

Shri R. S. Diwan: May I know whether the industries of these businessmen have been closed and then they have joined Government-owned business, or their business has been taken over by Government?

Shri S. N. Mishra: No. I don't think here is any question about their closure. We do not have any information on that point.

Arecanut

*1174. **Shri B. K. Das:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) how the market price of arecanut has been affected as a result of the reduction of import duty; and

(b) whether there is any change in the quantity of import after the reduction of duty as compared to the position previously?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Karmarkar): (a) While the market price of boiled and raw arecanuts of Malabar and Travancore-Cochin recorded a fall in price after the announcement of the reduction in import duty, the prices of other varieties in other markets were not affected.

(b) Yes, Sir. The imports have tended to increase.

Shri B. K. Das: May I know whether it is a fact that the reduction in prices in some markets, which the hon. Minister has just mentioned, has not been reflected in the retail prices, and if so, what the reasons are for the same? And may I also know whether Government are going to take any steps to remedy these defects?

Shri Karmarkar: In the case of the said commodities, the whole-sale prices are normally reflected in the retail prices. But if there is a small deviation, then there is nothing that we can do effectively in the matter, unless the matter is very serious.

Shri B. K. Das: When the import duty of Re. 1 per lb. was imposed it was the policy of Government to allow liberal imports side by side with a high rate of import duty. May I know whether that policy has been changed in view of this reduction in duty?

Shri Karmarkar: No, that policy has not changed.

The Minister of Commerce and Industry and Iron and Steel (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): It remains the same.

Shri Velayudhan: May I know whether before reducing the duty, Government had consulted the arecanut-growers or the Governments of Travancore-Cochin and Madras, who are mostly affected by this duty?

Shri Karmarkar: Before effecting any change in the duty, we do not indulge in the undesirable practice of pre-consultations.

All India Khadi and Village Industries Board

*1175. **Thakur Jugal Kishore Sinha:** Will the Minister of Production be pleased to state the labour or wage policy of the All India Khadi and Village Industries Board in respect of the workers engaged in respective small industries?

The Deputy Minister of Production (Shri Satish Chandra): The Board has not hitherto felt the necessity to formulate a labour or wage policy on the lines of the organised sector. If the Board is assigned a share in the production of additional requirements of consumer goods in the Second Plan period and has to employ a large number of workers on full time basis, a definite wage policy will have to be formulated. The Board has this question under consideration.

ठाकुर युगल किशोर सिंह: क्या मिनिस्टर साहब बतायेंगे कि इस व्यवसाय में काम करने वाले व्यक्तियों को कितना वेतन प्रति दिन मिलता है ?

श्री सतीश चन्द्र : भलग भलग ग्रामोद्योगों और गृह-उद्योगों में लोगों को भलग भलग प्रकार से वेतन मिलता है। लेकिन अभी रोजाना के हिसाब से कोई वेतन निर्दिष्ट नहीं किया गया है। जितना बे लोग काम करते हैं उतना ही वेतन मिलता है। अगर बे पूरा टाइम—घाठ घंटे—काम करेंगे, तो कोई बेज तब की जायगी।

ठाकुर युगल किशोर सिंह : क्या कोई ऐसा हिसाब लगाया गया है कि पूरा दिन काम करने पर उन्हें कम से कम कितना वेतन मिल सकेगा ?

श्री सतीश चन्द्र : भलग-भलग उद्योगों के लिये भलग-भलग धाकड़े हैं। एक ही वेतन नहीं है—स्विनिंग, बीविंग और तेज

बनाने इत्यादि कार्योंके लिये मलमल मलमल बतन है। जितने भी लोग खादी का काम करते हैं, वे अभी तक अपने फालतू टाइम में काम करते हैं। नियम से पूरे घाट घंटे एक जगह बैठकर वे काम करें, ऐसा नहीं है। इसलिये इस विषय में कोई भन्दाजा नहीं है।

Shri Gadlingana Gowd : May I know whether any labour policy has been laid down at least in areas where the intensive schemes of the All India Khadi and Village Industries Board are in operation?

Shri Satish Chandra: Even in areas where intensive schemes are in operation, the workers are generally part-time. They are engaged in other occupations and along with that, they do work in a particular industry as a subsidiary occupation. So, their position is not different from others.

Newsprint

*1176. **Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether the recent increase in the price of newsprint in Canada will have any bearing on the prices of newsprint in India;

(b) if so, to what extent; and

(c) the extent to which the Nepa Newsprint Factory will be able to meet the situation?

The Minister of Industries (Shri Kanungo): (a) and (b). Precise information regarding the increase in the price of newsprint in Canada is not available at present. The natural consequence of an increase in price of a commodity like newsprint in one producing country is to enhance its prices all over the world, other things being equal. As Canada is not the only country producing newsprint, it is not possible to precisely estimate the effect of its action on world prices.

(c) It is not possible to forecast the position of the supplies from Nepa Mills at present.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: Is there any proposal to increase the production of newsprint in the country during the Second Five Year Plan by establishing another factory?

Shri Kanungo: There are explorations now going on to find out whether newsprint could be produced from bagasse and other materials.

Shri T. N. Singh: May I know whether Government are aware of the fact that there are two sets of prices ruling: one for those who get actual licences for the users of newsprint as newspapermen, and the other for those who have to get newsprint for their small newspapers not being able to get licences ordinarily? If so, are any steps being taken by Government to enable the users of newsprint who are small newspaper owners to get the benefit of the lower price?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry and Iron and Steel (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): The question was answered on a previous occasion on the floor of the House. The small newspaper owner who wants to import newsprint is given a licence on his executing a bond that it is for his own consumption. Such licences can be pooled by a dealer who is authorised to import by the import control authorities. Those facilities are being provided for the small newspaper owner.

Shri T. N. Singh: Are Government aware that bigger newspapers are passing on their newsprint to both small papers and publishers of books at very high prices? If so, what steps are being taken in that direction?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I am grateful to the hon. Member for the information. If he could give me precise information about the newspapers which do this, I shall be prepared to take action.

Second Five Year Plan

*1177. **Shri Gidwani:** Will the Minister of Planning be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the original estimate of new jobs to be created during the Second Five Year Plan was twelve millions; and

(b) if so, what is the present estimate?

The Deputy Minister of Planning (Shri S. N. Mishra): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Final estimates are being worked out.

Shri Gidwani: May I know if Government have any figures now of the total number of unemployed and under-employed in the country?

Shri S. N. Mishra: For that purpose, a comprehensive survey is contemplated.

Shri Gidwani: What will be the categories of jobs newly created as a result of planning now and in the next Five Year Plan?