

[Shri Hathi]

Calcutta Dock Workers (Regulation of Employment) Scheme, 1956. The Board consists of 15 members and includes an equal number of members representing:

- (a) the Central Government,
- (b) the dock workers, and
- (c) the employers of dock workers and shipping companies.

Under the Scheme, persons representing the dock workers and the employers are to be appointed after consulting such Associations of persons as appear to the Central Government to be representative of such workers and such employers.

The Board was last reconstituted on the 2nd June 1960. The term of office of a non-official member of the Board is for a period of three years and the Board will be due for re-constitution in June, 1963.

There are 5 labour seats on the Board, which have been distributed among the following labour Unions on the basis of their verified membership amongst the dock labour covered by the Scheme:—

National Union of dock labour 2 seats;

Dock Mazdoor Union, 2 seats;

Calcutta Dockers' Union, 1 seat.

The registration of the Dock Mazdoor Union was cancelled by the Registrar of Trade Unions on the 4th January 1962 for non-submission of annual returns. The Union made an application under Article 226 of the Constitution in the Calcutta High Court and has obtained an interim order directing the Registrar of Trade Unions not to communicate and/or publish in the Gazette his order of cancellation of the registration of the Union till the disposal of the application by the Court. The Union has also filed appeal in the High Court against the order of cancellation of registration. Thus the registration of the Union does not yet stand cancelled and the matter is *sub-judice*.

The Calcutta Dockers' Union was served with a show-cause notice by the Registrar of Trade Unions as to why registration of the Union should not be cancelled for failure to submit annual returns. The Union filed an application under Article 226 of the Constitution in the Calcutta High Court, praying for an issue of a rule on the Registrar restraining him from taking any action with regard to cancellation of the Union's registration. The application has been rejected by the Court, on the ground that the cause of action has not yet arisen. No orders have been issued so far regarding cancellation of the Union's registration by the Registrar.

I may state in this connection, that the Scheme does not debar representation on the Board of a non-registered Union.

Shri Indrajit Gupta: Am I to take it that these unions which are considered representative of workmen for purposes of representation on the Dock Labour Board may also include unions whose registration *prima facie* is subject to cancellation because they do not even submit annual returns?

Shri Hathi: Registration has not yet been cancelled in both the cases.

Shri Indrajit Gupta: Am I to take it that if the registrations are finally cancelled, the Government will consider giving this representation to other registered unions?

Shri Hathi: That would be considered when the registrations are cancelled.

REQUISITIONING OF RAW COTTON IN GUJARAT

Shri Yajnik (Ahmedabad): Under rule 197, I beg to call the attention of the Minister of Commerce and Industry to the following matter of urgent public importance and I request that he may make a statement thereon:—

"The attachment of large quantities of high grade cotton in

*Matter of Urgent
Public Importance*

Gujarat by the Textile Commissioner for sale at the present ceiling prices."

The Minister of International Trade in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): As the House is aware, a system of price control on raw cotton has been in existence for the last many years and as usual at the commencement of the 1961-62 cotton season, floor and ceiling prices were announced by the Government for different varieties of cotton grown in the country. Although the original expectation of the 1961-62 crop was fairly good, the crop proved to be much smaller, due to adverse weather conditions.

According to the present estimates only about 43 lakhs of bales are available from this season's crop.

In order to ensure that raw cotton is available to the textile mills at prices which are within the ceilings, various control measures have been adopted by the Textile Commissioner under the instructions of the Government of India. Quotas have been allotted to mills with reference to their past consumption. Raw cotton has also been requisitioned on request from mills which are unable to obtain their requirements. Whenever cotton is thus requisitioned, prices have been paid at the ceiling prices fixed by the Government.

Requisitioning of cotton is not confined to any one region. In fact, the Textile Commissioner has been requisitioning cotton from all the cotton growing States including Rajasthan, Punjab, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra. The total quantity which was requisitioned up to the last week of March was only 15,437 bales out of a crop of 4.3 million bales, of which only 4.700 bales were from Gujarat. Compared to the total crop of 43 lakhs of bales, it is only a very small fraction that is thus requisitioned. The rest of the cotton is sold in the normal manner to the mills.

In a period of acute shortage, control measures cannot be given up without affecting prices. That is the reason

why requisitioning is still being continued.

Government have examined the question of revising the prices of raw cotton for the 1962-63 season's crop onwards. The requisitioning which is, therefore, still being undertaken in various parts of the country can only be on the basis of existing prices as the revised ceilings are to be applied only to the crop of season 1962-63 and onwards.

I wish also to inform the House that Government has now decided to raise the ceiling prices for the basic quality Mugllai Jarilla 25/32" staple length by Rs. 35 per quintal or Rs. 125 per candy according to the old description of weight units. The floor prices which were raised last year by Rs. 105 per candy remain unchanged. Corresponding to the rise in ceilings for the basic quality, there will be corresponding rises for other varieties of cotton. Government hope that as a result of this decision growers will be able to raise a much higher crop of cotton in the assurance of a larger return per unit. We also want the yields per acre to increase appreciably by application of fertilisers, use of better seeds and utilising better farming techniques. Government will try to provide the full requirements of fertilisers for the cotton crop.

The announcement of the rise in ceiling prices is being made before the sowing season so as to encourage growers to increase the acreage and to ensure that the benefit of higher prices as may be justified by the size of the crop and other factors will, in fact, go to the grower when he markets the crop. Today, that is not the condition.

I would also add that if, in fact, as we all hope, the cotton crop is really large. Government will also arrange to build a buffer stock and not let cotton prices be unduly depressed because of the large size of the crop. Thus, in all respects, I would appeal to the growers to do their best for substantially increasing the yield and the crop both in quantity and quality.

[Shri Manubhai Shah]

Government will do their best in every respect to give their assistance to the growers and to ensure the growers a fair and reasonable price.

The textile industry and the cotton trade have been representing that they have, in fact, been paying high prices for cotton for some time. Under the revised ceiling prices, coming into force for the crop of season 1962-63 onwards, Government are clearly of the view that the conditions for the manufacture of cloth will continue to be as heretofore. The House is aware that the textile industry after discussions with Government has introduced a price stamping and price control scheme. Government is appreciative of the co-operation extended by the textile industry in maintaining this structure in close consultation and approval of Government from time to time. Government is confident that industry and trade will continue to show the same awareness and keep the prices down in the interest of the consumer in line with the existing arrangements.

Government see no reason in the revised ceiling prices of cotton for the ex-mill cloth prices to go up at all any higher than at present on this account. I am counting on the co-operation of the textile industry and cotton trade to ensure this. The retailers' margins will continue as hitherto.

Shri Yajnik: In view of the steep rise in the prices of cotton cloth in spite of the stamping of prices since 1959, would Government consider the desirability of giving the new increase in ceiling prices for the cotton stock that has already been commandeered or frozen or attached, because the cotton growers have incurred very serious loss in getting less cotton during the last season due to various reasons?

Shri Manubhai Shah: No. As a matter of fact, if the hon. Member's suggestion is adopted, the entire bene-

fit will go to the middlemen and not to the growers.

**RE: RIOTS IN DACCA AND RAJSHAHI IN
EAST PAKISTAN**

Mr. Speaker: I have got notice of another calling attention motion from Shrimati Renu Chakravarty, Shri S. M. Banerjee, Shri Nath Pai, Shri P. C. Borooah, Shri D. C. Sharma and Shri Bibhuti Mishra regarding the 'alarming news about riots in Dacca and Rajshahi in East Pakistan resulting in the killing of 14 persons and widespread arson and looting'. Has the hon. Prime Minister any information about this?

The Prime Minister, Minister of External Affairs and Minister of Atomic Energy (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): Perhaps I might mention it in the course of my reply to the debate on the Address.

Mr. Speaker: All right.

12.12 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

INDIA-CHINA CORRESPONDENCE

The Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs (Shrimati Lakshmi Menon): On behalf of Shri Jawaharlal Nehru, I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following papers:—

- (i) Government of India's protest dated the 24th March, 1962 regarding violation of air space over Bhutan by Chinese;
- (ii) Chinese note dated the 7th March, 1962 regarding violation of air space by Chinese aircraft over Sherathang, Sikkim;
- (iii) Government of India's reply dated the 4th April, 1962 rejecting the Chinese note of the 7th March, 1962;
- (iv) Chinese note dated the 14th March, 1962 alleging violation of their air space and air-dropping of supplies on Chinese camp;