

policy has been evolved and all States, surplus or deficit . . .

**Mr. Speaker:** Now, may I know what the question is?

**Shri Jashvant Mehta:** I want to put the question now. I am only giving the background.

**Mr. Speaker:** Every hon. Member gives the background and that is also very long.

**Shri Jashvant Mehta:** The hon. Minister has just stated that we are considering the abolition of zones in March or April. What are the reasons for the delay in taking a decision for abolishing the zones earlier than March or April as the situation is deteriorating rapidly and the law and order problem will also be raised . . .

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, order. I cannot allow a speech to be made.

**Shri Jashvant Mehta:** That was part (a) of my question, Sir; and (b) . . .

**Mr. Speaker:** (a) is enough, I am not allowing any (b).

**Shri C. Subramaniam:** Sir, this matter was discussed in the Chief Ministers' Conference and it was agreed in the Chief Ministers' Conference that the position should be reviewed in March-April.

**Shri A. N. Vidyalkar (Hoshiarpur):** Sir, I am thankful to the hon. Minister for the assurance that he has given. But I want to know whether in spite of the past tradition to keep the flour mills properly fed and working, is it a fact that in the last three months, although the Government had to supply 58,000 tons to the flour mills of Punjab, they have supplied only 26,000 tons and these mills cannot run properly, be cause of extremely inadequate supply of imported foodgrain?

**Shri C. Subramaniam:** Yes, Sir. We are not in a position to supply

the entire quantity which would be required for running the mills fully because of our commitments elsewhere. In Punjab, in view of the fact that they produce much more wheat, they have been given a separate zone and it was not possible to give more imported wheat. I have agreed, in the present situation, to give a little more, about which I have already stated.

16.04 hrs.

STATEMENT RE: COMPULSORY SURVEY OF COTTON

**Mr. Speaker:** Shri Manubhai Shah may make the statement regarding the reported decision of the Textile Commissioner to re-introduce a compulsory survey of cotton and its effect on cotton prices.

**The Minister of Commerce (Shri Manubhai Shah):** Sir, as some hon. Members were enquiring about the position of cotton supply, I am grateful to you for permitting me to make a statement on the subject. Prices of many varieties of cotton have shown a rising tendency during the last few weeks though the cotton crop this year is quite satisfactory at about 60.5 lakh bales and imports have also been arranged for about 9.5 lakh bales, and there is a carry-over of about 22 to 26 lakh bales. This rise in prices is attributable to speculative tendencies in the commodity markets, the rush of purchases by the textile mills and the tendency on the part of some of the growers to withhold stocks. There were reports that prices in many varieties have pierced the appropriate ceilings, and it was not possible to purchase cotton at the statutory prices. This was a disquieting situation particularly in the context of the rising prices in commodity markets and need to restrain prices. Also there is a statutory price control on more 50 per cent of the production of cloth

[Shri Manubhai Shah]

by textile mills based on the regulated prices of cotton.

In order to devise satisfactory methods and procedures for the sale and purchase of cotton, a meeting was called at Bombay on 17th December, 1964, by the Textile Commissioner, of representatives of growers, growers cooperative societies, the cotton trade, the East India Cotton Association and the Indian Cotton Mills Federation. The meeting was attended by important representatives of industry from Bombay, Ahmedabad, Kanpur, Calcutta Indore and Madras and representatives of the cotton trade and cooperative and growers from several cotton growing States. Meeting was presided over by Commerce Secretary.

It was recognised at that meeting that many varieties of cotton had pierced the price ceiling for the basic staple length and in some cases even the top ceilings for the best varieties. It was agreed that in the present context all sectors should make every efforts to see that while the agriculturists obtained fair prices under the present system of floor and ceiling prices, the mills should be able to get their supplies within the ceiling prices.

The meeting discussed various alternatives with a view to achieving these objectives. There was a consensus of opinion that survey of cotton should be introduced in respect of such cotton where the prices might have pierced the basic ceilings. The survey should be by the East India Cotton Association as in the past. Where more than one variety of cotton is grown in contiguous areas, the survey might be introduced on a varietal basis. Also other measures like ginning and pressing of cotton in time were to be adopted.

श्री दे० शि० पाटिल (यवतमाल) :

अध्यक्ष महोदय, कपास का सीजन समाप्त

हो रहा है और काटन-ग्रोअर्ज के दिल में यह विचार है कि सर्विस सिस्टम शुरू होने से आज़ के भाव गिर जायेंगे। मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ और यह एशोरेंस लेना चाहता हूँ कि क्या सरकार इस बात का खयाल रखेगी कि ग्रोअर्ज को कम भाव नहीं मिलेंगे।

श्री मनुभाई शाह : मैं ने यह एशोरेंस स्टेटमेंट में भी दी हुई है कि सीलिंग से, नीचे गिराने की हमारी कोशिश नहीं है। चूँकि मामला सीलिंग के ऊपर चला गया है, इसलिए मिलों और सब को मुश्किल हो रही है और गैरकानूनी कार्यवाही हो रही है, उस को रोकने के लिए इन्तज़ाम किया जा रहा है।

श्री तुलशीदास जाधव (नांदेड़) : कपास के बारे में जो कीमत कम हो जाती है, तो क्या उस के लिए भी सरकार हर जगह ख़रीद करने की कोशिश करती है ?

श्री मनुभाई शाह : पिछले साल और उस के अगले साल ऐसी थोड़ी तकलीफ़ कुछ हुई थी। माननीय सदन को पता है कि सरकार ने इस बारे में कितनी तवज्जह दी कि ग्रोअर्ज को अच्छी प्राइस मिले और उस के लिए सब कोशिश की।

Mr. Speaker: I had said that at 4.00 p.m....

Shri Shivaji Rao S. Deshmukh (Parbhani): Sir, as this has not been taken as a Calling Attention Notice, I would request you to allow me to put a question.

Mr. Speaker: No, Sir. I asked him to make a statement in reply to a Calling Attention Notice.