

## Export of Cotton Textiles

PLEASE refer to the article under the title "Cotton. Piece-goods Boom Exports Decline" by Shri Angad Singh Bisen in your issue of June 2, wherein the author has given certain export statistics of Cotton Textiles from India for the years 1954, 1955, 1956 for the period January to June. The figures given by the author do not seem to be correct. They cannot relate to January-June because the June figure, would not be available before the end of June. Naturally, the figures must refer to some other period; it appears they refer to "January-April, 1950.

Will you please clarify to which period these statistics refer as also the source from which they have been taken?

B K Bhaumik  
Statistical Officer,  
The Cotton Textiles Export  
Promotion Council,

Cecil Court,  
Apollo Bunder,  
Bombay 1  
5th June, 1956.

(The author of the above had also drawn our attention to the heading of the table which had been wrongly printed. The statistics are for the months January to April, not January to June. The error is regretted and we are thankful to the Statistical Officer of the Cotton Textile Export Promotion Council for kindly drawing our attention to it.

The figures in the table are those of cloth passed for shipment through the Port of Bombay and were collected from trade sources, Ed.]

## Gas from Cowdung

I NOTICED an Item in one of your Weekly Notes in the issue of June 2 on the subject of utilisation of cow dung. Perhaps you are aware that the Ramkrishna Mission at Belur and Shri Satish Chandra Das Gupta at Sodepore made extensive experiments on cow dung gas as domestic fuel.

While I was in the Community Development Project, we installed quite a number of plants in various places. The pity of these machines is that cow dung is a very messy thing and the machines, especially the pipes and channels, need continuous cleaning.

Moreover, plants of this nature need an initial capital outlay in the shape of drums, containers, pipes, gas burners etc., which an ordinary home cannot afford. Actually it is this question of the initial outlay for this equipment, estimated at something like Rs 35 to Rs 40, which stands in the way of the acceptance of the excellent scheme,

One other trouble was the difficulty of maintaining pressure of the gas. The flow of the gas becomes very temperamental, owing to the unevenness of the pressure maintained at the top of the storage drum by improvised weights. We set up one cow dung plant for a small hostel. The gas pressure was so low that food would not cook within the appointed hour. These were of course, remediable defects.

But I am appalled at the statistics that you have given of the actual figure of cow dung used, I would never have thought of that.

Asok Mitral  
Dept of Commerce & Industry,  
Government, of West Bengal,  
Calcutta.  
June 21, 1956.

## Uncivic Calcutta

ELIEBERTIGIBET has every right to feel and think whatever he chooses to feel and think about any country or nation under the sun, and he may also have the rudeness to write it out, but you is an Editor may find it difficult to explain why you had to publish it, I mean the Calcutta Diary in your issue of June 2. His dissertation on Calcutta and its citizens, with conclusions about the characteristics of Bengal as a whole, is a personal affair based on what he sees through his jaundiced eyes. It is hardly necessary to refute it, but since you allowed it to be published, one or two glaring misstatements of facts may be pointed out.

The City of Calcutta shelters too many people for its too few trams and buses to cope with. Roads within the city hardly allow many more vehicles for public conveyances. The number of people dependent on this city for livelihood is beyond the capacity of the Census to enumerate. Most of the offices, business and Government are in and around Dalhousie Square. The only surprise is the low rate of accidents, in spite of the most 'uncivic'—rush of people in and around the city. But

the 'uncivic' rush is a matter of course, about which one can write loftily, but for which one can hardly suggest any remedy. The low rate of accidents is a pointer that though 'uncivic', people of culture are practical; they go and they let go.

In the history of the recent growth and development of this city there is a period which can never be fully recorded, This is the period of war, famine, riots of 1946, and the partition of the country. These waves, one after another, made this city a bit, shaky. The psychological and the physical impact of the How of displaced persons from the East on this city is still with us and the city of Calcutta is even now absorbing the shock. It has been able to absorb the shock because of the lessons it learnt in the past. The lessons it learnt taught Calcutta to do without the finer civic virtues and do only what is practicable for its very existence.

Flibbertigibet has yet to learn his lessons about Calcutta. Innocence by dissociation is a fine theme for teachers of morality to dilate upon in the class room, but in applying it so erroneously, he cannot even ask for our thanks.

As to the refugees from the East, Flibbertigibet is requested to remember that when one cannot help it, one must find fault with it. Neither the Centre nor any other State has been very helpful in rehabilitating refugees either within or outside West Bengal. Let me give an example. Saurashtra is the farthest off State from the shores of Bengal and it has only recently offered to rehabilitate some fishermen families from East Pakistan. Representatives of displaced fishermen welcomed the offer, went over to Saurashtra, saw things for themselves, and in spite of obvious difficulties sea fishing is completely different from river fishing and life in East Bengal is in no way similar to that in the desert of Saurashtra), this rehabilitation work is already in progress. It is not possible to discuss in detail this aspect of refugee rehabilitation here. One can only say that Flibbertigibet is not correct in his assessment of the character of refugees from East Pakistan, however convenient and fashionable his assessment may be.

S R

Calcutta  
June 11, 1956,



*The oil business spells progress  
which anyone knows means*

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