

flying allowance, special allowance, experience allowance have been linked to the hours of flying done in each month. For international flights, hourly rate of payment has been fixed w.e.f. 15.10.1994.

(c) to (e). Yes Sir, Aircraft Rules 1937 have been amended to provide for immediate regulation of Air Transport Services including Schedule flights.

[Translation]

#### Prices of Cotton Cloth

8312. SHRI GUMAN MAL LODHA:  
DR. CHINTA MOHAN:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been steep hike in the prices of cotton cloth in the country during the last three years;

(b) if so, the percentage of increase in the prices of cotton cloth in December 1994 in comparison to that of June, 1991;

(c) whether there has been also an increase in the prices of polyester Terricoat and such other cloths;

(d) if so, the percentage of increase in the prices of these clothes in December 1994 as compared to that of January 1991; and

(e) the reasons for such hike in the prices of cloths?

THE MINISTER FOR TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) and (b). There has been an increase in the prices of cotton cloth in the country during the last three years. The percentage increase in the prices of cotton cloth at retail stage in December, 1994 in comparison to June, 1991 is around 67%.

(c) and (d). Yes, Sir. The percentage increase in the prices of blended cloth (including Polyester and Terricoat) and Synthetic cloth at retail stage in December, 1994 as compared to January, 1991 is around 39% and 37% respectively.

(e) The production cost of cloth depends on various factors such as the cost of raw materials, wages, power, cost of manufacturing machinery, level of technology, interest rate & fiscal levies etc. A general increase in the above factors has contributed to the rise in the price of cloth.

#### Privatisation of Cooperative Spinning Mills

8313. SHRI VILASRAO NAGNATHRAO GUNDEWAR : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to privatize the cooperative spinning mills in Maharashtra, particularly in tribal areas;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken to protect the interest of the labourers in the event these mills are privatized?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKATSWAMY) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

[English]

#### A P C O

8314. SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to State:

(a) the amounts due from the Union and State Government of Andhra Pradesh to APCO;

(b) the reasons for the delay in release of funds from the Union Government to APCO; and

(c) the likely date by which the amounts are likely to be released?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY) : (a) to (c). Central assistance to implementing agencies are sanctioned on the basis of proposals received from the various State Governments and Union Territories in accordance with the guidelines of the Schemes. Settlement of claims is a continuous process. The State Government of Andhra Pradesh have informed that an amount of Rs. 5.00 crores is due to be paid to the APCO towards reimbursement of the cost of Janata Sarees and Dhoties distributed to the White Card Holders aged 60 and above between the period from 2.10.1994 to 6.2.1995. The State Government have informed that they have collected the data of the exact number of Janata Sarees and Dhoties distributed upto 6.2.1995 in order to settle the claims.

#### Export of Garments

8315. SHRIMATI BHAVNA CHIKHLIA : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :