

[Shri S. A. Dange]

So, my position is very clear. In answer to you, I can say, for fear of worst things coming in, I have to support what is less worse.

SHRI PILOO MODY (Godhra): Which is no policy, by his own admission.

SHRI S. A. DANGE: We would not hide policies like you, do. That is the position. Therefore, I request the Ministry to pay more serious attention to this, because the situation is not so innocent and quiet as it looks. It is full of dangers, and so before the dangers break out into more violent forms and lead to greater troubles, they should take measures to stop this crisis and stop these closures.

SHRI S. R. DAMANI (Sholapur): Sir, I very carefully and attentively listened to my hon. friend Shri Dange. I think on many point—(Interruption)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order, order. There are about, or rather more than 10 speakers and we will not be in a position to finish it today. So, I will take up the half-hour discussion at 5.30 and this will be continued on some other day.

SHRI S. R. DAMANI: He criticised the Ministry and others. The position is this. The Government fixed the target of cotton production at 72 lakh bales to be achieved by 1965. Now, by the end of the fourth five year Plan, the target cotton production to be achieved is 80 lakh bales. If we see the actual production, from 1960 onwards, it has never gone beyond 60 lakh bales. Consumption has increased and that has created shortage and necessitated import of cotton from other countries. Due to non-achievement of the targets for cotton production, shortage has arisen. That is why the industry is suffering and many mills have closed down in small towns. Fortunately the Minister of Agriculture and the Minister of Foreign Trade are both present. They should find out what are the difficulties when the target for cotton production will be achieved and how the country can save foreign exchange.

SHRI DEORAO PATIL (Yeotmal): Unless a fair price is given to cultivators, the target will not be achieved.

SHRI S. R. DAMANI: The per-acre yield of cotton is very low in our country. It is only 120 to 125 lbs as compared to 550 lbs in Egypt, 500 lbs in Africa, about 600 lbs in Sudan, etc. Farmers will be benefited only when productivity increases in the larger context. Without increasing Productivity, neither the farmers nor the country will be benefited. Government should try its best to fulfil the targets fixed for cotton production.

During the last two months, the price of cotton has gone up by 20 to 25 per cent. The Minister has agreed and he said he is arranging for imports of cotton to meet the shortage. Today cotton is not available and cotton prices are going up. Therefore, many mills may close down. There should be some way by which the situation can be avoided. The Government should advise us what to do, whether the industry should close down for a fortnight and conserve the cotton or the consumption should be reduced by 10 to 15 per cent. Government should tell us which suggestion is acceptable to them, so that no unit may have to close down and no unemployment may be created and our exports may not be hit. Some members said, the industry is holding big stocks. That can be checked up very easily. The fact is that production is less than consumption and that has created the problem. The minister should look after the production and see that the target fixed by them for cotton production is fulfilled, so that the country can save foreign exchange, farmers may get better prices and the industry may expand.

I hope the minister will consider these points.

COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE MEMBER'S BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS
SIXTY-NINTH REPORT

SHRI P. G. SEN (Purnea): I beg to present the Sixty-ninth Report of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions.
