9,344 ..
April ..	12,452 ..

(d) About Rs. 400 per ton on an average, f.o.r. at port.

COTTON (PRODUCTION AND IMPORT)

*886. **Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** (a) Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state the total number of bales of cotton produced in India in the years 1946-47 to 1951-52?

(b) What was the total quantity of short staple cotton imported into India in each of the above years?

(c) What was the quantity of cotton waste exported in each of the above years?