

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: First, you take your seat, I am standing. There is no limit, you please sit down. At least they should observe the decorum that they expect from others. (*Interruptions*). Wait for a moment. When I was standing all of you were standing. When the Leader was speaking, Shri Suresh Kalmadi got up. He stands up everytime. You do not see it from that aspect. Ask your friends, sitting on that side, to observe decency in the House, not to break the decorum and rules, regulations and conventions. Every time, every moment do not say that thing. You should see that they do not do it everytime.

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: Can two-wrongs together make one right. If one commits a wrong, is it proper on the part of the Leader of the House to say to a Member to go out?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: That is over now. (*Interruptions*). All right.

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: Can the Leader of the House say it?

SHRI K. MOHANAN: This is the limit. Who is he? Who, is in the Chair?

" SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: He is not conducting the House. (*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Do not waste the time of this House.

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: There is some limit. What is this?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: All right, let us go the Calling Attention.

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**CALLING ATTENTION TO A MATTER  
OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE  
REPORTED OF LOCK OUT AND CLO-  
SURE OF A NUMBER OF TEXTILE  
MILLS IN THE COUNTRY**

SHRI T. THANGABALU (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I beg to call the attention of the Minister of Commerce to" the situation arising out of the reported lock-out and closure of a number of textile mills in different parts of the country and the action taken by Government in this regard.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SUPPLY (SHRI NIHAR RANJAN LASKAR): Sir as on 30-6-1984, 62 cotton textile mills were closed in different parts of the country. Out of these 62 mills, 29 are spinning units and 33 are composite mills. In addition, 19 art silk textile mills and 12 woollen textile mills were also lying closed as on 30-6-1984.

These mills are closed due to a variety of reasons such as labour unrest, financial difficulties and obsolescence of plant and machinery. While financial difficulties coupled with disconnections of power supply/liquidation has led to closure of 33 units out of the 62 cotton textile units, management have declared lock out following labour trouble or losses only in respect of eight such units. 23 out of the 62 mills are facing labour problems. Two units of art silk and one woollen unit were closed due to lock out.

Government have taken some fiscal and administrative measures in order to help the textile industry. Some of these measures are detailed below:—

(a) In order to encourage modernisation of the textile industry and up-gradation of the level of technology, custom duties on certain sophisticated items of imported machinery have been reduced.

(b) The soft loan scheme of the IDBI for the modernisation of the textile industry has been further liberalised.

(c) The duty structure on cellulosic yarn has been rationalised.

(d) Import duties on viscoss staple fibre have been reduced.

(e) Excise duty on cotton fabrics of assessable value not exceeding Rs. 5 per square meter and of counts less than 51 counts has been reduced.

(f) The excise duty on certain varieties of polyester-cotton blended

(Shri Nihar Ranjau Laskar;

yarn were substantially reduced. Similarly, the excise duties on polyester-viscose blended yarn have also been reduced.

(g) The duty on polyester-cotton fabrics containing more than 40 per cent but less than 70 per cent polyester have been reduced.

(h) The Reserve Bank of India have recently liberalised the norms for determination of credit requirements.

(i) Excise duty on shoddy blankets and other similar blankets made from shoddy yarn has been reduced.

Government have also constituted a Group of Officers to examine the cases of closed cotton textile mills with a view to exploring the possibility of rehabilitating those mills, which are capable of being revived. The Group consists of Textile Commissioner and representatives of the Department of Banking, State Governments, financial institutions, banks, and Textile Research Associations. On the recommendations of the Group, packages of rehabilitation have been worked out for some of the closed mills in Gujarat. The packages include reliefs from the State and Central Government and concessions from the banks/financial institutions. The Group has held preliminary discussion on the problems of closed mills in the State of Tamil Nadu also. Rehabilitation packages in respect of the closed mills in Tamil Nadu and other parts of the country will be worked out on receipt of recommendations of the Group.

In addition to, the above measures, the Government has constituted a Central Advisory Council on Textile Industry to advise the Government on matters relating to policy and programmes for the orderly growth and development of the textile industry as well as to recommend measures for removing various constraints impeding the growth of this industry. A Standing Committee on Sickness has also been constituted under the Chair-

#### *Importance*

manship of Secretary (Textiles) to go into the various aspects of the major problems confronting the industry with a view to suggesting remedies and measures for its revival.

SHRI T. THANGABALU: Sir, on account of the fast deteriorating conditions, many more mills are likely to close down in the near future. The hon. Minister has stated in his statement that 62 mills are closed in different parts of the country. There are more than 2 lakh workers who are facing the great problem even of survival. Another problem is that in Tamil Nadu out of 24 mills, fourteen are under closure. In the textile industry, the first mill which started in Tamil Nadu was the Binny Mills—the Buckingham and Carnatic Mills—or B&C Mills which is very famous. It is a big textile mill located in the heart of the city—i.e. in North Madras—where majority of the textile workers live. Binny textiles are popular among the people for their quality and reliability. The B&C Mills have national importance, being an important source of supply of clothes to the defence services. It is also one of the major employers in the city. Nearly 8,000 workers and staff are directly employed in the mills and they are now affected.

Now, B&C Mills have unfortunately remained closed for the last six months. As a result, nearly 35,000 men and women are directly affected. They are starving today without any income. These poor workers and their families, without any other source or alternative, are agitating daily and are on hunger strike in the city of Madras. This is creating a big law and order problem in Madras city. Not only that Sir. Though every one of us and Tamil Nadu are for the opening of the mills, irrespective of political or party affiliations. Sometimes regional and parochial parties and opposition parties are taking undue advantage of the situation and instigating workers to go on strike and do other things. That is very unfortunate and that has got to be curbed immediately.

Sir, today all the political parties of Tamil Nadu want this mill to be opened. The Congress (I) and the ruling AI-ADMK party in my State under the leadership of Chief Minister, Mr. M. G. Ramachandran, also requested the honourable Prime Minister and the Central Government to open this mill immediately. During the last session, the Congress (I) Members of Parliament and all other colleagues who are in the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha jointly appealed to the Government to open the mill immediately, but so far no action has been taken from the Government side. It is very unfortunate. In view of the above facts and in the interest and welfare of the working class—for which the Congress (I) party always stood up—on my behalf as a Member of Parliament representing Tamil Nadu—I urge upon the Government of India to immediately nationalise the B & C Mills Madras and take it over subject to the following conditions:—

1. Points agreed with the Union during the last settlement in the year 1981 should be implemented faithfully.

2. The Mills should be modernised to meet the increasing demands, improve productivity and increase total production of the textiles.

3. The management should be completely revamped and all old Members of the Board of Directors should be replaced by dynamic, professionally capable managerial personnel of the participating financial institutions to man the unit efficiently.

Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, I am grateful to you for permitting me to raise this question. Sir, now, not only in Tamil Nadu but all over the country the same problem is existing. So, it is the duty of the Government to come forward and solve this problem. Thank you, Sir.

(Interruptions)

श्री मीर्जा इशार्दबेग ऐयुबबेग (गुजरात) : सर, पूरे कंट्री में जितनी मिलें हैं उनमें से 24 ही गुजरात में हैं। गुजरात को ही अपनी बात कहने के लिए समय मिलना चाहिए।

श्री उपसभापति ठीक है।

श्री मीर्जा इशार्दबेग ऐयुबबेग : मान्यवर, पहले भी आपने आश्वासन दिया है मुझे और कम से कम गुजरात को ही अपनी बात कहने का मौका दीजिए।

श्री उपसभापति : अदर मैम्बर भी गुजरात की बात करेंगे। नहीं करेंगे तो मैं क्या करूँ।

श्री मीर्जा इशार्दबेग ऐयुबबेग : आप मुझे आश्वासन दें गुजरात की बात कहने के लिए।

श्री उपसभापति : मैं सब को मौका देता हूँ। सब करेंगे, नहीं करते हैं तो मैं क्या करूँ।

श्री मीर्जा इशार्दबेग ऐयुबबेग : 52 हजार लोगों की बात कहने के लिए कम से कम हमको थोड़ा सा समय तो दीजिए, मान्यवर। मैं आपसे एम्प्लॉयमेंट चाहूँगा। (व्यवधान)

श्री उपसभापति : ठीक है। अब आप बैठिए।

SHRI S. W. DHABE (Maharashtra): Sir, this is a very serious problem facing our country. Sixty-two mills have been closed and, out of these, 23 mills were closed because they were creating labour problems or due to labour disputes. So, the majority of the mills which are closed in the country are closed due to mismanagement of the mills. It is clear from the statement itself. In the statement the hon. Minister has given some remedies. What are the reasons for this?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The remedy is more important than the

[Mr. Deputy Chairman]

reasons, Mr. Dhabe. If the remedy is good, that will work.

SHRI S. W. DHABE: If you do not know the disease, you cannot have a remedy. The disease is two-fold. Firstly, these managements are diverting the funds and profits of this industry to some other industries. They are not ploughing back the money for modernization of plants. The result has been, the mills have become old and junk. As my learned friend said yesterday the National Textile Corporation is a hospital for the sick units, 125 units and more mills will become sick, the Government will spend money and modernize them. Therefore, it is very essential that the Government revises the national textile policy. The national textile policy was enunciated at the time of the Janata Government by Shri George Fernandes who was the Minister of Industry, that no new composite textile mills will be opened, the only opening will be of the spinning mills. Yesterday also the reply had been given that the National Textile Corporation is only meant for the sick units, no new mills are to be opened. Therefore, may I know from the hon. Minister, in order to solve this problem rationally and scientifically, whether the Government will revise its textile policy and take to modernization, not spending money only on taking over but opening new units in different parts of the country where these textile units are located?

In Maharashtra, which is my State, and in Gujarat, about which my friend is naturally so seriously concerned, major industry is textile. In Vidarbha area we have only one mill at many centres. There is no other industry there and that mill is also closed. I am surprised to find that the Minister in the statement has not given the names of the mills. In reply to Unstarred Question No. 1960 on 3rd August, 1960, the hon. Minister had said, "in the Lok Sabha that out I

of 62 mills there are 20 mills from Gujarat.

AN HON. MEMBER: Twenty-on

SHRI S. W. DHABE: Twenty-oil mills are from Gujarat. And from Maharashtra, we have got six units: Mukesh Textile Mills, Bombay; Braebury Mills Bombay; Kohinoor Mill Bombay; Sreenivas Cotton; Kira Spinning Mill, Thana; and one cooperative spinning mill at Aurangabad. I am surprised to find that the spinning mill at Aurangabad has been closed. What are the reasons for its closure? The Commerce Minister Mr. Singh made a statement here also when the Congress-I AICC was meeting in Bombay that they went for taking over of mills. But still there are six mills closed down in Bombay city itself and taking over orders were issued which have been set aside by the Bombay High Court, do not know what the fate of the workers is. May I know about the fact of the six mills in Maharashtra at Bombay, Thana and Aurangabad? What steps are being taken to take them over and what are the reasons for it? I understand it has been struck down by the High Court. What is the decision of the High Court in this matter and what steps are you going to take?

Sir, in this industry about a lakh and nine thousand workers are affected. Every day we are hearing of the miserable plight of the workers from Gujarat, from Bombay and other places. In some States it is more. According to my information, some managements are doing it with impunity to artificially create sickness and close the mills. Therefore, a new policy has to be laid down by the Government. In this connection, may I know whether they will make it a point to see that if they are running a good, prosperous unit in addition to a sick one that also will be taken over so that they cannot divert funds? My question is whether the Government will revise the policy and see that both sick and prosperous units run by a management are taken over.

SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA got any clear policy of taking these (Gujarat); May I make a submission, mills over and rectifying the defects. Sir?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Not at this stage.

SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: Afterwards?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Let us finish the list first. You know the procedure for a Calling Attention. The Members mentioned in the list will be called first. One person from each party is taken. Please take your seat. f Let me see afterwards.

SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY (Andhra Pradesh): In Andhra Pradesh there is only one mill, the Dewan Bahadur Ramgopal Mills Limited, Ellisguda, Secunderabad. It has been closed because there is an agitation and the workers want that the mill should be reopened. I want to know from the Minister what the reasons are for the closure of that Mill and whether the Government is prepared to take it over, whether it will be nationalised.

Similarly, Sir, there are a number of such mills which have been closed in the country. In response to a question No. 1960 in the Lok Sabha the number of mills which have been closed down have been given State-wise as Bihar 1, Andhra Pradesh 1, Gujarat 21, Haryana.....

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: These things have already been mentioned.

SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY : I would like to know from the Minister, because these mills are sick and closed and a large number of workers, 1,09,000 workers\_ have been affected, whether the Government is prepared to nationalise and take them over so that this trouble should be ended. At the same time I want to know from the Minister whether a new policy is going to be given effect to since he has stated that a group, a committee, has been appointed to go into these problems. But I want to know whether the Government has

श्री चतुरामन मिश्र (बिहार) : उप-सभापति महोदय, यह बहुत ही गंभीर विषय है कि अपने देश का एक सबसे पुराना और सबसे बड़ा उद्योग आज अत्यन्त संकट में पड़ गया है और इतनी मिलें बंद हो गई हैं। अभी तक तो यह होता था कि जब कोई मिल सिक हो जाती थी तो मजदूर आंदोलन के सामने उसकी एक ही दवा होती थी कि सरकार उस को अपने हाथ में ले ले। और अब यह स्थिति हो गयी है कि सरकार ने जिनको अपने हाथ में लिया हुआ है वह भी बीमार पड़ी हुई हैं और वह नहीं खोली जा रही हैं। तो इसका मतलब यह हुआ कि इस देश में न प्राइवेट सेक्टर चल रहा है और न पब्लिक सेक्टर चल रहा है। कोई सेक्टर नहीं चल रहा है। सिर्फ चार सौ बीस सेक्टर चल रहा है। सरकार जो इलाज देती है कि जब मिल सिक हो जाय तो उसकी एक्साइस ड्यूटी माफ कर दो या इंपॉर्ट ड्यूटी माफ कर दो, उसको और ज्यादा क्रेडिट दे दो वगैरह इससे कोई निदान नहीं निकल रहा है। मालिक लोग डाइवर्जन आफ फंड्स करते हैं। एक तो डिप्रिन्सिपल के एमाउन्ट को उचित ढंग से देखना चाहिये कि डिप्रिन्सिपल फंड उचित मात्रा में है या नहीं। डिप्रिन्सिपल फंड पर सरकार का कंट्रोल होना चाहिये। यह नहीं कि बीमार हो जाय तो उसको आप ले लें और उस बीमार बच्चे को लेकर आप घुमा करें। बीमार न हो इसके लिये निरोधक कार्रवाई करें। आज जो कोष का गठन हो रहा है उसको आगे रोकिये और बीमारों के कारण का पता लगाने का प्रयत्न करें। मेरे हिसाब से एंजाइनी वड़े लोगों को पैसे को कर्मा नहीं है और जो इनका सरकार की तरफ से दिया गया है वह ठीक नहीं है। टाटा साहब की बंबई की एक मिल सिक है वह क्यों बीमार पड़ेगी। दिल्ली में बिड़ला टेक्सटाइल मिल क्यों बीमार पड़ेगी।

SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA (Rajasthan); That has not been closed.

श्री उपसभापति : वह जो कह रहे हैं उसका स्पष्टीकरण मंत्री महोदय करेंगे ।

SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: As far as the weaving section is concerned, the matter was referred to a committee of experts. The implementation of third report is awaited. Meanwhile we are paying 5Q per cent wages to the workers. And the spitting section and the process house are still working.

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: I did not say what he is paying and what he is not paying. I simply said that it is closed and it is sick, and that they are not poor men who have no money. (Interruptions).

The Government should reply. Do you think your Ministers are not capable of replying? Once it is so, you disown them. I have nothing to say. I say this is the situation. It is for the Government to reply.

हिसार की मिल डी० सी० एम० की है, कानपुर का जे० के० रेयन मिल जे० के० का है । ये सभी एकाधिकारी कम्पनियाँ हैं जिन्हें पैसे की कमी नहीं है । इसलिये इनको कर-छूट देने से कोई फायदा नहीं है । इसी तरह से जो सरकार ने मिलें ली हैं, एन० टी० सी० की हैं तो सबकी एक ही दवा है कि सबको हम लोग नासिक प्रेस में भेज दें ताकि ये लोग बत्तों से रुपये ले लें और खाते जायें । यह सरकार के पास मैं समझता हूँ कि समस्या का निदान है जिससे यह समस्या हल नहीं हो सकती है ।

जो अच्छी मिलें हैं उनके फाइनेंस का डाइरिजन न हूँ, इससे लिये कानून बना कर ऐसा प्रावधान करें ताकि ये मिलें सिक न हों । दूसरे जैसा मैंने पहले कहा, डेप्रिप्रेशन फंड के बारे में भी आपको विचार करना चाहिये कि वह सफिशियेट है कि नहीं? इसका देखें । जो आप उनका पैसा देते हैं

वह उनके कंट्रोल में नहीं रहना चाहिये, गवर्न-मेंट के कंट्रोल में रहना चाहिये । तीसरी बात यह है कि मार्डर्नाइजेशन के लिये जो रुपया आप देते हैं वह सही काम के लिये खर्च होता है या नहीं ? कल ही मैंने इस सम्बन्ध में एक प्रश्न पूछा था । उसके सम्बन्ध में सरकार ने जवाब दिया कि 1 हजार करोड़ रुपया जो फाइनेंशल इंस्टीट्यूशंस ने आधुनिकीकरण के लिये दिया है वह खर्च हुआ है या नहीं, उसकी जानकारी सरकार को नहीं है । तो आप पैसा देते जाइये लेकिन वह मार्डर्नाइ-जेशन में खर्च होता है या नहीं, इसको भी नहीं देखते हैं ।

श्रीमन्, एक समस्या और है और वह यह है कि आप कोई बोर्ड का अध्यक्ष बना देते हैं पोलिटिशियंस को, अपनी पार्टी के लोगों को । उनको ज्ञान नहीं रहता है । आप आइ० ए० एम० अफसर बैठा देते हैं । वह बहुत बड़ा बिजनेस चलाने वाला तो होता नहीं, नहीं तो चार हजार या पांच हजार की नीकरी नहीं करता, दूसरा रोजगार करता । आप डिप्टी क्लैक्टर को बैठा देते हैं, वह बिजनेस करने वाला नहीं होता । हाँ लाठी धार्ज करना हो तो आप उसको दे दीजिये लेकिन अगर बिजनेस चलाना है तो सहायकों में वह काम देना चाहिये । मेरा निवेदन है कि जैसा कि पब्लिक अंडरटेकिंग कमेटी ने रिपोर्ट किया है, आपको ज्यादा जोर देना चाहिये बिजनेस चलाने वाला कैडर बनाने का तर्फ । उसको आप नहीं करते हैं और आप किसी गैर जानकार को हेंडओवर कर देते हैं और वह चला नहीं पाता है, वह भी खाने पाने लगता है । आम तौर पर पब्लिक कैक्टर में जो पद पॉलाटेसियंस को दिये जाते हैं वह इसी जिहाज से एक पूरा भोजन भाविक कर ले । जिसकी मॉनिटर नहीं बना सकते हैं उनको वह डाल देते हैं ।

मैं इस सम्बन्ध में एक नुस्खा और देना चाहता हूँ कि ज्यादातर मिलें इजाजतें बना

हैं कि या तो उनका मास बिक नहीं पाता है या उनको माना इजेशन के लिये पर्याप्त रूपदा नहीं मिलता है। हमने अखबार में देखा है कि सोवियत रूस के साथ आप ऐसा बिजि-नेस ऐग्रीमेंट करने जा रहे हैं जिससे वह मशीनरी देगा तो अपने देश का हित देखकर आप ऐसा कर रहे हैं वह आपकी मशीनरी के उसके बदले में कपड़ा खरीद ले तो यह एक सम्पन्न सुझाव होगा। उसके संबंध में मैं चाहूंगा कि सरकार प्रकाश डाले ताकि बड़े पैमाने पर जो मिलें बाजार पड़ी हैं उनका कोई रास्ता निकले। इस सम्बन्ध में ऊंची टेकनालोजी के नाम पर साम्राज्यी देशों से मशीनरी खरीदने की वचनलत बिल्कुल फिजूल है।

श्रीमान्, एक बात और कहना चाहता हूँ कि बड़ी-बड़ी मिलों के लोग क्या करते हैं कि स्विनिंग का काम अपने करते हैं और पावरलूम में वीविंग का काम दे देते हैं। इस तरह वे मजदूरों की तनख्वाह में कटौती करते हैं साथ ही साथ कर के पैमे बुरा लेते हैं। हमारे इसके लिये दो सुझाव हैं। पावरलूम में जो बोविंग का काम वे कराते हैं उनको छान-बीन काजिये। वहाँ दूसरो और हेडलूम इंडस्ट्री सूत के लिये स्टॉक कर रही हैं, उनको सूत नहीं मिल रहा है। जिसकी वजह से 50:50 साख बीवर्स अपार कष्ट में हैं। मैं चाहता हूँ कि उसका निदान हेडलूम में एक इंडरमिडियरी टैवनादा-जी को डेबलप कराकर किया जाए। (समय को घटी)

अन्त में एक मिनट आपका और समय चाहता हूँ। हमारे बिहार में गय काटन मिल्स है उसको तीन महीने से रुई हा नहीं दी गई। कोई भी वहाँ जायेगा तो क्या करेगा। आपकी एन० टा० सी० मौकामा मे है और गय काटन मिल्स है उनमें रुई नहीं होगा तो कौन सूत निरालेगा? मैं समझता हूँ कि यह मिसर्जनेजमेंट है, लेबर ट्राबुल नहीं है जिसकी वजह से रुई सब कुछ गड़बड़ हो रही है।

SHRI G. VARADARAJ (Tamil Nadu): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, many of the hon. Members have mentioned about various aspects of closure, lock-out and other things in the textile industry, I would like to li vile the attention of the hon. Minister to the fact that nearly for the past two or three years, the industry has represented various matters various facts to the Ministry, but unfortunately delayed decisions were taken and some decisions have not been taken yet. The basic reason for the set-back in the textile industry, not only in the NTC sector but even in the private sector and the State sector, is primarily because of the very high cost of the raw material and the excise duty component on the raw material like stable fibre, viscose, etc. Now, Sir, if you take mills like the Binny Mills and also Rodier Mills in Pondicherry, the condition of the workers is very, very difficult because they are more or less starving for the past three to four months. Unfortunately (no right decision has been taken in spite of the various recommendations given by the various committees and also by the industrial circles and the State Government. Here, Sir, unless an immediate decision is taken and implemented, it will be very difficult.

The hon. Minister will be aware that the cotton question in the country is very precarious and the carry-forward stock is going to be very bad. Most probably it is going to be less than 12 lakh bales, which is hardly a month's consumption or less than that, which has never happened in the past decade. Now, there is no point in blaming either the private sector or anybody. This is purely the responsibility of the Government because the Government did not take the right decision at the right time. The Indian Cotton Mills Federation and various other organisations in the country which are deeply involved in this, including various research associations have submitted their recommendations and also their suggestions as to what the Government has to do. But, Sir, the Government is not receptive at all

(Shri G. Varadaraj)

to any suggestions given by the industry.

While I fully agree with the hon. Members that the position is very bad, it is not that the Government does not know about the position. I fail to understand why, after knowing the position, the Government is very inactive, particularly towards the industry. This industry is only next to agriculture in the country. It is one of the oldest industries in the country. The NTC itself has mills which have been modernised, mills which are semi-modernised mills in the spinning sector, mills in the composite sector and mills in various sectors. So it is not that they do not know the problem. They are very well aware of the problem. In the statement the Minister has again said that a committee has been appointed. I do not know what new finding this committee is going to give. Already everything is there with the Commerce Ministry and with the Finance Ministry. What new findings is this new committee going to give? I personally think that it is an eye-wash. The Government does not want to act on the recommendations already given. And those recommendations are very authoritative recommendations.

Now there are three sectors; one is the cooperative sector; the second is the NTC sector; and the third is the State Government sector. All of them have their profit and loss accounts and I am proud of the NTC southern wing, consisting of Tamil Nadu and Pondicherry, which has made some profit, whereas the northern zone has not made any profit.

Also, as I mentioned earlier, cotton export should not be permitted. But some Members argued saying that there was excess supply of long staple cotton and superfine varieties of cotton, and they should be exported. Unfortunately, the 4 lakh or 4.5 lakh bales of cotton which has been exported was of the medium and short staple

variety; it has not been the long staple variety. And because of this policy which the Government adopted at that time, without properly assessing the 1983-84 cotton year, this plight of shortage of cotton has arisen now. Now the Government says that they are going to import 10,000 tonnes of staple fibre. These 10,000 tonnes of staple fibre will not be enough. A bare minimum of 50,000 tonnes of staple fibre should be imported and given to the industry before the end of September because September to August is the cotton season. The cotton season 1984-85 is very very alarming. Whatever be the funds that the Government is going to pump in it is not going to help the industry.

I say positively that if the same policy continues, more and more mills will become sick and if the Government cannot go to their rescue more people suffer. I request the Minister to inform the august House as to what action the Government is taking to augment the supply of this raw material, particularly the coarse variety and medium staple cotton, which goes directly to the poor masses.

And if this is not done, most of the mills located in the southern area and in the northern region will definitely come to a closure and whatever be the funds pumped in, whatever the measures taken by way of bank advances and so on, everything will go down the drain and the day after tomorrow you will again come before the House. Take the case of the mills of Gujarat or the mills in Bengal or the mills in Tamil Nadu or in Kerala. No mill is making any profit. And unfortunately the Ministers are not receptive at all to any of the suggestions made by the industry. I would, therefore, request the honourable Minister kindly to tell us what actions and how quickly these remedial measures will be given to the industry so that the lakhs of poor starving workers in this country could be given some work.



**श्री जगदम्बी प्रसाद यादव (बिहार) :**  
उपसभापति महोदय, मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से यह जानना चाहूंगा कि बम्बई की बहुत-सी मिलें जो पिछले ढाई साल से बंद पड़ी हुई हैं उनको खुलवाने के लिये आपने क्या किया है? विशेष रूप से मैं इस दृष्टि से कहना चाहता हूँ कि वहाँ पर मजदूरों की हालत बहुत खराब है, उनके बच्चे स्कूल छोड़ चुके हैं, उनकी लड़कियों की शादी रुकी पड़ी है। इसलिये उस स्थिति को सुधारने के लिये आप क्या कर रहे हैं? आपने 13 मिलों का राष्ट्रीयकरण किया। लेकिन वहाँ भी आधे लोगों को ही काम मिलता है। वहाँ पर ले-आउट की स्थिति बनी हुई है। मैं चाहता हूँ कि उसके बारे में भी मंत्री महोदय जानकारी दें कि वहाँ पर स्थिति क्या है? आपने सूची नहीं दी है। लेकिन लोक सभा में सूची दी गई है। बिहार में फुलवारी कीसिल्क मिल बन्द पड़ी है। गया की भी काटन मिल बन्द है और मोकामा में भी इनएफिसिएंसी को वजह से मिल बंद पड़ी है। ऐसे स्थान जहाँ पर एक-दो मिले हैं वहाँ भी अगर यह विश्वास हो जायेगा कि वहाँ पर मिलें नहीं चल सकती हैं तो यह उचित बात नहीं है। उस प्रदेश में ही कपड़ा मिलें चल सकती हैं, यह विश्वास पैदा किया जाना चाहिये। अगर वहाँ पर कपड़ा, मिलों के संबंध में अविश्वास पैदा हो जायेगा, अगर कोई आदमी वहाँ पर कपड़ा मिल प्रारंभ करना चाहता है तो प्रारंभ करने में कठिनाई पैदा हो जायेगी। इस सम्बन्ध में मैं आपका ध्यान वित्त मंत्री द्वारा मिलों को दी गई चेतावनी की तरफ दिलाना चाहता हूँ। उन्होंने कहा है कि कपड़ा मिलें अपनी जिम्मेवारी का निर्वाह नहीं करती हैं। आप जानते हैं कि कपड़ा उद्योग हमारे देश का काफी पुराना उद्योग है। लेकिन इसका आधुनिकीकरण करने की कोई व्यवस्था नहीं की गई है। सरकार इस काम के लिये रुपया लेती है, लेकिन उस रुपये का सदुपयोग करने के बजाय दुरुपयोग किया जाता है। उसी तरह से जहाँ तक अनुसंधान का काम है, वह भी

इस समय नहीं हो रहा है। इसलिये मैं अनुरोध करना चाहूंगा कि इस क्षेत्र में भी क्या स्थिति है, यह भी स्पष्ट किया जाना चाहिये। ये मिलें लाभ पर नहीं चल रही हैं। यह भी कहा जाता है कि एक्साइज ड्यूटी में ठीक-ठीक बॉलेंस नहीं है, उसमें विरोधाभास है। इस तरह से मिलों की लागत बढ़ती जा रही है और उत्पादन घटता जा रहा है। इसलिये मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि वित्त मंत्री जी की इस घोषणा के बाद और यह चेतावनी देने के बाद वाणिज्य मंत्री जी ने इस ओर किस प्रकार से ध्यान दिया है? तीसरी बात मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि आपने जो यह समिति बनाई है उस समिति में आफिसर्स ज्यादा हैं। जो टेक्सटाइल मिलें बंद पड़ी हैं उनमें हड़ताल की जब नौबत आती है तो उससे पहले उनकी समस्याओं पर ध्यान नहीं दिया जाता है। मिल मालिक मिल को सँभल करने पर तुले होते हैं। वे मिलों को लाभ पर नहीं दिखाना चाहते हैं। फण्ड को डावर्ट कर देते हैं। इसलिये जब तक आप इस समिति में लेबर को भी प्रतिनिधित्व नहीं देंगे तब तक इस प्रकार की समस्याएँ पैदा होती रहेंगी। अगर आप लेबर का भी उसमें प्रतिनिधित्व करेंगे तो वे कमियों की तरफ ध्यान दिला सकते हैं। उस समिति में ऐसे विशेषज्ञ भी होना चाहिये जो इन मामलों के विशेष रूप से जानकार हों। इसलिये मैं यह निवेदन करना चाहता हूँ कि जिन राज्यों में एक दो कपड़ा मिलें हैं, जैसे कि पाँडिचेरी में है, वहाँ पर ऐसी मिलें बंद नहीं होने देनी चाहिये। उनमें सुधार के लिये कोशिश को जानी चाहिये। अगर आप उन राज्यों में इन मिलों को अच्छी प्रकार से चला सकेंगे तो वहाँ पर लोगों में विश्वास पैदा होगा कि वे भी कपड़ा तैयार कर सकते हैं। अन्त में मैं यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि अभी माननीय सदस्यों ने पूँजी की बात कही, रा-मैटिरियल की बात कही है। नये कल पुर्जों की बात है। तो इन सारे मुद्दों को आपकी कमेट्री विचार करेगी या आपने भी विचार किया है? अगर विचार किया है

**[श्री जगदम्बो प्रसाद यादव]**  
 क्या विचार किया है जिससे कि इन मुद्दों पर हम, वास्तव में यह जो मिल उद्योग है यह हमारा सबसे बड़ा उद्योग था, इस पर विचार कर सकें। यह उद्योग आज बिल्कुल बंद हो गया है और शायद यह बन्द होने की स्थिति में जा रहा है। इसलिये मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि दुनिया में हम इस उद्योग में सबसे आगे जा सकते थे, साउथ कोरिया कितना आगे चला गया, इसलिये इस क्षेत्र में हम मीचिंग ग्राउन्ड पर कैसे जायें गे मैं आपसे जानना चाहूँगा।

SHRI K. MOHANAN (Kerala): Mr. Deputy Chairman I am not going into details of number of closed mills and number of workers unemployed consequently. Sixtytwo mills are already closed. And according to Shri Ramakrishna Bajaj, Chairman, FICCI, 50 more cotton mills will be closed down in the near future. This, is what he said on the 18th July and this is quite a disturbing news.

It was started by millowners like my esteemed friend, Shri Varadaraj, that the main reasons for the.se closures are shortage of cotton and credit squeeze. And to overcome these (Problems they are asking for import of staple fibre as a substitute. As a layman I do not know what are the real causes for the crisis. Still, I would like to point out that one year back it had been reported in the press—this was widely discussed on all forums—that there was glut in the cotton market and the authorities concerned failed to purchase cotton from the market. Now it is complained that there is acute shortage of cotton. I would like to know whether there is any planning in regard to production and supply of cotton to feed the industry without interruption. If so, I would like to know the details thereof.

Another complaint one hears is accumulated stock due to Punjab trouble. I do not think this is a valid argument. By the end of February

this year the accumulated stock was 396 million meters of cloth and this is less than 11 per cent of production for 1983-84. This is not a new phenomenon and this is not so harmful or dangerous to the industry. I do not therefore, think that this is a valid argument for closure.

Strike in the Bombay textile mills was also referred to. While this affected production all over, to a large extent mills in Gujarat took the maximum advantage of the Bombay textile mills strike. But unfortunately record number of closures was from Gujarat. I cannot understand what kind of situation arises out of this.

In this connection I would like to point out another important factor. According to experts, the average age of a cotton textile mill is 50 years. One-third of the mills in this industry are above this average and less than 10 per cent of the mills are less than 20 years. Therefore rapid modernisation and intensive maintenance of the mills is a must for this industry. But the industrialists are not willing to invest their own money for rapid modernisation and effective maintenance of the machinery. Their preference is to diversify and start other industries which are more lucrative and more attractive in terms of profit. In other words, they are trying to drain money from this particular major industry and to invest it in other industries which are more profitable. This is my information.

Recently a package scheme of concessions was announced by the Gujarat Government to reopen four of their closed mills including a loan of Rs. 32 crores at nominal rate of interest and deferment of tax payment for five years. The millowners want such large-scale concessions from the public exchequer. They do not want to invest their own money to modernise or revitalise this industry. On the other hand, they want to drain money from the public exchequer, at the expense of the people

of this country and they want to run this industry with that money. I am concluding. I have a few questions.

Have the Government made any in-depth study to find out the real causes of the crisis in this industry and, if so, what are the findings?

Is it a fact that there is an acute shortage of cotton and, if so, what action has been taken to overcome this situation? Is it also a fact that there is a general tendency prevailing among the mill owners to withdraw money from the textile industry and invest it in other industries which are more profitable and, if so, what action has been taken by the Government to check this tendency? Thank you, Sir.

MB. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Yes, Mr. Chimanbhai Mehta. As a special case I am allowing you and so, be brief. Take only five minutes.

SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: Sir, this is the report in "The Indian Express" of the 18th July, Ahmedabad edition. It says like this:

"The Union Minister of Commerce Shri Vishwanath Pratap Singh,' today warned that the Government would not hesitate to take over the closed textile mills if their owners did not reopen them."

Now, Sir, this was a very serious warning given to the mill owners. Just now, Sir, the honourable Member from that side referred to the fact that some concessions are being given to the mill owners of Gujarat, but they have not yet reopened the mills. Sir, I have a statement of the Gujarat Government in which they have said that as far as the remaining unopened mills are concerned, the managements of some of them have no desire to even approach the financial institutions to help them reopen the mills and, in these cases, the Government of India may be requested to take over the mills as was done in the case of Bombay. Now, why they have done it in Bombay and why they

have not done it in Gujarat? This is not understood by us. The question now is either to take over the mills as was done in Bombay or to grant interest-free loans up to about Rs. 20 crores to the State Government so that the State Government can approach the High Court because liquidations proceedings are pending there, to have these mills handed over to them. This is what the Gujarat Government says. Here is a State Government coming forward to take over the mills. They know that the NTC is running at a loss. But the fact is that the NTC has, within ten years, produced cloth worth about Rs. 5,000 crores and they have suffered losses only to the extent of Rs. 400 crores\*. And, Sir, the Committee on Public Undertakings has elaborately gone into the case of losses of the NTC and they have said that one of the vital factors for this is the mismanagement. Why cannot we remove this mismanagement? I can understand the Constraints of technology and I can understand the other constraints also. A sum of about Rs. 350 crores was given for modernisation. But the implementation was very tardy. Now, Sir, another five hundred crores or more are being given or are going to be given. Now, we are told that if the NTC takes over these mills then the losses would mount up. This is because only bureaucratisation which is going on in the NTC. The officers are not taking interest and this is the finding of the Committee on Public Undertakings. This was done in 1982. A warning was given earlier. I know that the Government is quite liberal towards us. But, Sir, out of 1,10,000 workers who are unemployed in 62 mills, fifty thousand workers who are unemployed are in Gujarat alone. Therefore, I would request that, when Shri V. P. Singh, Minister of Commerce, has given the warning that the mills' would be taken over and when the Gujarat Government is ready to take over and is prepared to suffer losses, something should be done immediately. Two

[Shri Chimanbhai Mehta]

dozen workers have committed suicide because they could not stand the starvation. And, Sir, on the day of Diwali, a textile worker's wife burnt after two of her children drowned by her. This is their misery— Sir, yesterday, I was hearing our Minister saying that the NTC is a headache. BCft running the affairs of a country is also a headache. The NTC giving employment to 2 lakhs workers has produced cloth worth five thousand crores of rupees and has incurred a loss of four hundred crores only. So, in the name of losses let them not take over. The private managements, as I have already said, have diverted funds; they have mismanaged. And now you are prepared to give concessions to them. They are demanding still more. Where will the 10,000 unemployed workers go? Are they to be allowed to go in for starvation? What are you going to do for them? there has to be some sort of positive answer—this is that. We have to take over these mills; modernise them. There is a demand for cloth. (Time bell rings) Therefore, Sir, this is my appeal. In view of Gujarat Government's proposal, are they prepared to give them some interest-free loan? Gujarat Government will reply it. They are not asking for any face aid or grant. If the Central Government is prepared to give this then we will be able to save 50,000 workers. It is not a small thing. It is the job of the Central Government to take it up.

DR. SHANTI G. PATEL (Maharashtra) : Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, the scenario that we find on the textile front is very sickening. Over one-lakh workers in 62 mills are unemployed or without the means of livelihood. Sir, if we look at the functioning of the industry we find a capacity utilisation to the extent of 77 per cent. And in this industry, mind you, the wage cost is only 19.7 per cent.

Sir, regarding the functioning of the industry the World Bank have in the year 1975 stated—I just quote;

"A significant part of the fund is diverted to other industries..."

I am referring to this that the malady from which this industry has been suffering and the diagnosis has been known for many years. Sir, it is a commentary of a very bad nature that from the day we became independent something has gone wrong with the textile industry Ahmedabad, which my learned friend referred to, which was considered the 'Manchester of India' has now gone to the history of dustbin. Why has this been happening? Along the history of the last 37 years you will find that one by one the textile mills have been closing down. How have we reached this particular state? What is the principal cause of this Sir I submit respectfully that the principal cause is the out-dated, ageing machinery, old plant and machinery. What is the situation? Twenty-five per cent of looms are not automatic, 75 per cent of looms are old and obsolete; 65 per cent spindles are also old and obsolete. Such figures can be quoted regarding other parts of the machinery.

I would like to take a little more time. Now, various reasons have been responsible. As I said, the principal reason is this particular machinery. About the persons who have taken charge of the industry I am sure my friend will bear me out, there were a number of persons from outside who went to Ahmedabad and started buying mills and taking profits out of them. What they have tried to do is to siphon off these profits and put them in other industries which gave more profits. And now they are closing down with ulterior motives either to get more concessions, as I have already said, or they want to sell the land and make profits out of it. Because, as you know, Sir, the price of land in all these cities is very high; crores of rupees can be made in cities like Bombay and Ahmedabad..

Coming back to Bombay, there has been a strike. A large number of persons have been staying there. I am one of those who would like to say that if the strike was prolonged, it was not the labour which was responsible for this but the inert policies of the Government led to the prolongation of the strike. If they had intervened in time such a situation would not have arisen. But leave aside this particular problem.

Sir, In Ahmedabad there is the Textile Labour Association, a Union formed by Gandhiji, which has been very responsible and is functioning properly. Why do you blame the labour? I don't think the labour is responsible in any manner in the matter of cooperation with the mill-owners or the employers' organisation.

This situation has arisen for varied reasons. If the profits are going down, I believe it is also mainly due to the technological obsolescence and also the competition from the powerloom sector and thirdly. I would like to say that our prices are more. How do we meet this situation? That is the real challenge. And for that the first thing is modernisation. It has to be gone into as early as possible so that we can get over this crisis. For powerlooms also a certain policy has to be framed. The raw materials which are being supplied. Which go out of stock, which become costly from time to time like cotton have to be provided so that this particular factor of shortage of raw material does not come in the way.

Then this industry is not the only industry which is causing problems as far as employees are concerned. There are a number of ancillary and dependent industries like dye-stuff and textile machinery and other industries where hundreds and thousands of people are employed. They have also become unemployed. Therefore, the figure is not just one lakh; probably it is more than 4 to 5 lakhs and with their families included nearly 2 mil-

lion people are directly involved in the process.

Before concluding I would like to make one point. Many people have been trying to blame the public sector saying that the public sector is not giving a good account of itself. I would like to tell those people, look at the performance of the private sector in the textile industry where we find so many mills closed down and are still closing down for one reason and that reason is the mismanagement by the persons who are owning this particular industry and mainly they are accountable. There might be other small extraneous failures. But the main responsibility is on them. In this context I would like to put certain questions to the Minister. Firstly I would like to ask what steps are being taken to reopen them. I know some reference has been made but unless they are taken on a war-footing, we cannot salvage this industry and prevent the people from becoming victims of starvation and what not. Secondly regarding rehabilitation of labour what steps the Minister is going to suggest in regard to their training preference in employment in those very cities through employment exchanges so that those people are not thrown to the wall? Another very pertinent question is when the mills are closed down, the dues the legal dues of the employees in the form of provident fund accumulations gratuity and wages are not being paid. What arrangements are being made to pay these dues. If a mill is allowed to sell the machinery the land, etc.? Which is going to be the first claim? Will the Government make sure that the employees get their legal dues first and then alone do the rest of the things follow?

Regarding cotton also a certain policy needs to be laid down so that we can get more cotton.

Lastly, will the Government frame an all-embracing and overall policy where all these problems can be sorted out? By just treating the signs and

[Dr.] Shanti G. Patel]

symptoms alone the malady is not going to be cured. The disease has to be treated and for that an all-embracing policy has to be prepared. Therefore will the Government announce such a policy so that all these factors leading to the malady are taken care of? Thank you.

श्री मोती इशानबेग ऐयुबबेग : मान्यवर, मैं शर्मा बहुत आभारी हूँ कि आपने मुझे समय दिया है। मेरे सिर्फ दो-तीन प्रश्न हैं क्योंकि देश में बंद होने वाला जितनी मिलें हैं वह सब अधिकतर हमारे यहाँ गुजरात में हैं और वहाँ 52 हजार के करीब मजदूर बेकार हो गये हैं और इतना भयंकर परिस्थिति है कि गुजरात में युवा कांग्रेस ने एक बड़ा मोर्चा निकाल करके मनेजमेंट के सामने अपना आवेदन दिया है।

मैं मंत्री जी से दो-तीन प्रश्न करना चाहता हूँ। पहले तो मैं मंत्री जी से पूछना चाहता हूँ—और जैसे हमारे साथियों ने कहा है कि मुझ स्तर पर अगर इस प्रश्न का निपटारा नहीं किया जायेगा, तो उसमें इतने सारे लोगों ने जैसे कि चिमनभाई ने कहा है इतने समझौते हो रहे हैं और इतनी फैमिलीजें बर्बाद हो रही हैं, तो उनके जीवन को बचाने के लिये जल्द से जल्द कदम लेने चाहिये, जैसे कि केन्द्र सरकार और राज्य सरकार ने कदम लिये हैं। लेकिन जब केन्द्र सरकार द्वारा लिये गये जितने भी कदम हैं, उनको भी मानने के लिये कुछ मनेजमेंट के लोग तैयार नहीं हैं, तो उनके सामने भी कदम लेने की सरकार की क्या तैयारी है?

मिलों के मनेजमेंट और मिल बन्द न हों, उसके लिये आई०डी०बी०आई० ने कुछ सुझाव दिये हैं और आई०डी०बी०आई० ने प्रति मिल मजदूरों का रेट्रैजमेंट करने के बारे में भी कहा है, तो मैं मंत्री जी से यह प्रश्न करता हूँ कि आई०डी०बी०आई० ने प्रति मिल जितने मजदूरों को रेट्रैज करने का सुझाव दिया है? उसमें दूर डूबने वाले

मजदूरों का क्या होगा और उनके लिये सरकार ने क्या आयोजन किया है। मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से आखिर में एक ही प्रश्न करना चाहता हूँ और वह यह है कि जैसा कि हमारे और साथियों ने कहा है कि मिला मालिकों के मिन-मनेजमेंट के कारण ही कितनी मिलें बंद हुई हैं और जब है ये खालू करना चाहते हैं तो राज्य सरकार ने अपनी तरफ से पूरी तरह उनको सहायता दी है, हर कनसेशन दिया है। गुजरात सरकार ने जितने कनसेशन दिये हैं, शायद ही कहीं दिये हों। काफी कनसेशन दिया है। मैं आखिर में एक ही प्रश्न पूछना चाहता हूँ जिस तरह गुजरात सरकार ने यह मिस-मनेजमेंट के लिये, बी०आई० आर० एक्ट के तहत इन्कवायरो की है, उसी तरह मैं केन्द्रीय सरकार से यह विनती करना चाहता हूँ कि वह इंडस्ट्रियल डिस्प्यूट्स एक्ट के तहत उनके मनेजमेंट की इन्कवायरो करे और उसके लिये कुछ कदम उठाये। सरकार से मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि हमारे यहाँ जो मिलें बंद है जिस तरह से इन्फ्री में टेकओवर की है, कितनी अवधि में ये मिलें टेकओवर करके यह प्रश्न का निपटारा करना चाहते हैं? ... (व्यवधान)

श्री उपसभापति : नाम तो आया नहीं... (व्यवधान) पता नहीं, दिया होगा।

श्री हुसमबेग नारायण यावव (बिहार) : माननीय उपसभापति महोदय, बातें तो सब आ गईं, मुझे केवल दो ही बातों की सरकार से जानकारी लेनी है कि हमारी मिलें बंद हुईं और इस पर घाटा लगा है तो सरकार ने जो कारण बताया है घाटा लगने का उसमें वित्तीय कठिनाई है और मशीन पुरानी है, यह बताती है। लेकिन जो सुविधाएं दी गई हैं वे सुविधाएं कुछ को छोड़ करके केवल कीमत कम करके टैक्स कम करना यह करना, वह करना, इससे तो कोई निराकरण निकल नहीं सकता और अभी सबसे बड़ा सवाल

Importance

यह है कि घाटा लगा करके और मिल को लूट करके कहीं और जगह लगाते हैं तो सरकार को चाहिये कि कोई इस तरह का प्रायोग, जो यह विभागीय कमेटो बनाई है और जो यह जांच करनी है, एक इस तरह का आयोग सरकार को तरफ से बनना चाहिये जो इस बात को जांच करे कि कौन-कौन ऐसे पूंजापति, कौन ऐसे मिल चलाते वाले कारखानेदार हैं जो अपने कारखाने निरन्तर घाटे में चलाते हैं और उस कारखाने में से पैसा निकाल कर कहीं अन्यत्र लगा देते हैं और सरकार को धोखा देते हैं मात्र इसलिये कि मिल को ब्रोमार कर दो और जितनी भी आर्थिक सुविधा मिलेगी उन सुविधाओं का उपयोग करने के लिये जान-बूझ करके इस तरह से करते हैं। तो क्या सरकार इस तरह का कोई वित्त आयोग बनाने के लिये तैयार है जो इन सारे बातों को जांच करे और जो ऐसे पूंजापति हैं जो जान-बूझ करके ऐसा करते हैं उनको ऐसी कालो सूची दर्ज कर दे और आगे के लिये ऐसे पूंजापतियों को कोई नया कारखाना बनाने के लिये कोई लाइसेंस नहीं दे जो अपने मिलों को इस तरह से ब्रोमार करके इस देश को लूट रहे हैं ?

**SHRI NIHAR RANJAN LASKAR:**  
 Sir, I am thankful to the hon. Members for raising this issue in the House today. And most of the hon. Members have voiced their concern and the Government is also concerned with this problem of closure of the mills. And that is why we are taking from time to time measures to meet the situation. Sir, in the course of the discussion, the Members have mainly limited their submissions to certain major points. One such point that they have raised is that the textile policy be revised. And they have also demanded that the mills should be nationalised. And a point has also been raised that there is shortage of cotton and what the Government is going to do about it. There was some complaint about the NTC that it is making losses. In

general ateo some of the hon- Members raised the point that the funds which we are giving to the management are not being utilised properly and that they are diverting them to other areas. And most of the hon. Members have shown concern—and it is a right thing—about the workers and their fate, because of the closure of the mills. And they also asked what the Government is doing in this respect.

Sir, first I would like to deal with the question of revision of the textile policy. Sir the textile policy as the hon. Members know, was announced in March, 1981. In the interest of the protection of the decentralised sector, particularly the handloom, the policy lays down that expansions in the looms' capacity of the organised mill sector will not be allowed except marginal expansion especially for export purposes. So, this was the policy that was announced in 1981. The policy of freeze on loomage was in existence even before this policy was there. However, replacement of old looms by new and modern looms is allowed under the policy. So, we have in that sense expended our policy. We are allowing the mills to modernise the loomage. This part has been allowed. And, I think the management should take advantage of this opportunity given by the Government.

Now, Sir, with regard to the NTC there is some criticism. But one thing should be understood that the Government had taken over those mills only which were critically sick and at that point of time the Government came forward in the interests of the workers and other interests and took over these mills. If these mills had not been taken over by the Government they would have been turned into utter junk by now. So, NTC has not only maintained the production of cloth and protected the employment of workers but has also made significant contribution and improvement in Physical performance, If you look

(Shri Nihar Ranjan Laskar)

into the statistics, this thing will be very clear. The production of cloth has increased. The productivity of machines has increased. The count-range has also gone up. These are some of the factors one should understand before criticising the NTC.

Sir, about Rs. 280 crores have been invested in the modernisation of these mills. This has resulted in better performance but the need of NTC for a greater modernisation fund is much more. Subject to the availability of funds we are trying our best to modernise the NTC mills and this has specially been kept in view. The modernisation programme for the Seventh Plan Period is being worked out by the study group.

Sir, the NTC has also contributed about Rs. 300 crores to the Central Lse revenue and about Rs. 1400 crores have been paid as wages to workers. These are the factors which one should try to understand before criticising. Sir, while the losses of NTC cannot be ignored, we are not going to defend them, there are losses, but the positive role played by the NTC should also be kept in view while we assess the performance of the NTC as a whole.

Then, Sir, as I have already stated in, my statement, the Government have taken several steps to run these mills. Only if the mills run, can the workers be there and they can get their wages. If the mills are closed, it is the responsibility of the State Governments to look into their interests. We are also in constant touch with the State Governments and we are taking the necessary steps to see that... (*Interruptions*).

AN HON. MEMBER: Even then the State Governments have sent their recommendations.

SHRI NIHAR RANJAN LASKAR: I have already stated that we are looking into these. (*Interruptions*). We are not responsible but whereas

they are responsible. We are fulfilling our responsibilities.

SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: We are prepared to take over in Gujarat but are you going to give the permission?

SHRI NIHAR RANJAN LASKAR: The maximum number of such mills are in Gujarat. So I would like to deal with this problem in a little detail. Sir, in Gujarat there are 21 closed mills. After a thorough discussion, as I have already stated, a committee of officers has been appointed and they have gone into this problem. The group is also entrusted with the task of formulating suitable package for rehabilitation of individual mills. As I have said already the group comprised of Textile Commissioner, representative of the Department of Banking, Industrial Development Bank of India, State Government, Ahmedabad Textile Industries, Research Association and the concerned banks.

SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: All bureaucrats.

SHRI NIHAR RANJAN LASKAR: The group had a number of meetings in Bombay and Ahmedabad to consider the general and individual problems of Gujarat mills and they have suggested certain measures for rehabilitation. Certain essential measures have been suggested by them for rehabilitation of potentially viable units and they had prepared a general rehabilitation package to be made applicable to the Gujarat mills capable of revival. I have already stated these measures; I need not go into that again.

Now, what is the result of this committee's suggestions? As per latest information regarding financial assistance sanctioned by the banks and the financial institutions, the total number of mills about which this committee has considered, is 24. The number of mills in respect of which banks have sanctioned assistance upto now is 13. So it is not correct to say that no action has been



taken. We are trying our best to see that these mills are revived. In Gujarat, 13 mills have already been given assistance through the banks and financial institutions. The committee has also given us some figures. According to them, there are about 4 mills which are not viable at all and there are few others still remaining to be looked into, and they are looking into those mills. We are not confining ourselves only to Gujarat. The committee has been constituted by the group of officers, for considering the cases of all the closed mills in the country on the 'time lines' as the Gujarat mills. ....

SHRI G. VARADARAJ: But the problem differs in respect of various mills. Composite mills are different spinning mills are different, and there are mills manufacturing synthetic yarn. And their problems are different. *(Interruptions)*.

SHRI NIHAR RANJAN LASKAR: Some hon. Members said that all the mills should be nationalised. Well, nationalisation is the last course. Our aim is to see that we perform our role and that role is primarily to monitor and coordinate the measures for revival of sick units coupled with assistance from banks and financial institutions which are primarily the remedial measures to rejuvenate these mills. So, there is no proposal at present to nationalise the textile industry as a whole.

SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: Gujarat Government is prepared to take over. Can you hand over those mills to us under IDR Act?

SHRI NIHAR RANJAN LASKAR: There was some criticism about certain investments being diverted to other purposes. While it cannot be denied that some managements indulge in malpractices, the cotton mills industry as a whole is passing through

a crisis and is facing serious problems and the Government is trying to solve and overcome those problems through various measures which I have already narrated and through these various measures that we have taken, naturally we will try to, implement the suggestions made in this regard. One criticism which has been made here is that this committee consists only of officials. But I would like to point out that this committee will consult various interests like labour, State Governments and other representatives. They will take note of their suggestions and then come to a decision. It is wrong to say that this committee consists only of officials and that they will not deliver the goods. They will consult the various interests.

*(Interruptions)*.

DR. SHANTI G. PATEL: Sir, I would like to know, what measures Government propose to take before the mills reach the stage of sickness? *(Interruptions)*.

SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: Sir, as I said, the Gujarat Government is prepared to take over these mills. But first, they should be handed over to them by the Central Government. *(Interruptions)*.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I think, he has covered all the points. We will adjourn now.

अब सदन की कार्यवाही ढाई बजे तक के लिए स्थगित की जाती है।

The House then adjourned for lunch at twenty-six minutes past one of the clock.

The House reassembled after lunch at thirty-two minutes past two of the clock, The Vice-Chairman (Shri Santosh Kumar Sahu) in the Chair.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR SAHU): Now we take special mentions.