

gories of workers. However during the same period there was an improvement in the employment of Godown khalasis, Mineral Sampling Workers, Rock Phosphate Workers, Sulphur Workers, Iron and Steel (Manual) Workers and Drums Handling Workers.

(c) The fall in the employment under the Registered workers was mainly due to the decline in the import of foodgrains and fertilizer, fall in the export of iron and steel materials and general cargoes and decline in the exports of manganese ore.

In the category of unregistered workers, the fall in the employment was due to declines in the receipt of manganese ore and arrivals of pig iron and general export cargo. Further, general exports are now being increasingly handled at alongside berths resulting in non-employment of boatmen.

#### CLOSURE OF PARVATHI TEXTILE MILLS IN KERALA

\*439. DR. K. MATHEW KURIAN :  
SHRI K. P. SUBRAMANIA  
MENON :

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION/श्रम और पुनर्वासि मन्त्री be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Parvathi Textile Mills, Quilon (Kerala), is closed for the last few months ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) whether the Mill had not deposited more than Rupees 12 lakhs of Employees' Provident Fund contribution and ESI contribution to Government ; and

(d) if so, the action taken against the management and the steps taken by Government to reopen the closed mill ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION/श्रम और पुनर्वासि मन्त्री (SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR) : (a) and (b). According to the information received from the Ministry of Foreign Trade, the Mills which were closed on June 14, 1971 due to financial and labour difficulties, are understood to have resumed working from September 13, 1971.

(c) and (d) The position about the default in the payment of contributions is as follows :—

(i) Till July 1971, the mills were

in default of provident fund contributions amounting to Rs. 2.79 lakhs. The Government of Kerala allowed them the facility of clearing the areas upto April 1969 in monthly instalments of Rs. 8,000/- plus current contributions. In view of this facility given to them, no action was taken to realise the arrears. The position is however, being reviewed by the Central Provident Fund Commissioner ; and

(ii) The mills were in default towards payment of contributions under the Employees' State Insurance Act to the extent of Rs. 1.47 lakhs inclusive of interest upto 19th November, 1971. Legal action for the recovery of arrears on account of employers' special contribution upto April 1971 was taken against the mills as a result of which an amount of Rs. 10,000 has been recovered from them on 1st October, 1971. For the recovery of the balance of the arrears, action is in hand.

#### VISIT OF PROF. A. NORDON

\*440. SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA :  
Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS/विदेश मन्त्री be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Professor A. Nordon one of the leaders of the G.D.R. met the Prime Minister in New Delhi recently ;

(b) whether he requested Government to accord full diplomatic recognition to the G.D.R. ; and

(c) if so, the reaction of Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS/विदेश मन्त्रालय में उपमन्त्री (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The relations between India and the German Democratic Republic are developing satisfactorily. As the House is aware,