

श्री राजनारायण : क्या सरकार इस बात को बतायेगी कि सरकार केवल मशकत और शक्तिशाली मशीन को लगाने के बारे में ही चिन्तित है या उस की मशकत प्रणाली के बारे में भी, अमरीकी ढंग की मशकत मशीनरी लगाने का विचार करती है ? क्या अमरीका में जिम तरीके से यह रेडियो संचालित होता है, कार-पॉरेशन्स के जरिये, सरकार के जरिये नहीं, उस के लिए भी सरकार कुछ सोच रही है, क्योंकि केवल मशकत मशीनरी लगाने मात्र से ही काम नहीं चलता जब तक मशकत प्रणाली उस के लिए अद्वितीय नहीं की जाय। इसलिए मैं चाहता हूँ कि सरकार मशकत मशीन भी लगाये और मशकत प्रणाली भी स्वीकार करे जिस से जनता को उस में विश्वास हो। आज सरकारी रेडियो पर जन-विश्वास नहीं रह गया है इस लिए हमारे . . .

श्री सभापति : अब खत्म करिये।

श्री राजनारायण : क्या सरकार को इस बात की जानकारी है कि हमारी सीमा . . .

श्री अर्जुन अरोड़ा : आजकल केवल राजनारायण जी के भाषणों का प्रचार होना चाहिये।

श्री राजनारायण : हमारी सीमा पर चीन अपने रेडियो से हमारी इंडियन लैंग्वेज में, भारतीय भाषाओं में प्रचार करता है, जो ट्रायबल डायलेक्ट्स हैं। उनमें प्रचार करता है। तो क्या भारत सरकार सोचती है कि सभी भाषाओं में प्रचार किया जाय और जिम क्षेत्र की जो जनभाषा है वहाँ की जनभाषा में भी रेडियो से प्रचार किया जाय, तभी वह सशक्त होगा ?

MR. CHAIRMAN : It does not arise out of this question. Next question.

TAKING OVER OF TEXTILE MILLS IN THE COUNTRY

*92. SHRI CHITTA BASU :
KUMARI SHANTA VASISHT :
SHRI KALYAN ROY :
SHRI M. K. MOHTA :
SHRI N. G. GORAY :
SHRI T. V. ANANDAN :
SHRI G. GOPINATHAN NAIR :

Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE/
विदेश व्यापार मंत्री be pleased to state :

(a) the names of textile mills in various States which remained closed till June, 1971;

(b) the reasons for their closure; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to re-open them through State and Central Government agencies ?

THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN
TRADE/विदेश व्यापार मंत्री (SHRI L. N.
MISHRA) : (a) to (c) A statement is laid
on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

Excluding mills considered fit to be scrapped, 65 cotton textile mills were lying closed in the various States as at the end of June, 1971 :

Name of State	Name of the Mill	Reasons for closure
Andhra Pradesh	Netha Coop. Spinning Mills Ltd., Elichguda.	Lay-off by management due to financial reasons.
	The Natraj Spg. & Wvg. Co. Ltd., Hyderabad.	Financial difficulties.
	Andoni Cotton Mills Ltd., Andoni.	Financial difficulties.
	Tirupathi Cotton Mills Ltd., Renigunta.	Not available.

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Chitta Basu

Name of State	Name of the Mill	Reasons for closure
Assam . . .	Associated Industries (Assam) Ltd., Chandrapur.	Economic reasons.
Bihar . . .	The Bihar Coop. Weavers Spg. Mills Ltd., Mokameh.	Labour strike.
Delhi . . .	The Ajodhya Textiles Mills Ltd., Delhi.	Labour troubles and financial losses.
Gujarat . . .	The Fine Knitting Co. Ltd., Ahmedabad.	Lay-off by the management.
	The Ananta Mills Ltd., Ahmedabad.	Financial difficulties.
	The Keshav Mills Co. Ltd., Petlad.	Financial difficulties.
	The Jehangir Vakil Mills Co. Ltd., Ahmedabad.	Damage of machinery due to fire.
	Prabha Mills Ltd., Viramgam	Financial difficulties/high prices of cotton.
	The Rajnagar Spg. Wvg Mfg. Co. Ltd., Ahmedabad.	Financial difficulties due to continuous losses.
	Ahmedabad Jupiter Spg. Wvg. and Mfg. Co. Ltd., Ahmedabad.	Financial difficulties.
Kerala . . .	Kathayee Cotton Mills Ltd., Alwaye.	Uneconomic working.
	Vijayamohini Mills Ltd., Trivandrum.	Financial crisis and other difficulties.
	Parvathi Mills Ltd., Quilon	Financial difficulties and labour trouble.
Maharashtra . . .	The Seksaria Cotton Mills Ltd., Bombay.	Financial difficulties.
	Ahmedabad Jupiter Spg. Wvg. and Mfg. Co. Ltd., No. 2., Bombay.	Financial difficulties.
	Osmanshahi Mills Ltd., Nanded	Financial and other difficulties.
Mysore . . .	The Yellamma Cotton, Wool-len and Silk Mills Co. Ltd., Yellammanagar.	Financial difficulties.
	Shri Kathiresan Spg. Mills, Chitradurga	Difficulty in banking operations.

Name of State	Name of the Mill	Reasons for closure
	The Mysore Spg. and Mfg. Co. Ltd., Bangalore.	Strike by workers.
	Ramkumar Mills (P) Ltd., Bangalore.	Strike by workers.
Punjab	Suraj Textile Mills Ltd., Mautamandi.	Sealing by the Excise and Taxation Officer.
Rajasthan	Shree Bijay Cotton Mills Ltd., Bijayanagar.	Financial difficulties.
	The Edward Mills Co. Ltd., Beawar.	Labour trouble and financial difficulties.
Tamil Nadu	The Pioneer Spinners Pvt. Ltd., Pioneernagar.	Financial difficulties.
	Shri Palamalai Ranganathar Mills, Perianaickenpalayam.	Lay-off due to heavy unsold stock of yarn and financial difficulties.
	Sree Kothandaram Spg. Mills Ltd., Madurai.	Financial difficulties.
	The Radhika Mills Ltd., Uppilpalayam.	Strike by jobbers and Electrical Deptt. Workers/Financial difficulties and losses.
	The Pankaja Mills Ltd., Coimbatore.	Labour trouble.
	Gitanjali Mills Ltd., Shankarnainarkovil.	Financial difficulties.
	The Rajah Mills, Madurai.	Continuous losses.
	Shri Shanmugar Mills Ltd., Rajapalayam.	Continuous losses.
	The Balarama Varma Textiles, Shencottah.	Financial difficulties.
	Kwality Spg. Mills (P) Ltd., Pollachi.	Strike by workers.
	The Pudukotah Textiles Ltd., Namanasamudram.	Losses.
	The Coimbatore Spg. and Wvg. Co. Ltd., Coimbatore.	Financial difficulties.
	The Coimbatore Murugar Mills Ltd., Coimbatore.	Strike by workers.
	Janardan Mills Ltd., Uppilpalayam.	Strike by workers.

Name of State	Name of the Mill	Reasons for closure
	The Somasundram Mills (P) Ltd., Coimbatore.	Labour strike.
	Kaleswarar Mills Ltd., Coimbatore.	Lockout.
Uttar Pradesh . . .	The Prem Spg. & Wvg. Mills Co. Ltd., Ujhani.	High prices of cotton.
	The General Fibre Dealers (P) Ltd., Lucknow.	Losses/working difficulties.
	Bijli Cotton Mills Ltd., Hathras	Power cut due to non-payment of electricity bills.
	The Raza Textiles Ltd., Rampur.	Shortage of steam coal.
	Cawnpore Textile Ltd., Kanpur.	Strike by workers.
West Bengal . . .	Sodepore Cotton Mills Ltd., Sodepore.	Labour reasons.
	The Kanoria Industries Ltd., (Cotton Mills Section) Konnagar.	Mismanagement and financial difficulties.
	Laxminarayan Cotton Mills Ltd., Rishra.	Financial difficulties.
	Bengal Textile Mills Ltd., Cosimbazar.	Financial crisis.
	Shree Hanuman Cotton Mills Ltd., Fuleshwar, Howrah.	Labour strike.
	Bhagyalaxmi Cotton Mills Ltd., Belgharia.	N.A.
	The Bangasri Cotton Mills Ltd., Sodepore.	Labour strike.
	Anati Cotton Mills Ltd., Dassenagar.	Under the Directions of Receiver.
	The Bengal Laxmi Cotton Mills Ltd., Serampore.	Financial difficulties.
	The Mohini Mills Ltd., No. 2, Belgharia.	Losses and financial difficulties.
	The Bengal Fine Spg. and Wvg. Mills Ltd., No. 2, Konnagar.	Economic reasons.

Name of State	Name of the Mill	Reasons for closure
	Sri Annapurna Cotton Mills Ltd., Shamnagar.	Labour trouble.
	The Central Cotton Mills Ltd., Calcutta.	Labour trouble.
	Shri Durga Cotton Spg. and Wvg. Mills Ltd., Konnagar.	Financial difficulties.
	Shri Mahalaxmi Cotton Mills, Palta.	Financial difficulties.
	Ramporia Cotton Mills Ltd., Serampore.	Financial difficulties.
Pondicherry	The Cannanore Spg. and Wvg. Mills Ltd., Mahe.	Financial difficulties.

Out of the above mills, five mills have been considered uneconomic. The management of three mills has been taken over under section 18-A of the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act and efforts being made to restart them as early as possible. The Investigation Committees' Reports in respect of nine mills are under examination and affairs of ten mills are being investigated by the Investigation Committees, appointed under the aforesaid Act. The cases of ten mills, out of which five had been investigated under the aforesaid Act, are pending in the High Courts in regard to liquidation, etc. As regards the remaining 28 mills, their cases are under consideration in consultation with the State Governments concerned and the Textile Commissioner.

SHRI CHITTA BASU : Out of a total of 31 textile mills in West Bengal 22 textile mills have already stopped work throwing out of employment more than 28,000 workers of West Bengal. The Textile Enquiry Committee in the year 1967 recommended certain measures, including uniformity of freight rates for cotton from different cotton-producing areas, equalisation of the price of cotton as in the case of steel and coal and exemption of sales tax on the yarn made and delivered to mills. May I know from the hon. Minister why all these recommendations for the revival of the textile industry in West Bengal were not accepted by the Government? In view of the fact that the textile industry in West Bengal has some special problems to face, will the Government of India assure the House that certain crash programmes will be taken up for the rehabilitation of the textile industry in the State of West Bengal?

SHRI L. N. MISHRA : In West Bengal about 16 mills have been closed involving a labour force of about 18,086. We have set up a special organisation some time in April last and I will try to give some details which will meet the purpose of a crash programme as indicated by Mr. Chitta Basu. The Industrial Reconstruction Corporation of India has been registered on the 12th April 1971 as a company under the Companies Act at Calcutta. Although the Corporation will have an all-India character, to begin with the Corporation will attend to the urgent problems in and around Calcutta in the eastern region. The Corporation will deal with the urgent industrial problems of Calcutta and eastern India, especially problems relating to the rehabilitation and revival of sick and closed industrial concerns. Later on the coverage will be extended to the whole country. A major portion of the Corporation's work

is likely to consist in providing risk and loan capital on soft terms so as to enable early revival of units. The Corporation will actively pursue activities in other fields such as restructuring of companies, labour-management problems, change in product mix and other related matters. In addition to financing functions, it will take up other functions such as promoting and establishing companies, executing schemes for rehabilitation of units securing of foreign currency loans and development of infra-structure facilities where necessary. We feel that this new organisation will be able to meet this problem of West Bengal and Calcutta. The problem is really very difficult and a large number of workers have been rendered unemployed and we want to pay special attention to these areas.

SHRI CHITTA BASU : My first question has not been answered—what are the reasons for not accepting the recommendations of the Textile Inquiry Committee of 1967 ? What are your objections to the acceptance of the recommendations ?

SHRI L. N. MISHRA : There is no question of not accepting the recommendations. This was a question of all-India character also. If we do something for West Bengal, similarly we will have to do for other States also. In Maharashtra the problems are there, in Gujarat the problems are there, in north India the problems are there and we thought we should have a body which would embrace all the problems of India and that is why we have set up a special body, and it is going to meet the present requirements of West Bengal also.

SHRI CHITTA BASU : He is avoiding the question. The question was very explicit. Certain recommendations were made by the Textile Inquiry Committee which include uniformity of freight rates for the cotton from the different cotton producing areas, equalisation of prices of cotton as in the case of steel and coal and exemption of sales-tax on the yarn. These were the very specific recommendations of that Committee. It was for the

revival of the textile industry of West Bengal. It was not meant for all India, it was exclusively constituted to go into the special problem of West Bengal and they made certain special recommendations. Why were not those special recommendations accepted by the Government ?

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Minister, will you kindly supplement your answer ?

SHRI L. N. MISHRA : I do not know why Mr. Chitta Basu has special love for that special Committee. I have already said that this body which we have constituted in April last, four months back, is all embracing in character, it is much more elaborate and it has got much bigger functions and much more resources at its disposal.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : Sir, on a point of order. It is not a matter of Mr. Chitta Basu having special love for a special Committee

SHRI L. N. MISHRA : He was saying that.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : The hon. Minister's love may be cosmopolitan. The Committee was appointed specially to go into the question in West Bengal.

MR. CHAIRMAN : There is no point of order.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : But on what ground the recommendations were rejected ?

MR. CHAIRMAN : He is answering the question. Please sit down.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : He will answer this question ?

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please sit down.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : But where do we stand ? Will he answer the question ?

MR. CHAIRMAN : He has not completed the answer

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : I have to wait for its completion ?

श्री राजनारायण : श्रीमन्, देखिये, भूपेश गुप्ता के कहने में इतना सत्य है . . .

श्री सभापति : मैं आपमें सत्य नहीं पूछ रहा हूँ ।

श्री राजनारायण : आप मंत्री को ठीक में जवाब देने को कहिये ।

श्री सभापति : आप सवाल को नहीं चलने दें रहे हैं ।

श्री राजनारायण : आप नहीं चलने दें रहे हैं, सरकार नहीं चलने दे रही है । आप मंत्री का मुझाव दीजिए कि ऐसे जवाब नहीं देना चाहिये ।

श्री सभापति : जवाब के लिये उनको मैंने बुलाया है और आप उनको जवाब नहीं देने दें रहे हैं ।

श्री राजनारायण : यह कहने की क्या जरूरत है कि किसी विशेष कमेटी से उन्हें ज्यादा प्रेम है । इसको कहने में उन्होंने क्यों समय लिया !

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : On a privilege, Sir. You may disallow a question. But once you allow a question . . .

श्री राजनारायण : आप संसदीय परम्परा चलायेंगे या मंत्री की स्वेच्छा चलेगी ।

श्री सभापति : आप बैठिये ।

श्री राजनारायण : लव अफेयर्स की बात मिनिस्टर करेंगे ।

MR. CHAIRMAN : श्री राजनारायण जी, बैठ कर सुनिये । I have called the Minister.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : If you have disallowed the question, I can understand it. But since you allowed the question, let him answer it.

MR. CHAIRMAN : He is answering. Why are you unnecessarily interrupting ?

SHRI L. N. MISHRA : I have heard Mr Bhupesh Gupta. Mr Chitta Basu used the word 'special'. I also said in some other way. The main point was that that Committee's recommendation was confined to the problems of West Bengal. But Mr Bhupesh Gupta and others know that the textile industry is of an all-India character and we have similar problems in other States also. If we had accepted the recommendations of that Committee, it would have been difficult for us to apply them in the other States. That is why we thought of a body which could have an all-India character, which could meet the problems of other States too. That is why we went in for this Committee which has been registered in April. All the problems that arise out of the present situation in West Bengal will be met through this organisation.

So far as meeting the problem is concerned, there should be no anxiety on that account. We will give first preference to West Bengal and then we will go to the other States.

SHRI CHITTA BASU : He has even now not clarified my point. Anyway, I want to put another supplementary as my right.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You have taken so much time.

SHRI CHITTA BASU : May I know whether he is aware of the fact that only two cases have been taken up by the Industrial Reconstruction Corporation up till now ? Would he make special arrangements so that at least in the matter of taking up the textile units which have been closed in West Bengal the Industrial Reconstruction Corporation will make certain special endeavour and special programme ?

SHRI L. N. MISHRA : It is a special and exclusive body set up to look into the

problems arising out of the present situation in West Bengal and in some other States. It is going to have a crash programme. It has got the support not only of our Ministry but also the Finance Ministry and the Reserve Bank, and I can assure the House that there will be no difficulty as far as finance is concerned. The workers will get back to their work. Two mills cannot be started in West Bengal because they have to be scrapped.

KUMARI SHANTA VASISHT : May I know, Sir, whether after bringing back to health some of these mills they would be handed back to the mill owners or taken over permanently ?

Further, may I know whether the Government will examine the question of the mill owners withdrawing the money from these mills and floating it somewhere else ?

SHRI L. N. MISHRA : The hon'ble Member is correct that the funds of many of the mills have been frittered away by the management. That is why many of the mills have been brought to this position. In the course of my reply to the Budget Demands in the Lok Sabha I stated that we are proposing to take over these mills. After their economic position improves we will take them over permanently. We have no intention of returning those mills to those people who have spoiled or destroyed them.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : Very good.

SHRI KALYAN ROY : As the Minister stated, a ghastly situation has developed in the textile industry in West Bengal. May I know whether it is 16 mills which have been closed down or it is 21 mills ? Is it not a fact that the Industrial Reconstruction Corporation which has been set up in Calcutta is more for looking into the facts of closure in relation to engineering and other industries ? But we have on an all-India basis a National Textile Corporation. Its Chairman is sitting here. I accuse the Chairman of the National Textile

Corporation of deliberately following a vindictive policy to strangle the textile industry in West Bengal in collusion with the Birlas. None of the Birla mills have been closed down; they are being expanded . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN : Put your question, please.

SHRI KALYAN ROY : Is it not a fact that the Birlas in collusion with the National Textile Corporation is strangling the textile industry in West Bengal, and why till today, out of the 21 textile mills which have been closed down, not one has been taken over by the National Textile Corporation which has taken over mills after mills in all other States ?

SHRI L. N. MISHRA : Sir, this is not fair to the National Textile Corporation. The National Textile Corporation has so far taken over 28 mills all over the country. In West Bengal also two mills have been taken over. I will give the names. They are the Bengal Textile Mills Ltd., Cosimbazar, West Bengal and the Bengal Fine Spinning and Weaving Mills Ltd. The reports of investigation committees are under examination. The Managing Director of the National Textile Corporation had been to Calcutta recently. He met the Industry Secretary and also the Director of Industries. They are going to examine a number of mills. They will not hesitate to take over some of the mills of West Bengal. There is no question of discrimination so far as West Bengal is concerned. I will again assure the House that I will ask the National Textile Corporation to take over as many mills as possible.

SHRI KALYAN ROY : Not one mill has been taken over by the National Textile Corporation in West Bengal.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Mohta.

SHRI M. K. MOHTA : May I ask the hon. Minister whether it is not a fact that one of the main reasons why so many mills

all over India have closed down is the lack of any preventive measures on the part of the Government such as timely import of cotton or cotton development programmes in the country of adequate export incentives for the export of yarn and cloth or even financial assistance to marginal units to prevent them from becoming sick? Is it not a fact that neither the banking sector nor the financial corporations under the public sector are today willing to extend adequate credit to the textile mills so that marginal mills may become healthier instead of becoming sick? If so, what is the Government's policy in future in this regard?

SHRI ARJUN ARORA : It does not arise.

SHRI M. K. MOHTA : Sir, how does it not arise? I would like to submit that part (b) of the question relates to the reasons for their closure.

AN HON. MEMBER : It was Mr. Arjun Arora who said it.

SHRI M. K. MOHTA : Oh, I am sorry. I thought it was a remark from the Chair.

SHRI S. R. VASAVADA : Sir, I want to make a personal explanation because an allegation has been made against me.

MR. CHAIRMAN : No, no.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA : He cannot speak here as the Chairman of the NTC.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : Sir, Mr. Kalyan Roy has said, and rightly so, that he is in collusion with the Birlas...

MR. CHAIRMAN : No, no, please sit down. Mr. Goray.

SHRI M. K. MOHTA : Sir, my question has not been answered.

MR. CHAIRMAN : No, it does not arise.

SHRI M. K. MOHTA : Sir, I would like to submit that part (b) of the original question refers to the "reasons for their closure" and I am asking whether one of the reasons is that preventive measures were not taken in time in respect of the two or three items that I have mentioned. It arises out of part (b) of the main question.

MR CHAIRMAN : Yes, Mr. Minister, you may reply to the question as modified by him.

SHRI L. N. MISHRA : Sir, Mr. Mohta wants to know whether we had taken some preventive measures before these mills got closed down. We have taken measures, and Mr. Mohta knows it very well. We have provided credit facilities; we have provided other facilities under the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act. We have provided many facilities. In spite of these facilities, a number of mills have got closed down. So far as financial difficulties are concerned, it is a fact that some of the mills are experiencing financial difficulties. But we have taken up the matter with the Ministry of Finance and the Reserve Bank and I think the problem will be sorted out soon.

Sir, I would like to add one more thing to what I said in reply to Mr. Kalyan Roy. Apart from the three mills, the NTC has investigated some more mills in Bengal. They are Mohini Mills Ltd., Belgharia; Arati Cotton Mills Ltd., Dassaragar; Central Cotton Mills Ltd., Calcutta; Sodepore Cotton Mills Ltd., Sodepore; and Kanoria Industries Ltd. So, these eight mills out of the 16 are either under investigation or investigation in respect of them has been completed by the National Textile Corporation.

SHRI N. G. GORAY : Sir, I would like to ask a couple of supplementaries on part (c). I have gone through the list and a quick calculation has highlighted the fact that 15 out of all these mills have closed down because of labour trouble. Others have closed down because of

financial difficulties. I would like to know from the Government whether while estimating the financial position of the mills, they go into all the aspects which lead to financial trouble, because many mill managements have been accused of squandering away the Provident Fund collections of the labour. Will the Government take into account the fact that lakhs of rupees belonging to the labour have been squandered away and this is one of the reasons why the mills get into financial difficulties? And that is one of the reasons why they get into financial difficulties. Now what will they do about recovering this amount which, as Mr. Arora pointed out, runs into crores of rupees? That is number one. Number two. I would like to know from the Government whether it is now the confirmed policy of the Government not to hand over the sick mills after they have been modernised because just now the Minister said that he told the Lok Sabha that this would not be done. I want to know whether it is the confirmed policy of the Government that these mills, once they have been brought up-to-date, will not be handed over back to the owners.

SHRI L. N. MISHRA : So far as the recovery of provident fund is concerned, it concerns the Ministry of Labour. There is an Act for it and the Labour Ministry has to proceed according to the Act. So far as our side is concerned, we investigate into and go into the affairs of the mills, and it is a fact that many of the mills have been closed down because of the—I will not use a strong word—bungling and other things made by the management. As regards firm policy I will read out what I said in the Lok Sabha—

“We are, therefore, proceeding on the basis of the provisions of the Cotton Textiles Companies Act and in cases where we are investing public funds we propose to take them by reconstruction and in a few cases by seeking their liquidation.”

This is our decision and no new Act is necessary, no amendment is necessary.

The Government has powers to take over these mills and modernise them and it is in their interests that we should take over the mills.

SHRI T. V. ANANDAN : The answer to this question is incomplete. The question is about the total number of mills which remained closed till June, 1971. The answer is, “Excluding mills considered fit to be scrapped is 65.” May I know from the honourable Minister how many mills have been considered as scrap and what the total number is of the workers and their families who are put out of job and are begging in the streets of the country? That is number one.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please do not put too many questions.

SHRI T. V. ANANDAN : Please give me some consideration. My next question is . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN : You are allowed to put only one question.

SHRI T. V. ANANDAN : In one question I am putting supplementaries, a, b, c . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN : No supplementaries to supplementaries.

SHRI T. V. ANANDAN : It is stated that as far as Tamil Nadu is concerned, 16 textile mill have been closed. Tamil Nadu is the first State which started closing down textile mills in 1966. Is it not a fact that because of these closures 22,000 families are now unemployed? Is it the way how Prime Minister's assurances to the country that unemployment will be solved and poverty eliminated, are going to be implemented? May I know whether the Tamil Nadu Government has also failed to implement the recommendations? Is it not a fact that the Chairman of the National Textile Corporation has also recommended to start some mills but the Tamil Nadu Government has not considered it. What step is the Central

Government going to take to see that all these closed mills are reopened immediately and thus fulfil the Prime Minister's assurances to the country ?

SHRI L. N. MISHRA : As I said, there are 65 mills closed and about 83,000 workers are lying idle at the moment. About mills in Tamil Nadu it will not be possible for me to go into the cases of individual mills. As the honourable Member knows, when we take over certain mills under the National Textile Corporation, the State Government has also to make financial investment. Fortynine per cent of the investment has to be made by the State Government and 51 per cent by the Union Government. Therefore, after the investigation is over and the investigating team recommends the take-over of a mill by the National Textile Corporation, we write to the State earlier because an officer of the State Government is also associated with the investigating team, and when the State Government agrees to make 49 per cent of the investment we take over the mill. So far as the mills of Tamil Nadu are concerned, when we receive the reports of the investigating team, we will write to the State Government and if they agree to make an investment of 49 per cent, there will be nothing lacking on our part to take over these mills.

LETTER FROM NAXALITE PRISONERS FROM
VISHAKHAPATNAM JAIL

*93. SHRI M. V. BHADRAM :†
SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS/
गृह मंत्री be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have recently received any letter from the Naxalite prisoners from Vishakhapatnam (AP) Jail;

(b) if so, the contents of the letter and how many Naxalities are signatories to that letter; and

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri M. V. Bhadram.

(c) what action have been taken by Government thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS/गृह
मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (SHRI K. C.
PANT) : (a) to (c). No such letter has been received. Government have, however, received representations regarding the conditions of the undertrial Naxalite prisoners in Vishakhapatnam jail. Facts in regard to the matter are being ascertained from the State Government.

SHRI M. V. BHADRAM : The Minister says that no letter has been received by the Prime Minister. I would like to draw the attention of the Minister to the fact that there are about 300 prisoners out of which more than 200 have nothing to do with Naxalites. Yesterday it was stated in the Lok Sabha that they are prepared to have a dialogue with Naxalites in West Bengal. That being the case, will he not consider the question of accelerating the process of releasing them so that these tribal people can go back to their villages and counteract the Naxalite movement there ?

SHRI K. C. PANT : As the hon. friend knows, these tribals have been arrested for certain specific offences by the State Government of Andhra Pradesh. It is really for the State Government to come to a decision on this matter and it very largely depends on the nature of offences. I think my friend will agree that if the offences are such as to be called heinous, then in that case, the State Government will find it difficult to accept this advice.

SHRI M. V. BHADRAM : The Minister says that they have committed heinous crimes...

SHRI K. C. PANT : I said 'if'.

SHRI M. V. BHADRAM : A majority of them have been in prison for the last two years and no charge-sheet has been filed so far. Secondly, most of these tribal