

(ग) इस समय हिन्दी में जो प्रतिवेदन प्रकाशित नहीं किये जाते उनको राजभाषाओं अधिनियम के अन्तर्गत हिन्दी में प्रकाशित कराने के लिए क्या प्रबन्ध किये गये हैं ?

उप-प्रधान मंत्री तथा वित्त मंत्री (श्री मोरारजी देसाई) : (क) और (ख). वार्षिक प्रतिवेदनों के अलावा जिन्हें संसद की दोनों सभाओं की भेजों पर रखा जाता है, सरकारी उपक्रम अपने कार्य से सम्बद्ध विशेष पहलुओं पर कभी-कभी प्रतिवेदन प्रकाशित करते हैं। कुछ उपक्रम पहले से ही अपने वार्षिक प्रतिवेदन हिन्दी में प्रकाशित कर रहे हैं।

(ग) राजभाषा (संशोधन) अधिनियम 1967 की उपधारा (3) के अनुसार, मंत्रालयों/विभागों/केन्द्रीय सरकार के कार्यालयों के लिए ऐसे निगमों और कंपनियों के लिए और भी जिन पर केन्द्रीय सरकार का स्वामित्व या नियंत्रण हो या इस प्रकार की किसी कम्पनी या निगम के किसी कार्यालय का स्वामित्व या नियंत्रण हो, यह अनिवार्य है कि वे अपने प्रतिवेदन हिन्दी और अंगरेजी दोनों भाषाओं में प्रकाशित करें। इस अधिनियम के उपबन्धों को लागू करने के लिए सरकार प्रशासनिक अनुदेश बना रही है। ज्यों ही ये अनुदेश जारी कर दिये जायेंगे, सरकारी क्षेत्र के उपक्रमों द्वारा अनुदेशों के अनुसार कार्रवाई करने के प्रबन्ध किये जायेंगे।

12.05 hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

Situation arising out of reported direction of the Southern India Mill Owners Association to curtail the textile production by 33-1/3 per cent

SHRI MOHAMMAD ISMAIL (Barrackpore) : Sir, I beg to call the attention of the Minister of Commerce to the following matter of urgent public

importance and request that he may make a statement thereon :

"The situation arising out of the reported direction of the Southern India Mill Owners Association to its members in Madras, Kerala, Mysore, Andhra Pradesh and Pondicherry to curtail the textile production by 33-1/3 per cent forthwith."

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI DINESH SINGH) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, as the House is aware, the difficulties which the industry in the south is facing flow generally from the same ailment that afflicts the industry as a whole all over India. It is in this wider context that this problem needs to be viewed and tackled.

The cotton textile mills in South India, which includes States of Andhra Pradesh, Mysore, Madras, Kerala and Pondicherry, produce about 22.5 million kilograms of yarn per month. The carry-over stock of yarn with these mills has of late shown a rising trend—as against 12.3 million kilograms at the end of 1967, it has gone up to 13.3 million kilograms at the end of February this year, 16.6 million kilograms at the end of March and were 17.5 million kilograms on the 15th of April, 1968. This position, though unsatisfactory, is by no means unprecedented. In fact, for several months during 1962, the stock levels with these mills were even higher.

There has been an overall increase in the number of mills as well as the number of installed spindles between then and now. As against 246 mills and 50, 87, 000 spindles in the southern region on 1st January, 1966 and 264 mills and 53, 02,000 spindles on the 1st January, 1967, there were 283 mills and 55, 15, 403 spindles on the 1st January 1968. As a result production has increased. The average of production of first three months in 1968 is 21.90 million kilograms of yarn as against the average of 20.30 million kilograms in 1967 and 19.10 million kilograms in 1966. Demand, however, has not kept pace with increased production. Hence, the accumulation of stock. This is not so with the mills in South India alone,

[Shri Dinesh Singh]

but with mills all over India. The spindleage in the country as a whole increased from 16.12 million on the 1st January, 1966, to over 17 million in January, 1968; the monthly average production of yarn increased from 75 million kilograms both in 1966 and 1967 to 79 million kilograms in the first three months of 1968; the stock of yarn increased from 21.42 million kilograms on the 31st December, 1967 to 27.00 million kilograms on the 31st March, 1968.

The fact is that expansion of capacity and production has coincided with some recession of demand. A better balance has, therefore, to be restored between demand and supply.

One of the first decisions I made after taking over office as Minister of Commerce was to prevent further expansion of spindleage except in cases where irreversible processes had already begun. This has had some effect in preventing unchecked growth of spindleage. Only last week I had laid on the Table of the house a statement explaining the various measures Government have taken to restore confidence and to import a healthier tone to the textile industry as a whole. The House is also aware that in devising these measures attention had been paid to the needs of the decentralised sector which is the main outlet for the free yarn marketed by these spinning mills. In pursuance of the same objective, I had also simultaneously stated that some additional credit facilities are to be provided to the Apex Handloom Cooperative Societies to enable them to increase their capacity for purchasing and stocking of yarn. This will be made available to the societies wishing to make use of this facility.

The Cotton Textiles Export Promotion Council has been vigorously exploring foreign markets for yarn. They have already secured substantial orders and expect more. It has also been suggested to the Chairman of the Southern India Millowners Association to form an export group so that steps may be taken to ensure that the qualities of yarn supplied

conform to the standards expected by the foreign buyers. Special steps have been taken to stimulate the export of cotton yarn on cones/cheese from the mills in the south to the markets in the United Kingdom. A special additional assistance of Rs. 2 per 10 lbs, as freight differential is being allowed. This will help South Indian mills exporting to the United Kingdom.

As I have already mentioned in the statement laid on the Table of the House on the 1st May, 1968, the industry is being encouraged and helped to introduce some improvements in its export promotion schemes, which will cover handloom fabrics and made-up articles, to attain a level of exports of Rs. 10 crores during the current year. These two should help in stimulating the off-take of yarn.

SHRI S. KANDAPPAN (Mettur) : Is he going to help us in any way by reading this long statement in answer to the call-attention notice?

SHRI DINESH SINGH : If the hon. Member wants to know the facts, I can give them; if they want something else (Interruption)

MR. SPEAKER : He may go ahead with it.

SHRI DINESH SINGH : Domestic sales of handloom fabrics also need to be stimulated. The Central Government contributes in collaboration with the State Governments in working of a rebate scheme for certain periods during the year. One of the solutions suggested is to extend this period of rebate, so that sales of handloom cloth improve which in turn will generate a demand for yarn. Such an effort will necessarily require co-operation of the State Governments. We are willing to extend the period if the State Governments are willing to fulfil their obligation.

The problems of the mills in the South have been discussed very recently by senior officers of my Ministry with the interests concerned. If necessary, I shall arrange further discussions.

I have every hope that the cumulative effect of the various measures I have

referred to will go a good part of the way to ease the present difficulties of the South Indian Mills.

The Chief Ministers of the various State Governments are expected to be in Delhi very shortly in connection with the meeting of the National Development Council. I have already suggested to the Chief Ministers largely interested in the textile industry to spare some time when we could have an opportunity of discussing the problems of this industry in detail.

श्री मुहम्मद इस्माइल : मेरी जो धारणा थी, स्टेटमेन्ट सुनने के बाद बिल्कुल ठीक निकली। हमारे देश में यही एक इन्डस्ट्री है जिस पर कि देश को फख्र है। इस इन्डस्ट्री के जो चन्द मानोपोलिस्ट्स हैं उनके फ़ायदे को ही सरकार देख रही है। उसका जो स्टॉक एक्युमुलेशन हुआ है, उनका जो स्टॉक इकट्ठा हुआ है उस पर मुनाफ़ा कमाने के लिये एक रास्ता निकला है। सरकार की तरफ से उनको मदद दी जा रही है। उनकी मांग है कि ले-आफ़ करें और अपने स्टॉक को मंहगे दामों पर बेच कर मुनाफ़ा कमायें। इस मामले में सरकार उनकी मदद कर रही है। आज एक लाख 20 हजार आदमी ले-आफ़ से प्रभावित हैं। जिस तरह से यह हुआ है उससे मालूम होता है कि इस गवर्नमेंट की यही पालिसी है, पिछले 20 वर्षों में जिस तरह इस गवर्नमेंट ने बड़े मालिकों को और मानोपोलिस्ट्स को शेल्टर दी है, उसी प्रकार से अभी भी उनको शेल्टर देने की कोशिश कर रही है। इस स्टेटमेन्ट से यह बात साफ़ मालूम होती है कि साउथ के मालिकों ने 27 अप्रैल को हड़ताल की, जब-दंस्ती हड़ताल की, गवर्नमेंट पर दबाव डालने के लिये ताकि उनके सामने गवर्नमेंट को माथा झुकाना पड़े। दूसरा प्रेशर डाला गया दो-तीन ले-आफ़ करके ताकि एक्साइज ड्यूटी में कन्सेशन मिल सके। इस पर भी इस गवर्नमेंट ने सकम्ब किया है। अब उनका इरादा है कि प्रोडक्शन कम किया जाये। मिनिस्टर साहब के स्टेटमेन्ट

से मालूम होता है कि प्रोडक्शन कम करने की उनकी एक मांग है।...

MR. SPEAKER : You are making a speech. At least now ask a question.

श्री मुहम्मद इस्माइल : मैं स्पीच नहीं दे रहा हूँ। मेरी पहली मांग इस गवर्नमेंट से तो यह है कि 27 अप्रैल को एम्प्लायर्स ने जो हड़ताल की गवर्नमेंट पर प्रेशर डालने के लिये—और जिसमें गवर्नमेंट ने सरेन्डर किया है उसमें तमाम बेजेज मिलनी चाहिये।

मेरी दूसरी मांग यह है कि जो कम्पलसरी बलोअर हो रहे हैं और जो प्रोडक्शन शाटन करने की कोशिश की जा रही है इसको डेफ-नितली बँन किया जाये, इसको गैर-कानूनी करार दिया जाये। क्लोज न हो सकें, इसको रोकने के लिये मिनिस्ट्री को पूरी पावर्स हैं।...

MR. SPEAKER : Order, order. Please sit down now. Shri Deorao Patil.

SHRI UMANATH (Padukkottai) : He has not replied to him.

MR. SPEAKER : It was a counter-speech, that is all. I have not understood what was the question.

SHRI UMANATH : Finally he has put the question whether Government is prepare to use their power to prohibit the closure of two days in a week which is being done.

MR. SPEAKER : All right; that is a simple question. He may answer it.

SHRI DINESH SINGH : We shall bear all this in mind. So far as I am aware, we have no provision to prevent this.

SHRI UMANATH : Why?

SHRI DINESH SINGH : But we are examining all these possibilities and I can assure the hon. Member and the House that we shall do our best to protect the interests of the labour there.

श्री देवराज पाटिल (यवतमाल) : अध्यक्ष महोदय, सरकार की पालिसी मिल मालिकों के हितों की रक्षा करने की है इसीलिये यह संकट उत्पन्न हुआ है। एक बार मिल-मालिकों ने कपास न खरीदने की बोलबाला की और घाज कपड़ा कम पैदा करने की घोषणा कर रहे हैं। इस मामले में टेक्सटाइल कमिश्नर ने उनका साथ दिया है। कपास के भाव इतना अधिक नीचे गिर गये कि किसानों का लाखों-करोड़ों का नुकसान हो गया और लाखों मजदूर भी बेकार हो गये हैं। मैं आपके माध्यम से यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि वस्त्र उद्योग के सम्बन्ध में सरकार की यह नीति होनी चाहिये—जिसको कि लोकसभा ने भी मान्य किया है—कि कपास उत्पादकों को कपास के उचित मूल्य मिलें और मजदूरों को भी सारी सुविधायें दी जायें तथा उद्योगधरताओं को उचित मूल्य पर कपड़ा उपलब्ध किया जाये। लेकिन सरकार, कपड़ा उद्योग के जो मिल मालिक हैं उनके हितों की ही रक्षा करती है। कपड़ा मिल-मालिकों ने करोड़ों का नफा कमाया है लेकिन इस उद्योग में उन्होंने कुछ भी इन्वेस्टमेंट नहीं किया। तो मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि मंत्री महोदय जो बैठक बुलाने वाले हैं उसमें कपास का उचित मूल्य देने के सम्बन्ध में विचार करेंगे ?

श्री विनेश सिंह : सवाल पूछने से पहले जो माननीय सदस्य ने कहा उस से मैं बिल्कुल नाइत्तफाक करता हूँ। मैं तो कहता हूँ कि उन्होंने बिल्कुल गैर जिम्मेदारी का बयान दिया है। यहां पर इस तरह की बातें कहने से किसी का भी फायदा नहीं हो सकता है।

SHRI DEORAO PATIL : On a point of order, sir.

MR. SPEAKER : There is no point of order. He is on his legs. He is answering your question.

श्री देवराज पाटिल : मैंने कौन सी गैर जिम्मेदारी की बात कही है ? किसान को

उसकी कपास का उचित मूल्य मिल सके, इसके लिए मैंने कहा है।

SHRI SONAVANE (Pandharpur) : How can the hon. Minister say that he has made an irresponsible statement? That is a wrong thing to say.....(Interruption)

MR. SPEAKER : Order, order. He is on his legs. Please answer Shri Patil's question.

SHRI DINESH SINGH : So far as Shri Patil is concerned, he has made only one specific suggestion for action that when the Chief Ministers come we should also discuss the question of cotton prices with them. We shall bear his suggestion in mind.

SHRI D. N. PATODIA (Jalore) : Both the statement made by the hon. Minister on the 1st May and today have failed to take cognisance of the real crisis faced by the industry and whatever measures have been announced are so insignificant that they would not even touch the fringe of the problem. Therefore, before I frame my question, I would like to say a few words about the extent of the crisis faced by the industry.

As regards the stock of yarn, as against 76,000 bales in December 1966, in March 1968 the stock was 1,34,000 bales which was nearly double the stock. But out of these 1,34,000 bales of stock, in South India alone the stock was 73,758 bales and it has risen on the 15th April to 75,867 bales valued at Rs. 12 crores.

It does not end there. The Minister knows that in south India, as many as 30 mills have been completely closed down. They have been closed because their financial resources have been exhausted, because they have incurred losses, because they do not have sufficient funds even to pay wages, because they have to incur losses month after month, week after week. Even the Reserve Bank of India made a recent study and they have come to a conclusion that in 1965-66, as against 266 mills, 123 mills were running at a loss. This situation has further deteriorated.

With regard to the rise in the cost price of raw cotton, the hon. Minister

stated on the 1st May that compared to the peak price of November/December, the prices have now slightly come down. In this respect, the Minister happens to be incorrectly informed by his Department because, compared to November/December price, the prices have not only not come down, they have, in fact, gone up. For instance, in the case of Digvijya which is one of the popular varieties, November/December peak price was 1715 and now it is 1750 and in the case of Cambodia, it was 1575 and now it is 1725.

Another important matter is with regard to the imported cotton. The prices have considerably gone up. We import a major quantity from PL 480, and in respect of one inch staple the price has gone up from 1650 in November to 1900 now. The important point that I want to make is that international price of cotton has gone up. It is not only domestic price but also the international price. We have to face the facts. The fact is that prices were high and they are high. In view of the international prices that prevail, they will continue to be high. There is no point in calculating on an imaginary price of the ceiling price which is no more in existence. Therefore, whatever little remedy that the hon. Minister has suggested is that 2 per cent.....

MR. SPEAKER : Please come to a specific question now.

SHRI D. N. PATODIA : Yes, Sir.

With regard to the 2 per cent rise announced by the hon. Minister, it will be, in effect, only $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent because 2 per cent is applicable to 25 per cent production. I want to put a specific question.

May I know whether, in view of the circumstances explained by me, in view of the deep crisis that the industry is faced with, the Government will take a realistic attitude and calculate and base its parity on the basis of actual price of cotton that is prevailing, and not on the ceiling price.

Secondly, I want to know whether the Government will revise and reduce its revenue and tax structure in a manner so that the cost may be reduced and the consumption may be increased. The whole problem is that consumption is going down.

Although the production is low, the consumption is still lower.

Then, in respect of the closed mills, may I know whether the Government is prepared to give some financial assistance to the mills so that they may reopen and whether the Government thinks in terms of taking some immediate measures by which exports may be exceeded. The results of the measures suggested by the Hon'ble Minister will materialise only after 6 or 8 months. By that time, the damage will be done. What does the Minister propose to do immediately ?

SHRI DINESH SINGH : These suggestions for action will also be borne in mind.

SHRI D. N. PATODIA : My point was not any suggestion for action.

MR. SPEAKER : Everything was a suggestion.

SHRI D. N. PATODIA : No, Sir. It was not a suggestion. My point was this. Will the Government now calculate the parity in terms of the actual price prevailing for cotton and not in terms of the ceiling price ? Secondly, will the Government take some positive steps by which exports may be effected immediately and may not be delayed for 6 months or so in future ?

SHRI DINESH SINGH : Can I, on matters of policy, just immediately declare one way or the other ? That is why I said all this will be gone into.

SHRI UMANATH : When the Minister was replying to the Demands for Grants, it was he who called upon the workers saying, "The mill-owners are trying to intimidate and pressurise you ; don't give in." Now, I am surprised at the statement made by him. I thought, perhaps, he has joined the young Turks, as is known, and today I find he is a mellowed man.

In his statement, he has said that he is going to have consultation with the Chief Ministers. I would like to point out that the consultation with the Chief Ministers of the States is merely a humbug. The question is about accumulation. The State Government has nothing to do

[Shri Umanath]

with the demand raised, the question of excise duty and the question of credits. The State Governments cannot do anything. Even so, the Madras Chief Minister has gone forward sending a guarantee for Rs. 72 lakhs. Beyond that, they cannot do anything. This question has nothing to do with the State Government. It is the concern of the Central Government. The Minister said that all these will be taken into consideration.

The question is of taking immediate steps. We would like to know from the Minister what he will do immediately because, every week, two days the workers are sent home. There are 1,30,000 workers. What immediate solution does the Minister suggest?

On the question of accumulation, he was saying that it was not unusual. We also submitted a memorandum that it was not unusual, 80,000 bales in March. But I would like to know from the Minister what he has got to say about the contentions of mill-owners, whether they are true or false. Though 82,000 bales, nothing unusual, with regard to the number of bales, the amount involved is Rs. 12½ crores whereas the amount involved in 1965 was Rs. 7 crores or so. So, such a big amount is being blocked. I would like to know from the Minister whether their contention is true. If it is true, what is the objection for the Central Government to immediately see that the S. T. C. intervenes and purchases the stock at cost price—I do not want the mill-owners to be given profit and distribution—so that the stocks get started clearing and there will not be the employment problem. If the mill-owners' contention is not true, what is the objection for the Government to seize the stocks and see that the mills function again?

Secondly, with regard to the consumer resistance, that also is alleged and the Minister also concedes to a certain extent. The mill-owners are not prepared to reduce the price to meet the consumer resistance nor are they prepared to reduce their profit. But they will reduce production by 33½ per cent. I want to know from the Government what concrete steps immediately Government propose to take to bring the price of yarn within the consumer level

so that stocks can be cleared. If all these contentions are not true, I would like to know from the Government what specific measures Government propose to take, here and now, to see that the mills run for all the seven days in a week.

SHRI DINESH SINGH : The hon. Member is quite right when he referred to the statement I had made when replying to the Demands for Grants. I had, to some extent, anticipated the difficulties that we are facing. It is not that we are not doing anything. But I hope the hon. Member will feel that it will not be a good thing for me to come forward with just bold statements but try to find a solution to this problem. It is not just taking over these things which will be a solution.

SHRI UMANATH : You come out with the statement and let the workers down.

SHRI DINESH SINGH : No worker has been let down.

SHRI UMANATH : Already for two weeks they have suffered.

SHRI DINESH SINGH : In their workers' organisations, they may let them down. I have not let them down.

SHRI UMANATH : You have not taken any action. For 4 days, they have lost jobs.

SHRI DINESH SINGH : So far as Central Government is concerned, I have outlined all the measures that we are proposing to take. I would only beg of the hon. Member to wait for a day or two and see what is the result of the measures that we are taking. If he still has some difficulties, I shall be very happy to discuss with them to find a solution.

Some of the points mentioned by him are very useful and they are also being gone into. We are holding a discussion on those lines and it will be our endeavour, as I said earlier, that we do something which will help the workers. But in helping the workers, we have also to help the

industry. It is not that the workers are removed from the industry. That is the main point that we have to bear in mind that help to the workers is also a part of the help to the industry unless we are in a position, at some later stage, to take over the whole industry. While we are not in that position, we have to help the industry also in our effort to help the workers.

Another point that the hon. Member mentioned was about young Turks. I like to feel that I am a young Indian, not a young foreigner.

12 30 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

Audit Report, Defence Services 1968, etc.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI K. C. PANT) : On behalf of Sbri Morarji Desai, I beg to lay on the Table :

- (1) A copy of the Audit Report, Defence Services, 1968 under article 151 (1) of the Constitution.
- (2) A copy of Appropriation Accounts of the Defence Services for the year 1966-67 and Commercial Appendix thereto.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1174/68].

Notifications under the Customs Act and the Central Excises and Salt Act, etc.

SHRI K. C. PANT : I beg to lay on the Table :

- (1) A copy each of the following Notifications under section 159 of the Customs Act, 1962 and section 38 of the Central Excises and Salt Act, 1944 :—
 - (i) The Customs and Central Excise Duties Export Draw-back (General) Thirty-ninth Amendment Rules, 1968, published in Notification No. G.S.R. 739 in Gazette of India dated the 20th April, 1968.
 - (ii) The Customs and Central Excise Duties Export Draw-

back (General) Fortieth Amendment Rules, 1968, published in Notification No. G.S.R. 740 in Gazette of India dated the 20th April, 1968.

- (iii) The Customs and Central Excise Duties Export Draw-back (General) Forty-first Amendment Rules, 1968, published in Notification No. G.S.R. 741 in Gazette of India dated the 20th April, 1968.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1175/68].

- (2) A copy of Notification No. G.S.R. 780 published in Gazette of India dated the 22nd April, 1968 under section 159 of the Customs Act, 1962. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-1176/68].
- (3) A copy of the Annual Report on the working of the Deposit Insurance Corporation for the year ended 31st December, 1967 along with the Audited Accounts, under sub-section (2) of section 32 of the Deposit Insurance Corporation Act, 1961. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-1177/68].

Papers under the Tariff Commission Act, etc.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND OF SOCIAL WELFARE (SHRI RAGHU RAMAIAH) : I beg to lay on the Table :

- (1) A copy each of the following papers under sub-section (2) of section 16 of the Tariff Commission Act, 1951 :—
 - (i) Report (1967) of the Tariff Commission on the Fair Selling Prices of Caustic Soda, Chlorine, Hydrochloric Acid and Bleaching Powder.
 - (ii) Government Resolution No. 5(30)/67/CH.II dated the 2nd May, 1968.
 - (iii) Statement showing reasons why the documents mentioned at (i) and (ii) above could not be laid on the Table with-