

At Home and Abroad**Mill Dhoti Output Restricted**

THE Government of India have decided to restrict production of dhoties by mills to 60 per cent of their average monthly production for 1951-52. They will watch the result of this restriction with regard to:

- (a) the availability of dhoties at reasonable prices to the consumer;
- (b) the facility with which the mill industry can adjust their pattern of production since it is necessary to ensure that neither the level of employment nor the total production and availability of cloth is greatly affected; and
- (c) the capacity of the handloom industry to supply the deficiency created by this limitation on mill production.

This restriction will come into force with effect from December 1, 1952. Where mills, however, have to make adjustments in their equipment to enable them to carry out these orders, they will be given time to make the necessary readjustment up till January 1, 1953 by the Textile Commissioner in the case of mills which apply to him for such facilities.

Sarees with dyed vain in their bodies and dhoties with a border exceeding ¼" are already reserved for handlooms. With effect from November 1, 1952 mills have been prohibited also from dyeing sarees.

Export of Mercury

Traders who are in a position to book export of mercury- but are not holding stocks can also apply for export licences upto December 2, according to a Commerce and Industry Ministry Notification. They will have to show evidence of firm sale contracts and art: advised not to enter into contracts for larger quantities than 100 flasks (of 75 lbs each).

According to the notice issued by the Joint Chief Controller of Imports and Exports, Calcutta, on October 10, which specified an export quota of 10,000 flasks, only traders in a tual possession of stocks were entitled to apply for export licences. The present amendment is in response to representations made by trade that there were persons who could make export business but had no stocks on hand. Evidence of irrevocable teters of credit opened by intending buyers

overseas will have to be submitted. The earlier notice had not-required this condition of stock-holders applying for export licence. The export quota remains unchanged. Export licences have already been issued, it is estimated, for about 5,000 flasks.

Mercury imports shot up when mercury was put on the Open General Licence in August 1950. Imports in 1950-51 amounted to 2,824,988 lbs compared to 134488 lbs in 1949-50 and estimated domestic annual requirement not exceeding 4,000 flasks or 300,000 lbs. Though imports fell off later, there is a huge surplus of stocks.

Prices paid for mercury imported in 1950-51 were between £17 and £24 per flask. Export quotations by Spanish producers are around £70 per flask c.i.f. The latest quotation in Bombay is around Rs 500 per flask. There is an export duty of Rs 300 per flask which was levied when the export quota was announced last month. The House of the People approved of this duty last week.

Gold Smuggling into India

Replying to a question in the House of the People Shti Mahavir Tyagi gave out the number of Indians and foreign nationals convicted for smuggling gold into India during the years 1950, 1951 and 1952 (up to October) which is as follows;

| | Indians | Foreigners |
|------|---------|------------|
| 1950 | 7 | 52 |
| 1951 | 57 | 81 |
| 1952 | 13 | 15 |

Gold was smuggled into India during this period, he added, principally from the Persian Guh area, the French and Portuguese possessions in India, the Far East, East Africa and certain Mediterranean countries. The Minister, however, did not disclose the volume of gold smuggled into India during these years.

Land Reclamation

A total area of 7,20,870 acres has so far been reclaimed by the Central Praetor Organisation in Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Madhya Bharat, Bhopal and Punjab, Dr Punjabrao S. Deshmukh stated in a written reply to a question in the Council of States. It is proposed to reclaim an additional area of approximately 9.80,000 acres by the end of the

1955-56 reclamation season in all of these States except Punjab.

In the kans-infested areas, the land reclaimed is mostly owned by private cultivators who, for the most part, cultivate with bullocks and indigenous implements. In some cases mechanical means are also employed. In the Tarai in Uttar Pradesh, where the Central Tractor Organisation has been doing jungle clearance work, a part of the reclaimed land has been allotted to displaced persons and ex-servicemen settled in co-operative colonies. In the rest of the Tarai, State farms have been established which are partially mechanised.

Other things being equal, an additional production of about one-third of a ton can be assumed per acre in respect of newly reclaimed land. Roughly 40 per cent of the land reclaimed by the Central Tractor Organisation is new land.

ILO Experts for Productivity Study

The Government of India have entered into an agreement with the ILO for obtaining the services of a team of experts on productivity studies and systems of payment by results, the Hon'ble Minister for Labour¹ stated in the House of the People.

They will not have to pay for these experts and will be responsible only for the cost of their accommodation, travelling and office assistance. The cost of expert assistance is not expected to exceed Rs 38,000 for a period of 11 months.

The Government have a scheme for the introduction and improvement of systems of payment by results with a view to increasing productivity, for which they will give assistance as also for the application of modern methods of work, study and organisation in a limited number of cases where it is not desired to apply payment by results.

The scheme will be confined to the textile industry in the Bombay State and the engineering industry in Calcutta.

East Bengal Refugees

A small fact-finding body is to be set up to make a survey of the conditions in relief camps and rehabilitation colonies, particularly in relation to housing, gainful employment, vocational and technical training and various other rehabilitation measures undertaken by Government.

This body will submit its report to a committee consisting of the Central Ministers for Finance and

Rehabilitation and the Chief Minister of West Bengal.

The Committee will make an appraisal of the actual extent of the rehabilitation achieved in West Bengal and will suggest improvements. The Committee will also consider the effects of the passport system of migration from East Bengal and its possible future trend. On this basis the Committee will make its recommendations on the broad lines of future relief and rehabilitation schemes, the scales of financial assistance to be given to displaced persons, and the possibilities of their rehabilitation in States other than West Bengal.

The Committee will submit its report to the Cabinet by the end of February next.

Value of Standard Acre

The Government of India has appointed a committee with Sardar Tarlok Singh as Chairman to consider the valuation of a standard acre for payment of compensation to agricultural displaced persons from West Pakistan.

The idea of standard acre was evolved during the course of quasi-permanent settlement in Punjab and PEPSU to provide a common measure for different types of land with varying earning capacity. The claims of land owners from West Pakistan not covered by the Quasi-Permanent Allotment Scheme are also being assessed on the basis of the same standard acre.

The Committee will recommend:

- (i) the value of a standard acre in terms of cash; and
- (ii) the net cash profits derivable from one standard acre.

The Committee will also recommend where local modifications should be adopted for different localities, and the nature and extent of such modifications.

This Committee is necessary as some displaced persons may have to be compensated in cash or bonds.

Mechanical Aids to P & T Offices

The following mechanical instruments or devices are in use in post and telegraph offices, Shri Raj Bahadur, Deputy Minister of Communications, stated in the House, of the People.

One post card vending machine is being tried out in Chandni Chowk Post Office, Delhi.

179 stamp cancelling machines have been supplied of which 132 are in good working condition.

No mechanical devices such as conveyor belts are at present in use in the post office for collection of mails.

The Department does not own any mechanised transport in rural areas—mails are sent through passenger buses on payment.

The following machines are in use in telegraph offices and combined offices. They are all in good working order.

| | |
|-------------------------|----|
| National Cash Registers | 30 |
| Adrema Machines | 28 |
| Addressograph Machines | 14 |

The capital invested in these mechanical instruments, he added, was over Rs 4 lakhs.

Decline in Lac Production

According to the preliminary estimate of the Indian Lac Cess Committee, the *katki* lac crop for 1952 is expected to be 1,39,000 maunds as against a normal crop of 2,98,000 maunds. The estimate for the crop for 1951 was 2,42,000 maunds.

The poor crop, according to the Committee, may be due, except in West Bengal, to most of the lac being harvested during the last *baisakht* season by cultivators leaving very little brood for the present crop. Also, the severe summer in Madhya Pradesh resulted in high mortality of lac insects.

Kenaf in New Guinea

A new type of wool, made from kenaf, now grown on an experimental basis in New Guinea, is displayed by a firm, Goldsborough, in Sydney. Some of the wool brokers claim it to be of better quality than jute because it contains fewer of the loose fibres which cause trouble in the manufacture of jute fibre.

About 150 acres are planted this year with kenaf in New Guinea and many more acres could be put under this fibre if Australia could

treat it for manufacture. The Australian Minister for Territories has promised Federal Government assistance for the development of kenaf industry.

Australia can find Coal for Pakistan

If Pakistan agrees to take Balir Athol coal from Queensland, an arrangement could be made to provide the very substantial amounts of capital necessary to develop this coal field, the National Development Minister has told the Australian Senate. Previous attempts to develop this field had failed because of lack of an assured market. Pakistan's minimum requirements of coal are estimated at 2½ million tons, the bulk of which she is now trying to get from Europe, USA and South Africa, following irregular supply from India.

Australian reserves of coal are believed to be adequate to develop a considerable export trade when they are fully exploited. The Latrobe Valley in Victoria State has proven 18,000 million tons of brown coal including 8,000 million tons that can be worked by opencast methods, according to the Chairman of the State Electricity Commission's planning group. The coal area covers about 300 square miles. The Yallourn opencast mine now producing 6.25 million tons a year can ultimately reach a production of 11 million tons.

Coke Oven Plant for Sindri

A contract has been signed with a German firm for constructing a coke oven plant near Sindri, with a capacity of 100 tons a day, at an estimated cost of Rs 235 lakhs, the Minister of Production stated in reply to a question in the House of the People.

The plant is expected to be set up in 22 months.

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