

50 we do not see any Minister for Rehabilitation. And what am I, as a reasonable man, to infer? Now, Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask him then in what manner the particular Ministry or the tasks or functions of the Ministry of Rehabilitation would be carried out, and whether the Minister for Works, Housing and Supply is aware that the decision to make him this Minister rather than retain him in that old position has given rise to strong protests and suspicion in the minds of the refugees and the public of West Bengal, and that the matter has also been taken up by the West Bengal State Government?

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: The question raised in the question asked is whether the Ministry of Rehabilitation is wound up or not. Now, the answer to that is quite clear. It is not wound up. Certainly, at one time, it was thought of winding it up in the sense that the remaining work of the Ministry might be handed over to the Home Ministry, but it was decided that in view of important matters remaining it should not be wound up; it was added on to the work done by my hon. colleague in the Ministry of Works, Housing and Supply and there are two departments there now. As a matter of fact the work in regard to the western refugees is now rather routine work—all the residual work is over—and in regard to the east, the work is heavier and important, and my hon. colleague deals with it. The hon. Member might think that it should be dealt with by a separate Minister. That is normally a matter for the Prime Minister to decide.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: I am not asking for a separate Minister; then it will be 51. All I am asking is about the functions of this Ministry . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: They are being done by him.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: And do I understand that it has become such an unimportant subject that it could be given as a subsidiary portfolio or subsidiary responsibility to some Minister in the Government? Is the

Prime Minister aware that large numbers of refugees in Assam, Tripura and West Bengal remain to be rehabilitated and they have not been found gainful employment and that is the reason why the task of rehabilitation, as far as the eastern region is concerned, would require some more time and even greater effort? And may I know, Sir, in view of the data and the facts available to the Government through their own institutions, surveys and so on, why suddenly the Government took this decision to treat it as a secondary subject and leave it to be dealt with, at pleasure, by some other Minister?

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: It is not a secondary subject in the Government's view. Even if a single individual is unhappy, it is not a small matter; it is much more. The extent of work done by that Ministry is great and it is Obvious that we thought that a person like my colleague, who had been dealing with this, should continue to do this instead of a new Minister coming in and dealing with the entire work which is so important.

***300. [The questioner (Shri B. D. Khobaragade) was absent. For cms wer, vide col. 2162 infra.]**

INCENTIVE TO TEXTILE MILLS FOR EXPORTS TO THAILAND

*301. SHRI DAHYABHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether an incentive of 10 per cent, is allowed to Textile Mills that export Indian textiles to Thailand;

(b) if the answer to part (a) above be in the negative, what are the reasons for not allowing such incentive; and

(c) whether such incentive is addition to the concession of import or installing automatic looms?

THE MINISTER OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH) : (a) to t.c) Exporters of Indian textiles to all traditional markets including That-land get certain incentives for raw cotton (66-2/3 per cent, of the fob value of exports); dyes and chemicals (maximum of 9 per cent.), Machinery (10 per cent.). The import entitlements for machinery can also be used for import of automatic looms provided the mill holds a licence for installing automatic looms.

SHRI DAHYABHAI V. PATEL: Does this mean, Sir, that the incentive is available to mills only and not to traditional exporters who were traders essentially and who are the people who established the market?

SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH: That is not so but a small incentive is being allowed to exporters.

SHRI DAHYABHAI V. PATEL: May know, Sir, why the merchants are being deprived of the benefits of a trade that they have built up over generations for the benefit of a few till owners?

SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH: Because really the loss of export passes on to the manufacturers who have to sell at the prices which are international and, therefore, exporter-manufacturers get a higher incentive than simple exporter.

SHRI DAHYABHAI V. PATEL: Has the decision to eliminate the exporter-manufacturer been taken in consultation with the Cotton Textile Export Promotion Council, or has it been taken by the Government on its own?

SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH: There is no elimination as such but naturally is of secondary importance to the main manufacturer-exporter, and all the interests concerned are in continuous consultation with the Government.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: For the good of the country and to leave no room for doubt for our Swatantrites, may I know, Sir, the reason why the Government is not taking over the entire export of cotton textile under its own aegis in the public sector? That is to say, the Government can buy from mills and Government can export themselves and earn money.

SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH: Because the Government does not consider it to be in the best interests to do so.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: May I know, Sir, in what manner the Government has come to the conclusion that it is not in the best interests? Is it by consultation with right-minded Congressmen or with the Swatantra Party men?

MR. CHAIRMAN: That question need not be answered.

COTTON TEXTILES EXPORT PROMOTION COUNCIL

*302. SHRI DAHYABHAI V. PATEL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) when was the Cotton Textiles Export Promotion Council constituted;

(b) whether any rules have been framed regulating its membership; and

(c) whether any changes have been made in those rules, and if so, whether these changes were made with the approval of the general body of the Council and Government's sanction was obtained therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH) : (a) It is a company registered on 4th October, 1954 under the Indian Companies Act.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) No change in the rules have been made.