

the construction works in the Hindustan Cables Ltd., have been completed according to schedule?

**THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH):** The Member is perhaps referring to the construction works for the expansion of the factory relating to the manufacture of coaxial cables. There has been an initial delay of few months due to difficulties in obtaining matching steel. The civil construction works, however, are now almost completed and installation of plant and equipment is proceeding according to schedule.

**SHRI BIBUDHENDRA MISRA:** It was announced earlier that the construction for this expansion programme would be completed by August, 1959. I would like to know now when it is expected to be completed.

**SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH:** By the end of this year, and trial runs will begin in the early part of 1960.

**REPRESENTATION MADE BY TEXTILE MILL-OWNERS FOR EXEMPTION FROM THE E. P. F. ACT**

\*213. **SHRI BIBUDHENDRA MISRA:** Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any request has been received by Government from the textile mill-owners to the effect that those of them who want to restart their closed establishments should be exempted from the operation of the Employees' Provident Fund Act; and

(b) if the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative, what action has been taken by Government thereon?

**THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI ABID ALI):** (a) Yes.

(b) The suggestion has not been accepted.

‡STRIKE BY IISCO WORKERS

\*92. { **SHRI M. VALIULLA‡:**  
**SHRI KISHORI RAM:**

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether about 25,000 workers of the Indian Iron and Steel Company's factories at Burnpur and Kulti went on a 24-hour 'sit down' strike in September 1959; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons for the same?

**THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI ABID ALI):** (a) About 23,000 workers went on 'sit-down' strike from the mid-night of 21st September, 1959 to midnight of 22nd September, 1959.

(b) As a protest against the management's announcement of bonus for the year 1958-59 without consulting the union's representative. The union considered the bonus inadequate.

**SHRI M. VALIULLA:** May I know, Sir, whether there was any demand afterwards?

**SHRI ABID ALI:** No, Sir.

**SHRI RATANLAL KISHORILAL MALVIYA:** May I know, Sir, what the actual demand of the workers was and what the offer of the management as regards bonus was?

**SHRI ABID ALI:** Same as last year. The workers' representatives felt that this year they should get more. That is one thing. Secondly, it was announced without their consultation.

**SHRI RATANLAL KISHORILAL MALVIYA:** What was the actual amount which was paid?

‡Transferred from the 25th November 1959.

‡The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri M. Valiulla.