

(b) the total requirement per year;  
(c) the quantity produced in the country; and

(d) whether there is any proposal to set up a new factory to augment production?

**The Minister of Industry (Shri D. Sanjivayya):** (a) The following imports were made during the years 1963-64, 1964-65 and 1965-66:—

	1963-64 (Rs.)	1964-65 (Rs.)	1965-66 (Rs.)
(1) Cinematographic films not exposed	188,13,000	219,34,000	252,11,000
(2) Photographic film raw sensitised	28,64,000	41,62,000	59,09,000

(b) The estimated requirement of raw films by end of IIIrd Plan period is 3.8 million sq. metres. The requirement of raw films for the 4th Plan period has not yet been finalised.

(c) and (d). No unit in the Private Sector has been set up for the manufacture of raw films. However, one unit in the Public Sector—M/s. Hindustan Photo Film Manufacturing Company has been licensed for the manufacture of raw films. This unit expects to commence production during the end of this year and by the end of second year of the Fourth Plan, it is expected to meet the country's entire requirement of raw films.

**सम्बलपुर—टिटिलागढ़ संकशन पर रेल दुर्घटना**

2508. श्री शिकरे :

श्री यु० व० सिंह :

श्री हुकुम चन्द कटुबाय :

क्या रेलवे मंत्री यह बनाने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि दक्षिण पूर्व रेलवे के सम्बलपुर टिटिलागढ़ संकशन पर एक मालगाड़ी की दुर्घटना हो गई थी, जैसा कि 10 नवम्बर, 1966 के नवभारत टाइम्स में पृष्ठ 1, स्तम्भ 6 पर प्रकाशित हुआ है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो उससे जान और माल की कितनी हानि हुई ; और

(ग) दुर्घटना के क्या कारण थे ?

**रेलवे मंत्रालय में उपमंत्री (श्री शाह नाथ) :** (क) जी हां, लेकिन दुर्घटना 8-11-1966 को हुई ।

(ख) किसी की मृत्यु नहीं हुई । रेल सम्पत्ति को लगभग 1,46,000 रुपये की क्षति का अनुमान है ।

(ग) पटरी से छेड़छाड़ करने के कारण दुर्घटना हुई ।

#### **Ancillary Industries Sub-Committee**

**2509. Shri D. C. Sharma:** Will the Minister of Industry be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 696 on the 26th August, 1966 and state:

(a) the progress made by the Ancillary Industries Sub-Committee in submitting its report to Government; and

(b) the reasons for delay?

**The Minister of Industry (Shri D. Sanjivayya):** (a) The Ancillary Industries Sub-Committee has already submitted its first report on the work done during the meetings held so far. The next meeting of the Committee is scheduled to held on the 15th and 16th December, 1966.

(b) Does not arise.

12 hrs.

#### **CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE**

#### **THREATENED CLOSURE OF COTTON MILLS ON ACCOUNT OF NON-AVAILABILITY OF COTTON**

**श्री मधु सिन्घे (मुंगेर) :** अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं अविलम्बनीय लोक महत्व के निम्न विषय की श्री व्यापार मंत्री का ध्यान दिलाना चाहता हूँ श्री प्रार्थना करता हूँ . . . . .

**श्री चौधरी (अलीगढ़) :** अध्यक्ष महोदय, इस काल एजेंशन मॉशन का क्या महत्व रह गया है, आपने आज का ख़ास ज़कात देना होगा, क्या उसके बाद इसका कोई महत्व रह गया है ? आपको इसके लिये मंत्री महोदय को बड़ी मजबूती के साथ कहना चाहिये, जब इस तरह से वे बाहर बयान दे देते हैं तो इसका क्या महत्व रह जाता है ?

**Shri S. M. Banerjee (Kanpur):** There was no call attention notice in the Rajya Sabha. A supplementary question was put and the minister tried to answer. In today's *Times of India* it is said: "Textile Mills' Closure to be averted. Shah confident of evolving steps." Sir, yesterday I gave an adjournment motion and a calling attention notice. I was told by your office that it would be replied today. Naturally I did not want to put any question yesterday. What is this House being reduced to, Sir?

**The Minister of Commerce (Shri Manubhai Shah):** Yesterday there was a specific question in the Rajya Sabha and I had to answer it.

**Mr. Speaker:** We are not taking notice of what happened in Rajya Sabha. He is referring to some statement in the papers.

**Shri Manubhai Shah:** The papers might have written something out of the answer I gave in the Rajya Sabha.

**Shri S. M. Banerjee:** The *Times of India* report says:

"The Government appears to be confident about being able to prevent the fortnight's closure of textile mills proposed by the Indian Cotton Mills Federation. The Commerce Minister, Mr. Manubhai Shah, is understood to have given this assurance when the matter came up for discussion at the highest level today."

What can be a higher level than this Parliament, Sir?

**Mr. Speaker:** That might be their conjecture.

**श्री मधु लिमये :** अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं अर्ज करूँ कि मैंने 14 ता० को यह नोटिस दिया था, उस वक़्त अगर आप इसको ले लेते तो यह झंझट न होता ।

मैं अविलम्बनीय लोक महत्व के निम्न विषय की ओर व्यापार मंत्री का ध्यान दिलाता हूँ और प्रार्थना करता हूँ कि वह इस बारे में एक वक्तव्य दें—

"रुई उपलब्ध न होने के कारण कपड़ा मिलों को बन्द किये जाने की आशंका ।"

**Shri Manubhai Shah:** Sir, the statement is rather long. I will slowly read it and I request the House to give me a patient hearing.

As the House is aware, there have been reports of some closures of cotton textile mills in the last few weeks due to shortage of cotton.

Sever drought has affected the cotton crop of the current season (1966-67) resulting in a downward revision of its earlier estimate. The crop which was originally estimated at 60 lakh bales, is now placed at around 55 lakh bales. While, thus, the availability of cotton in the country is likely to fall short of the original expectations, the requirement of the industry has registered an increase on account of the addition to the installed capacity of spindles. The mill consumption of cotton in the current season is expected to be about 66 lakh bales per year (5.5 lakh bales per month) against 63 lakh bales per year (5.25 lakh bales per month) in the previous season (1965-66). There has also been considerable delay (four to six weeks) in the arrival of the new crop in certain areas due to failure of monsoon and too much delayed rains.

All these factors taken together have been mainly responsible in creating scarcity and lean cotton stocks with

most mills which, in turn, has led to a scramble for the available supplies of cotton. This has influenced the sentiment of the market and prices of all types of cotton have been ruling well above the ceilings announced in July last. The threat of closure of some mills for want of cotton especially in view of their inability in many cases to pay the high prices demanded, has added to the seriousness of the situation. In all so far, three mills in the Gujarat Region, one mill in Bombay and one mill in Madhya Pradesh have closed for want of cotton. A few other mills in different regions of the country have been resorting to partial closures of shifts or reducing the working of spindles due to lean supplies of cotton available with them. I am glad to inform the House that after I prepared the statement, two mills have restarted working and therefore in all only three mills have been closed.

Ever since the beginning of the new crop season i.e. from September 1966, Government have held discussions, from time to time, with the main interests concerned in order to evolve the measures necessary to meet the situation. As a result of these discussions, Government have already taken several steps aimed at securing an orderly distribution of the new crop cotton. These are briefly as follows:—

(1) The regional Mill-owners Associations have arranged loans of cotton from the surplus mills to the needy mills, on mutually acceptable terms.

(2) The Textile Commissioner has been legally requisitioning cotton from mills with larger stocks to meet the immediate requirements of the needy mills.

(3) For the same purpose, requisitioning of cotton from trade has also been undertaken.

(4) Movement of cotton has been regulated within and from all cotton growing areas.

Maximum limits have been prescribed for the holdings of stocks of cotton by mills. For the present, no mill will be allowed to keep stocks of cotton beyond its two months requirements. This limit may have to be reduced further, if considered necessary.

It is also being ensured that foreign cotton already released for import arrives expeditiously. In all, arrangements have been made to import cotton as follows for the current season:—

(a) 3.75 lakh bales from U.S.A. under P.L. 480.

(b) 5.00 lakh bales from global cotton.

(c) 0.50 lakh bales under U.S.A. barter.

(d) Further it is proposed to make efforts for the 1966-67 cotton year (September 1966 to August 1967) to import 3 to 4 lakh bales more from abroad.

5. Following the implementation of some of these measures, any large scale closure of mills for want of cotton has generally been avoided hitherto.

6. Prompt action has been initiated for making cotton available in all these cases and two of these mills have already resumed working and it is hoped that the other two would also be in a position to restart shortly. Earlier, some mills in West Bengal were also reported to be experiencing difficulties in securing the required supplies of cotton. As a matter of fact, one mill was to close yesterday. We prevented its closure and the Keshoram Cotton Mills is continuing to work. As soon as intimation was received from the State Government of West Bengal, steps were taken to make some supplies available to these

mills from the Punjab, and, thus, their closure has been avoided so far.

The present difficult situation is likely to continue at least till about the end of December, 1966, when the new crop will start moving in bulk. Thereafter, the position is expected to improve somewhat. Taking a view of the season as a whole, it would not be proper to take an alarmistic view about the overall cotton supply position. The current season started with an opening stock of about 22 lakh bales. This, together with the estimated crop of 55 lakh bales and imports of about 8 lakh bales, is expected to give a total availability of about 85 lakh bales. Further imports would also be considered as mentioned in para 4(d) above. As against this availability, the total requirements on account of mill consumption (about 66 lakh bales), exports (2.5 to 3.0 lakh bales) and extra factory consumption (about one lakh bales) are expected to be of the order of 69.5 to 70 lakh bales, leaving a stock of about 15 lakh bales including about 4 to 5 lakh bales of Bengal Deshi and other non-spinnable varieties of cotton at the end of the 1966-67 cotton season. No doubt this is comparatively smaller carry over than what may be termed as safe or satisfactory carry over at 20 to 22 lakh bales. This closing stock may in fact be somewhat larger, if the crop turns out to be more than 55 lakh bales, as is expected by a section of the trade. In the context of this overall supply position and the measures which Government have taken and are taking in order to tide over the present difficulties, the action taken by the Indian Cotton Mills Federation in advising all the mills to close down for a fortnight, from 19th December, 1966, to 2nd January, 1967, would appear to be totally unnecessary.

It is proposed to discuss these latest developments further with the representatives of the industry, trade, growers and labour next week on Thursday, the 30th November, and Friday, the 1st December, 1966.

All the cotton growing State Governments of the country are fully co-operating with the Central Government to see that the cotton growers receive appropriate ceiling prices for the respective varieties of cotton. Appropriate ceiling prices in India compare very favourably with the corresponding prices of similar cottons in other countries. It is, therefore, not possible to remove the ceiling prices of cotton in the current season. The prices have been announced already in the beginning of the season for the whole cotton year.

It is also not possible to remove the partial control on cloth of mass consumption because with any removal of control on ceiling prices of cotton or on the controlled varieties of cloth, the cloth prices for the average consumer of most popular varieties will shoot up to very high levels making the cloth of mass consumption very much dearer. Again, the very high prices that some economically strong mills can afford to pay after any removal of the ceiling prices of cotton will make it impossible for the scores of weak mills to buy their requirements at those prices of cotton and sell their cloth and thus a major factor of closure of such units will emerge. Thus, it is not possible to consider any removal of ceiling prices of cotton or removal of the partial controls on the prices of cloth of mass consumption.

For assuring the cotton growers, both the mill industry and the Government are assuring the cotton growers that throughout the cotton year 1966-67, proper arrangements would be made to ensure that the growers receive appropriate ceiling prices for their respective varieties of cotton. I am sure that the measures which the industry, the State Governments and the Central Government are taking will, in fact, assure the cotton growers throughout the year. During the whole cotton year the grower will get prices lower than the appropriate ceiling prices. At the same time, the Central Government and the State

Governments would request the full co-operation of the growers and the co-operative societies and the trade to see that the mills are provided with cotton at the appropriate ceiling prices.

With respect to trade, Government would request the full co-operation on behalf of this House and myself that orderly trading should be continued by them without any non-co-operation or interruption on their behalf. The cotton textile mills are being permitted to directly buy cotton or kapas (unginned cotton) from the growers or their co-operative societies wherever the trade withholds such marketing and where trade does not co-operate. Government would also contemplate the State Trading Corporation to intervene on behalf of growers and the industry where full cooperation of traders is not forthcoming; and where the traders in any area withhold the co-operation in marketing the crop in an orderly and smooth manner both unginned cotton (kapas) and cotton at the appropriate ceiling prices, direct mill buying or buying through Central, State and Cooperative agencies will be resorted to.

Government would also requisition as and when necessary cotton from all such stocks whether held by growers, traders or mills who refuse to market the stocks within the regulations and at the appropriate ceiling prices for such varieties of cotton.

I can, therefore, assure the Hon'ble House and the country that all these matters are being comprehensively looked into and dealt with. Every effort is being made to avert block closures and keep all the mills running to the full capacity to the extent possible and only resort to a small cut in production or partial closure of a few units if and where found totally unavoidable for a short period.

The Central Government and all the State Governments are keeping a continuous watch in the interest of industry, labour, trade and cotton

growers so that this difficult period of the next four to six weeks for the cotton textile industry is tided over in a satisfactory manner.

**श्री मधु सिमये :** मंत्री महोदय के लंबे बयान से एक निष्कर्ष या नवीजा निकला कि मिलों की जो शक्ति, कैपैसिटी लाइवेंस की गई है और उन की जो मांग है तथा पैदावार और आयात, इनमें जो संतुलन रखना चाहिये वह रखने में आप की योजना पूर्णतया श्रमफल हो गयी है। मैं बतलाना चाहता हूं कि पिछली बार जब आप से सवाल किया गया था कि सुपरफाइन और फाइन कपड़े का दाम कितना बढ़ा है तब आप ने कहा था कि चाँकि यह नियन्त्रण कक्षा के बाहर है इस लिये इस के प्रांकड़े में नहीं रखता। क्या सरकार को पता है कि मिल वालों के जरिये यह मांग की गई है कि दाम नियन्त्रण को एतदम समाप्त किया जाये। साथ ही साथ किसानों को जो दाम मिलता है रुई का उसको घटाने की सजिब भी की जा रही है। मिल वाले अपना दाम बढ़ाना चाहते हैं और किसानों का घटाना चाहते हैं। इस लिये मैं जानना चाहता हूं कि इस वक्त जो मिलों के बन्द होने की समस्या आई है उसका स्थायी हल निकालने के लिए और उपभोक्ता और किसानों के हितों की रक्षा करने के लिए सरकार क्या ठोस कार्रवाई कर रही है।

**श्री मनुभाई शाह :** मैं ने अपने स्टेटमेंट में बतलाया कि हम इस क्रम में पहले 62 लाख गांटों की आशा करते थे, उस के बाद उसे घटा कर 60 लाख किया गया और उसके बाद फिर 55 लाख कर दिया गया। स्पिंडल कैपैसिटी जो दी जाती है वह हमारे सारे काटन के इन्डिजन्स प्रोडक्शन और और इम्पोर्ट पर रिलाई कर के दी जाती है। इस लिए यह कहना गलत है कि हमारी प्लानिंग के अन्दर कोई कमजोरी है। दूसरा सवाल प्रोप्रर्स के बारे में था। मैं ने साफ बतलाया कि प्रोप्रर्स का पूरा खयाल रक्खा जायेगा। किसी भी काटन प्रोप्रर्स को

[श्री मनुभाई शाह]

एप्रोप्रिएट सीलिंग प्राइस से नीचे दाम नहीं दिया जायेगा, मिलें चाहें या न चाहें। हर तरह से प्रोत्तर का रक्षण किया जाता है। लेकिन यह प्रोत्तर का फर्ज भी हो जाता है कि वह अपने पैरों पर खड़े हों क्योंकि इसी लिए उन को रक्षण दिया जाता है।

डा० राम मनोहर लोहिया (फर्रुखाबाद): मंत्री जी के बयान में बारिश फेल हो गई यह शब्द कई बार आये हैं। मैं सब से पहले इस के लिए अपना विरोध बतलाना चाहता हूँ कि जब सरकार फेल हो जाती है जमीन के नीचे का पानी इस्तेमाल करने में तब वह अपनी जिम्मेदारी हमेशा बारिश के ऊपर डाल देती है। ऐसा कुछ इन्तजाम होना चाहिए जिस से मंत्री लोग अपनी जिम्मेदारी से भाग न जायें और बारिश के ऊपर उसे टाल न सकें। मेरा सवाल जहां सूती मिलों के सम्बन्ध में कच्चे माल और रूई को ले कर है वहां पुरानी मशीनों और दूसरे साधनों को ले कर के भी है, कि भारत की सूती मिलें ठीक तरह से चल नहीं रही हैं। सरकार बार-बार उन को कर्जा भी देती है। तो क्या सरकार ने कोई ऐसी व्यापक योजना बनाई है जिस से उन मिलों को ठीक तरह से चलाने के लिए, हिन्दुस्तान के अन्दर कपड़े की खपत को बढ़ाने के लिए और विदेशी व्यापार को बढ़िया बनाने के लिए कुछ ज्यादा व्यापक तरीके से मिलों को सुधारा जाये फिर कोई रकम दे। मैं यह भी जानना चाहता हूँ कि अब तक कितना पैसा दिया गया है कर्ज के रूप में और कितना रुपया और देना पड़ेगा उन को प्राधुनिक बनाने के लिए जिस में हमारे यहां की खराब मशीनें सब ठीक हो जायें।

श्री मनुभाई शाह: पहली बात तो यह है कि कोई जिम्मेदारी सरकार रेन्स के लिए पर नहीं डालना चाहती है। लेकिन हकीकत वो माननीय सदस्य को सामने रखनी ही पड़ेगी। हमने जितना क्राप वा एस्टिमेट लगाया था

उस के लिए जून से पहले रेन्स नहीं आये, यह सारा देश जानता है। इस की वजह से क्राप घटी और हमको अपने एस्टिमेट को दुबारा देखने की जरूरत पड़ी।

जहां तक मिलों के चलने का सवाल है, मैं माननीय सदस्य को आश्वासन देना चाहता हूँ कि सारी तहकीकात हमारे पास मौजूद है कि कौन सी मिल कौसी है। आज करीब 80 या 100 मिलें हैं जिन में ठीक से काम नहीं हो रहा है। आज हिन्दुस्तान मिलों के हिसाब से दुनिया का सब से बड़ा देश है जहां पर 600 के करीब मिलें हैं। उनमें से कुछ कमजोर होंगी, कुछ लेटेस्ट होंगी। हम तरह की पंचरंगी स्थिति इस इंडस्ट्री में हुए बगैर काम नहीं चल सकता है। हम ने अब तक रिनोवेशन के लिए कुल 40 या 45 करोड़ रुपया कर्ज के रूप में दिया है। पूरे रिनोवेशन के लिए जो हमारा एस्टिमेट है वह हमारी कंपसिटि के बाहर है। इस के लिए कोई 4 या साढ़े 4 अरब रुपया चाहिये। हिन्दुस्तान की मौजूदा एकानामी में इस को पूरा नहीं किया जा सकता कि सारी इंडस्ट्री को एक दम से माडर्नाइज कर दिया जाये। इस लिए आहिस्ता-आहिस्ता हर पांच साल में काफी मिलों को माडर्नाइज किया जा रहा है।

डा० राम मनोहर लोहिया: अब तक कुल कितना दिया है सरकार ने।

श्री मनुभाई शाह: कोई 40 या 45 करोड़ रुपया।

डा० राम मनोहर लोहिया: और कुल साढ़े 400 करोड़ रु० चाहिये।

श्री मनुभाई शाह: जी हां।

Shri S. M. Banerjee: From the statement it appears that some mill-owners have already started closure or partial closure on the ground that cotton was not available to them. In

Kanpur some of the mills have already notified that there will be a partial closure. So, I want to know whether there is any proposal by the Government to convene a meeting of the workers' representatives, the employers and the growers, a tripartite meeting as such, to discuss this entire issue. If so, may I know whether instructions have been issued to all mill-owners not to close down wholly or partially these mills in the larger interest of the country and the workers?

**Shri Manubhai Shah:** Firstly, as the hon. Member is aware, the recommendation of the ICMF is only from 19th December. Therefore, it does not arise at the moment.

Secondly, all the labour representatives, millowners, cotton growers and traders have been invited and the hon. Member is one of them. The invitation will be reaching him this evening or must have reached him already. I can assure this House that in terms of the statement that I have laid, we are trying to have the closure of as few mills as possible.

**Shri S. M. Banerjee:** He has said that the matter will be discussed. I will be very happy to discuss it. Instructions should be issued not to lay off any mill.

**Shri Manubhai Shah:** Whatever is possible under law will be done. Every effort is being made to see that nothing closes.

**Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha (Barh):** May I know whether it is a fact that this problem was going on for some months and the Minister was aware of it. If he was aware that the situation was getting from bad to worse, why did he allow the situation to precipitate to this point before he has announced all these measures?

**Shri Manubhai Shah:** As I said, continuous measures have been taken.

But where nature goes against us and imports cannot be afforded because of shortage of foreign exchange, naturally the results of all the problems must come before us and we are trying to solve them.

**Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha:** By what measures?

**Shri Manubhai Shah:** The measures have been given elaborately. There are seven pages.

**Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha:** Is it due to nature? This problem of want of cotton was before the Government for the last more than six months. At that time, coming of rains or the prospect of rains did not arise at all. I want to ask whether this rain business has come right now. I want to know why it was being precipitated for the past some months and why is the Minister giving this answer that all this is because of nature. There is something basically very defective with cotton textile policy itself.

**Shri Manubhai Shah:** The question of cotton never came up before six months. It came only on 29th September for the information of the hon. Lady Member.

**Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha:** Let me inform the hon. Minister...

**Mr. Speaker:** Now the hon. Lady Member shall resume her seat.

**Shri Manubhai Shah:** I will not accept a wrong statement. The previous closures of a few ... (Interruptions).

**Shrimati Vimla Devi (Eluru):** Why should you say hon. Lady Member? You may say hon. Member. (Interruptions).

**An hon. Member:** Ladies are always honourable.

**Mr. Speaker:** No discrimination might be made.

**Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath** (Hoshan-gabad): A member is a member even if he is a lady. That is what Mr. Mavlankar ruled.

**Mr. Speaker:** Mr. Alvares,

**Shri Alvares** (Panjim): It appears from the threat of the Indian Cotton Mills Federation . . .

**Shri Manubhai Shah:** I have not yet replied to the hon. Member. I would like to answer her.

The problem was that the question of cotton as a factor of closure never came up before 29th September, after the failure of monsoon was noticed. The previous closure of a few mills were really due to uneconomic old machinery and old mills which have been with us for the last 30 or 40 years. For that, correctives of modernisation and giving of new licences have been placed before the House and are being implemented for the past so many years.

**Shri Alvares:** All members are hon. members and the repetition of the word 'honourable' is rather redundant.

May I know whether the threat of the Indian Cotton Mills Federation . . .

**Mr. Speaker:** Lady is redundant, 'honourable' is redundant. Then what is left behind?

**Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath:** Only member stands.

**Shri Alvares:** It appears from the statement of the Indian Cotton Mills Federation that the reasons for a closure for fourteen days corresponded with the short supply of cotton. Now, it appears from the statement of the hon. Minister that it is not so. May I know whether the threat of closure was a manoeuvre to ease the controls on cotton and also to buy cotton below the ceiling price from the producers?

**Shri Manubhai Shah:** May I submit that I did not say that there was

a recommendation that the closure was not connected with cotton scarcity?

**Shri Alvares:** He said that it was alarming.

**Shri Manubhai Shah:** It is not as alarming as they think. We do not believe that closure for fifteen days is called for. But it is true that the difficulties of the mills are genuine. I do not want to under-estimate or under-rate their difficulty. We have got to meet the situation squarely by co-operation, and that is why a meeting of the different interests has been called for. Therefore, I would not subscribe to the view that this particular proposal with which we are in complete disagreement has anything to do with either reduction of the prices or removal of the controls. I have totally repudiated that. Nor are we going to remove the ceiling price of the controls on the mass consumption cloth.

**श्री यशपाल सिंह :** (कैराना) मंत्री महोदय के वक्तव्य से पता चलता है कि सिर्फ पांच लाख गांठों की कमी है। यह कमी ऐसी नहीं है जो कि सरकार पूरी न कर सके। यह जो साजिश की गई है इस तरह से मिलों को बन्द करने का क्या यह इस बात का प्रामाण नहीं है कि मिल मालिक कपड़े की कमी बढ़ाना चाहते हैं और किमानों के ऊपर प्रोक्वोरमेंट जबर्दस्ती लादना चाहते हैं ?

**श्री मन्भाई शाह :** कहां से लाद रहे है? पांच लाख गांठों की कमी कोई एक महीने की खराक होगी। इसलिए हमें सिंपैकी से इस चीज को देखना चाहिए, हमदर्दी से सोचना चाहिये और सब की कोप्रोपरेसन ले कर आगे बढ़ना चाहिये।

**श्री विश्वनाथ पाण्डेय** (गलेमपुर): यह स्पष्ट नजर आ रहा है कि परिस्थिति बहुत ही गम्भीर होने वाली है। देश के अन्दर करीब छः सौ सूती मिलें हैं और उन मिलों में सात लाख के करीब मजदूर काम



करते हैं। यदि ये मिलें बन्द हो जाएं तो उत्पादन में कितनी कमी आएगी और कितने रुपये का नुकसान होगा ?

**श्री मनुभाई शाह :** बन्द न हों इसके लिए हम कोशिश कर रहे हैं, कट जितना कम से कम हो सकता है हो, इसकी हम कोशिश कर रहे हैं। इसका असर क्या होगा इसके बारे में मैं पहले से ही कैसे पता बता सकता हूँ ।

**Shrimati Renu Chakravartty (Barackpore):** Are Government aware that the closure of mills even in a State like West Bengal where we do not have a very large number of mills has been going on for quite some time and that even recently there was going to be a big closure? May I know whether this pressure which is being brought, and which Government say now that they are not going to accept, for the closure of the mills, will now be stalled by the decision which has now also been proposed by the committee of the Indian Cotton Mills Federation that from January, 3.6 per cent of the installed spindless in the mills will be sealed? That will be the second line of attack which they will take. May I know whether Government will give us a categorical answer that such a thing will also not be permitted?

**Shri Manubhai Shah:** The point is that these are all different suggestions. As I have said in my answer, our basic policy is that so long as we can meet the supplies of cotton, (because this is the basic point), as long as we are assured that the cotton is there, we shall try to avoid any cut or closure. Beyond that, before assessing the whole situation, it is difficult to say; as regards how much it is possible to get by way of imports, today in the present foreign exchange situation, I cannot prevail upon the Finance Minister to allow unlimited imports. So, in the light of the total availability, I can assure the House that minimum stoppage of minimum units and of the

minimum spindles will be attempted for the minimum period.

**श्री हुकम चन्द कछवाय (देवास) :** क्या सरकार ने इस बात की खोज की है कि ऐसी बहुत सी मिलें हैं जो सांघे रुई काश्तकारों से अपने कमिशन एजेंट्स के जरिये खरीदती हैं। और उन के पास स्टॉक है ? यदि की है, तो मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि कितनी मिलें हैं जिन के पास स्टॉक है ?

आप ने कहा है कि पांच लाख गाठों की कमी है। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या आपको पहले से पता नहीं था कि संकट आने वाला है और अगर था तो इन कमी को पूरा करने के लिए विदेशों से भी आपने बातचीत की है ? और यदि की है तो किन किन देशों से की है ? क्या यह भी सही नहीं है कि मिल मालिक अपने कपड़े के दाम बढ़ाने के लिए यह सारी साजिश कर रहे हैं, स्टॉक होने पर भी मिलों को बन्द करने जा रहे हैं ?

**श्री मनुभाई शाह :** मैंने बताया है कि 3 लाख 75 हजार तो पी० एल० 480 के अन्तर्गत आ रही हैं, पांच लाख गलायन की आ रही हैं और पचास हजार गाठें वार्टर की आ रही हैं। और भी फारेन एक्मबेज मिलेगा तो कोशिश करेंगे ।

**श्री हुकम चन्द कछवाय :** मैंने यह भी पूछा था कि मिलों का सांघा सम्बन्ध है और उन के पास स्टॉक है। क्या सरकार ने खोज की है कि कितनी मिलों के पास स्टॉक काफी है ?

**श्री मनुभाई शाह :** किसी के पास स्टॉक इतना ज्यादा नहीं है ।

**श्री बड़े (खारगोन) :** मध्य प्रदेश में इंदौर ऐसा सेंटर है जहां काटन मिलें सब से अधिक है। वहां कपास पैदा होती है। उसको बाहर भेजने पर सरकार ने प्रतिबन्ध लगा दिया है। इसका बहां के प्रोद्योगिक पर

[श्री बड़े]

जो कपास पैदा करते हैं, बुरा घमस पड़ा है। कपास इस बार वहाँ बहुत कम पैदा हुई है जिसके कारण से इन्दौर में एक मिल बन्द हो गई है। मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि याज इन्दौर में कितना स्टॉक है और वहाँ की नौ मिलों को काटन सप्लाय करने के लिए शासन ने क्या प्रबन्ध किया है।

श्री मनुभाई शाह : मैं ने सब एरियाज के बारे में भी बताया है। सोभाय से इन्दौर में काटन की कमी की वजह से कोई मिल बन्द नहीं है। राजनन्दगांव में जो मिल बन्द हो गई थी, वह फिरोजपुर रोजर की वजह से बन्द हुई थी।

श्री हुकम चन्द कल्लाय : भोपाल में भी एक मिल बन्द है।

श्री मनुभाई शाह : वह दूसरी बात है।

श्री बड़े : मंत्री महोदय ने कहा है कि तीन मिलें बन्द हो गई हैं, जिन में से एक एम० पी० की है।

श्री मनुभाई शाह : जब राजनन्दगांव की मिल को काटन सप्लाय किया गया, तो पता चला कि वह फिरोजपुर का मगड़ा है। कंट्रोलिंग ने उस के बारे में बातचीत कर ली है, और वह शासक भालू भी हो गई है।

Shri D. C. Sharma (Gurdaspur): The hon. Minister was very kind to say that it was not an alarming picture. I agree with him. But surely it is a very frightful picture. First, there is the food scarcity and the invasion of PL-480; now there is cotton scarcity and the invasion of PL-480 and other things. May I know from the hon. Minister what he is going to do to stop hoarding, black-marketing and profiteering and anti-social activities which are always the concomitant of scarcity in any field, and whether he is going to evolve some new machinery or whether he is going to leave it to the tender mercies of the machinery that we have now?

What is he going to do to check all these evils?

Shri Manubhai Shah: It is a very relevant question to which I have given an elaborate answer. Firstly, it is our intention continuously to grow more and more cotton. It is known to the House that during the last fifteen years considerable progress has been made in the field of cotton production; from 22 lakhs bales or so at the time of Partition, the current crop is 60 lakhs bales and we must thank our growers for that progress that they have made. But the demand for cotton . . .

Shri Sonavane (Pandharpur): The cotton grown in the Ahmedabad area has continuously gone down. What are the reasons for that?

Shri Joachim Alva (Kanara): The hon. Minister had himself admitted some time back that there had been a fall in production.

Shri Manubhai Shah: There has been no fall in production of cotton. On the contrary, it has been continuously rising but it has not matched up to the total requirements which are expanding continuously both for internal consumption and for export.

The hon. Member has asked what machinery we have when we are faced with scarcity. I have suggested the machinery that we shall requisite at the proper ceiling prices, keeping the interests of the growers in mind on the one hand and of the mills on the other.

Shri D. C. Sharma: How will he check the anti-social activities? They are bound to grow as a result of the scarcity.

Shri Manubhai Shah: That is what I have mentioned in my statement.

Shri Kaper Singh (Ludhiana): Before I put my question, I might be permitted to make a submission re-

questing you to make some observation on the practice of the Government, not infrequently indulged in, of either stalling or making infructuous matters which they think are likely to come up on the floor of this House, as has happened in this case.

**Mr. Speaker:** Now, he might put his question.

**Shri Kapur Singh:** In the context of the fact that the prices of cotton which are ruling are above the ceiling prices from 15 to 50 per cent, may I know whether Government are aware that while in the private sector the ceiling prices have been strictly enforced, in the public sector a blind eye has been turned for purchasing cotton at prices above the ceiling prices and if so, why this has been done?

**Shri Manubhai Shah:** No, I completely disagree with the hon. Member. No cotton mill in the public sector has purchased any cotton at prices higher than the ceiling, because they cannot do so.

**Shri Kapur Singh:** My question has not been understood. My question is why in the case of the private sector, the private cotton mills have been strictly forbidden to buy cotton at prices above the ceiling prices and if they try to do so the law is enforced, but this is not done in the case of the public sector mills and why this distinction and discrimination is made.

**Shri Manubhai Shah:** It is not a fact; if he can prove any instance of any public sector mill run by an authorised controller, which has paid prices above the ceiling, I am prepared to take action against him.

**Mr. Speaker:** Shri Hem Barua:

**Shri Shivaji Rao S. Deshmukh (Parbhani):** The question and the answer are vague on this issue as to what constitutes ceiling, because in the vocabulary of the hon. Minister...

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, order. He might resume his seat.

**Shri Hem Barua (Gauhati):** In his statement, the hon. Minister has said that there is a shortfall in cotton because of drought conditions in certain parts of the country. In view of fact that there are no drought conditions in any of the cotton growing areas—neither in U.P. nor in Bihar where drought conditions are rampant in cotton grown—are Government aware of a conspiracy launched by the Indian Cotton Mills Federation (a) to reap a huge advantage for themselves, and (b) to put the country in a disadvantageous position?

**Shri Manubhai Shah:** I have completely answered that there is no conspiracy in this matter. The rains also failed in Gujarat and the crop went down by 3 lakh bales; the rains did not fall in Maharashtra and the crop decreased by 4 lakh bales. Rains fell in Punjab and we got an extra one lakh bales. Overall, the country is today facing a shortage due to failure of rainfall of about 7 lakh bales.

**Shri Indrajit Gupta (Calcutta—South-West):** In conditions of cotton scarcity such as the Minister has described, it would be natural for some large units which may have built up relatively larger stocks beforehand not to reveal the full extent of the stocks because Government are now thinking in terms of equitable rationing of the available stocks. Have Government got any independent machinery of their own to actually physically verify the cotton stocks and not depend only on returns which the mills themselves supply?

**Shri Manubhai Shah:** We have sent our own inspectors in the last 14 months to almost 600 warehouses. Cotton is not a thing which can be hidden under a bushel. The shortage is of a very great nature, of 4–6 lakh bales, not a few hundred bales here or there. Therefore, I can assure the hon. Member that no mill which has excessive stock can keep it away from Government.