

Agitation by textile mills workers in Mumbai

1841. SHRI GOVINDRAO ADIK:

SHRI SANJAY RAUT:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn towards the agitation of textile mills workers against mill owners in Mumbai for providing them housing facilities;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken in this issue for the benefit of mill workers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Government of India under Textile Workers Rehabilitation Fund Scheme (TWRFS) provides interim relief to the textile workers rendered unemployed as a consequence of permanent closure of any particular portion or entire textile unit in the private sector. Assistance under the Scheme is payable to eligible workers for the purpose of enabling them to settle in another employment.

Benefits of TWRFS

1842. DR. T.N. SEEMA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the number of Jute Mills closed and declared sick and are on the line of closure and the number of workers have been rendered jobless;

(b) whether Government has launched the Textile Workers' Rehabilitation Fund Scheme (TWRFS);

(c) if so, the details of the status of implementation;

(d) whether it is a fact that not even a single worker of the closed jute mills has been provided with any financial benefits under TWRFS; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) The details of the Jute mills closed and declared sick and on the line of closure are

given in the statement-I and the number of workers rendered jobless in the closed private sector mills is given in the statement-II (See below).

Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS) for workers and staff of National Jute Manufactures Corporation (NJMC) has been introduced as per the Union Cabinet's approval of 2005. Accordingly, 17000 workers and staff have taken VRS and got released after full and final settlement of all dues.

(b) Yes, The Ministry of Textiles has launched a Textiles Workers Rehabilitation Fund Scheme (TWRFS) on September 15, 1986 to provide interim relief to workers rendered jobless as a consequence of permanent closure/liquidation of the textiles units in the private sector. This scheme is not applicable to the State/Central Government Public Sector Undertakings and the textile units in the co-operative sector of the State/Central Government.

(c) The workers of 83 Textile Mills other than Jute Mills have been benefited under TWRFS since inception up to July 2011. The State wise details are given in the Statement-III (See below).

(d) and (e) TWRFS is applicable for the workers of those mills that have been declared closed after 5.6.1985 under Section 25 (O) of Industrial Dispute Act, 1947 or alternatively after appointment of official liquidator under the Companies Act, 1951 in the process of winding up of unit. As such no closed Jute Mill meets with the above criteria, the benefit of TWRFS is not applicable to them.

Statement-I

BIFR referred Sick/Closed Jute Mills

Sl. No.	Name of Mills	Remarks
1	2	3
West Bengal		
1	Agarpara	BIFR/SICK
2	Angus	BIFR/SICK
3	Baranagore	BIFR/SICK
4	Calcutta	BIFR/SICK
5	Ganges	BIFR/SICK

1	2	3
6	Empire	BIFR/SICK
7	Delta	BIFR/SICK
8	Kanoria	CLOSED
9	Kanknarrah	BIFR/SICK
10	Vijay Shree	BIFR/SICK
11	Titagaurh#	SICK
12	North Brook#	SICK
13	New Central	BIFR/SICK
14	Nuddea (not in operation)	CLOSED
15	National	On the time of closure of NJMC
16	Kinnison (At present under trial production)	On the time of closure of NJMC
17	Khardah (At present under trial production)	On the time of closure of NJMC
18	Alexandra	BIFR
19	Union	BIFR
20	RDB Textiles	BIFR/SICK
21	Shree Gourishankar	BIFR/SICK
22	Soorah (Not in operation)	CLOSED
23	Gouripur (Not in operation)	CLOSED
	Orissa	
24	KONARK	BIFR/SICK
	Andhra Pradesh	
25	Nellimarla	BIFR/SICK
26	Chittavalsa	CLOSED
	Uttar Pradesh	
27	JK Jute	CLOSED
28	Kanpur	CLOSED

1	2	3
	Bihar	
29	RBHM (At present under trial production)	Under NJMC
	Tripura	
30	Tripura Jute Mill#	SICK
	Chhattisgarh	
31	Mohan	CLOSED

Mills not referred to BIFR

Statement-II

Worker-wise Breakup at the Time of Closure of 8 Private Jute Mills

Name of Jute Mill	Total no. of workers
Kanpur Udyog	1300
Gouripur	1136
Soorah	1575
Kanoria Jute	4800
J.K. Jute	3250
Mohan	697
Chitavalsa	3565
Nuddea	1400

Statement-III

Status of State-wise, Number-wise, Payment of the relief under Textile

Workers Rehabilitation Fund Scheme since inception upto month July, 2011

Sl. No.	State	No. of Mills paid relief upto July, 2011	No. of workers on Roll of the mill	No. of workers paid upto July, 2011 under TWRFS	Amount disbursed upto July, 2011 (Rs. in Lakh)
1	2	3	4	5	6
1	Gujarat	43	80749	63639	15959.54
2	Maharashtra	6	9958	7893	2321.22

1	2	3	4	5	6
3	Madhya Pradesh	5	19800	18663	5227.02
4	Tamil Nadu	6	5685	4761	744.58
5	Kerala	1	500	437	247
6	Karnataka	9	10020	5817	2133.97
7	Andhra Pradesh	5	2677	1487	618.89
8	Delhi	1	5187	5170	1193
9	West Bengal	3	2072	2042	533.49
10	Punjab	4	6685	2310	895.83
TOTAL		83	143333	112219	29874.54

Proposal to allow import of cotton

1843. SHRI SHADI LAL BATRA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the prices of cotton in the country are higher than in some of the neighbouring countries;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government proposes to allow import of cotton from abroad in view of the cost;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the manner in which it affects purchase of cotton in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) No Sir. Cotlook A Index has been higher than the domestic cotton price through the cotton season 2010-11 by an average of US \$ 25 cents/lb. Price map for cotton season 2010-11 is given in the Statement (See below).

(c) The Government of India is not engaging itself in the activity of import of cotton. However, the Government formulate the Export-Import policy and tariff for various items including raw cotton. The import of raw cotton is already under Open General Licence (OGL) with effect from 19.04.1994 and the said policy is still being continued. The current custom duty on import of raw cotton is 0%. As such, the textile units are at liberty to import cotton of any variety/quality from any country to meet their requirement.

(d) and (e) Question does not arise in view of above.