

THIRD PLAN TARGETS
FOR
HANDLOOMS, POWERLOOMS AND MILLS



E INDIAN COTTON MILLS' FEDERATION
BOMBAY I.

FOREWORD

In the course of the last 4 or 5 years, continuous attention has been given to the problem of prices and supplies of cotton textiles. It is unfortunate, however, that the remedies that have been applied from time to time have been mere palliatives, directed as they were towards either inhibiting the demand or somehow maintaining prices in check. It is high time that energies were directed towards increasing the supply of cloth to match the demand, rather than the other way about. With the rise in population and in per capita income expected in the course of the Third Five Year Plan, the demand will go up at a faster pace and unless very serious attention is given to the matter of increasing production, the country may witness in the coming years, a deterioration in the cloth supply position to an extent not experienced before.

The Planning Commission has tentatively allocated to the handlooms, powerlooms and mills, certain targets of production based on official figures of their current production. The Federation had its doubts about the accuracy of the method employed by official agencies to estimate the production of handlooms and powerlooms, and now that this matter has become the subject of controversy through certain articles which appeared in the newspapers, the Federation has decided to publish the results of its own studies in the matter. An effort has been made in this memorandum to analyse the contribution to the supply position and to the Plan resources made by various sectors within the cotton textile industry—as well as their potentialities, so that all those interested in the subject should have at their disposal, the available data on the subject.

It is not the object of this memorandum to plead for a bigger target for the cotton mill industry which would be fully satisfied with any target that may ultimately be assigned to it. The mill industry would, however, like to be assured that so long as its production is in line with its targets, it will be allowed to work in peace and not subjected to irksome controls at every stage. The mill industry submits that it should not be charged of profiteering and made the scapegoat for any shortfall in supplies due to the inability of other sectors to reach such targets as may be assigned to them.

Finally, the Federation would like to caution against repetition of the events of the Second Plan, when the powerloom industry was allowed to deprive the handloom industry of its share in the production of decentralised sectors, resulting in serious loss both of revenue and of socio-economic objectives!

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