

Shri Kanungo: Investigation committees are appointed as and when necessary. In the present case, an investigating committee has been appointed for the particular Kanpur mill. Such committees will be appointed when necessary.

Shri V. P. Nayar: May I know the terms of reference of this committee?

Shri Kanungo: There are no terms of reference. The committee is appointed under the Industries Development and Regulation Act. The functions are provided therein.

Shri V. P. Nayar: Has the committee not been asked to report about anything specific?

Mr. Speaker: I do not allow this question, as the hon. Member is sitting and asking his question.

Shri V. P. Nayar: I am sorry. I just wanted to know whether the committee has been investigating specifically into any particular aspect of the mill, and if so, what it is? For, mismanagement is such a wide term

Shri Kanungo: The functions and terms of enquiry are provided for in the Act.

Shri V. P. Nayar: What are those functions?

Shri Raghunath Singh: It relates to my State. May I know whether the mill is going to be re-opened?

Shri Kanungo: First of all we must get the investigation report, and then we shall find out what steps can be taken.

Shri Raghunath Singh: What time will it take, one year, two years or more? For four thousand odd people are unemployed.

Shri Kanungo: I have stated that the committee was constituted in October, and it will take at least three months to submit its report.

Shri Nagi Reddy: Three months?

Shri Tangamani: The Atherton Mills has been closed for more than eight months now. Do Government consider whether this is one of the mills which ought to be re-started or one of the mills which should not be re-started at all because the machinery is old and so on?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri): The committee has been appointed. I hope it will submit its report by the end of this month, if not earlier. Only the other day, I had enquired from Bombay how much time the committee will take to submit its report, and I was told that they may be able to do so in about a fortnight's time.

As regards the mill, the general opinion is that it is a fairly good mill which could be, perhaps, run economically. When we receive the report, and if the U.P. Government is inclined to take it over, we shall certainly advise the State Government to look into the matter, and we try to help them also.

Production and Sale of Khadi

*664. **Shri Shree Narayan Das:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) what is the latest position with regard to production and sale of Khadi;

(b) whether it is a fact that some varieties of Khadi are being exported;

(c) if so, the quantity of the same; and

(d) what is the total investment made by the Central Government in Khadi industry?

The Minister of Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): (a) to (d). A statement is laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha. [See Appendix III, annexure No. 59].

Shri Shree Narayan Das: From the statement it appears that about 180 million sq. yds. of khadi has been produced. May I know whether it is

a fact that a very huge quantity of khadi remains unsold and that is due to the fact that a special rebate was given by some voluntary organisations for the sale of khadi?

Shri Manubhai Shah: No, there is no special accumulation. The rebate is a normal payment, and it has been an integral part of the scheme since its inception.

Shri Shree Narayan Das: May I know whether Government are aware that a huge quantity of khadi remains unsold, and if so, the quantity thereof?

Shri Manubhai Shah: It is a normal thing, and nothing abnormal has come to our notice. No khadi *bhandar* or the Khadi Commission have reported to us any special accumulation.

Shri Dasappa: May I know why the production of traditional khadi which was at 52.1 million sq. yds. in 1957-58 has dwindled down to 15.5 million sq. yds. this year? It is without a corresponding rise in the Ambar Charkha khadi either.

Shri Manubhai Shah: No. The point is that the figure for 1958-59 given in the statement need not be taken as indicated here, because the backlog continues, and it will be only at the end of the year, that is, March 1959, that we shall come to know the actual position. From our actual experience, we find that the traditional charkha khadi is also increasing in production, and I hope that by the end of the year, the figure would have gone up in the sense that the production would have gone up.

Shri Tyagi: What is the total amount of subsidy given as rebate to the users of khadi?

Shri Manubhai Shah: That has been indicated. According to the production, it varies from three annas to four annas per yard.

Shri Tyagi: I wanted to know the total amount given during the last year.

Shri Manubhai Shah: I can indicate that, if a specific question is given notice of on that point. But I can say, that broadly speaking, as the production was 64 million yards, the amount should have been round about Rs. 1.6 crores.

Shri Tyagi: Rs. 1.6 crores? That is too much.

Shri B. K. Gaikwad: May I know whether Government think that khadi will ever be a profitable industry, and if not, how much loss Government have suffered up till now in this industry?

Mr. Speaker: No, it is a matter of high policy. I am not going to allow that question. The question hour cannot be used for this purpose. Khadi has been there and will continue to be there.

Shri B. K. Gaikwad: I only wanted to know how much loss Government have suffered in this industry.

Mr. Speaker: That was exactly the question that was asked by Shri Tyagi, namely how much of contribution, or loss, according to the hon. Member, has been incurred.

Shri Manubhai Shah: In the economic terminology, there is really speaking no loss as such, because the promotional assistance in different forms, like training, like rebates, like setting up of emporia, etc. has to be viewed in the background which this House has accepted when sanctioning this programme.

As for employment, I may say for the information of the House that the khadi industry in traditional charkha centres gives employment to 1.3 million people, up to date, and the Ambar Charkha programme has given employment to 2,14,000 people, as against a total investment which I have indicated in my answer.

श्री बाजपेयी : क्या यह सच है कि पोस्ट ग्रेड टेलीग्राफ विभाग के कर्मचारियों को घोर विवेचक नगरियों और सनानियों को

पहले खादी पहनना अनिवार्य था लेकिन कुछ दिनों से यह अनिवार्यता हटा दी गई है ? यदि हा, तो इसका क्या कारण है ?

श्री मनुभाई शाह : जहाँ तक मुझे मालूम है अनिवार्यता जितनी थी उतनी चालू है। हम तो इसे और बढ़ा रहे हैं कि जहाँ जहाँ हो सके सरकारी दफ्तरो में खादी का उपयोग और बढ़ाया जाये। लेकिन चूँकि मेम्बर साहब ने पूछा है, मैं इस बारे में खानबोन कर्कणा और मेम्बर साहब को बताऊँगा।

Mr Speaker: The hon. Member wants to know whether it is a fact that they have removed the insistence upon wearing of khadi or supply of khadi uniforms etc

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri): In fact, uniform was prescribed for certain categories. It was not prescribed for all the workers and all the staff of the Posts and Telegraphs Department or the Railways. I remember that in one case, it was definitely found that the colour of the cloth was not fast, and, therefore, it was suggested by the Railway Ministry that they would, for the time being, drop the using of that cloth for that particular category of staff, and they said that if they were able to get the quantity and quality of the cloth they required, they would again start using khadi. So, it has not been dropped, but in certain cases, certain relaxations are made for a short period.

Shri Assar: May I know whether the spinners and the weavers in this khadi industry ultimately get wages lower than the bare minimum wages?

Shri Manubhai Shah: It is true. It is an integral part of the scheme. We want higher technology to develop along with the gradual progress to better and better payment of wages.

Shri Shree Narayan Das: From the statement it appears that about Rs 22 to 23 crores have so far been invested in this industry. May I know what

part of this amount is being directly spent by the Khadi Commission and what part has been given to other organisations?

Shri Manubhai Shah: Most of the funnelling of the amount is done through the Khadi and Village Industries Commission, which is a statutory commission, but they operate in two ways; one is through the State statutory boards, wherever statutes exist in the States; the other is where the statute does not exist, in which case, they recognise certain voluntary institutions which accept the principle underlying the khadi movement and give the grants and the various loans to them.

Border Incidents

*666. **Shri Rameshwar Tantia:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to refer to his statement of 12th September, 1958 and state—

(a) whether any Indian Nationals were taken prisoners by the Pakistani forces during the July-August border incidents; and

(b) if so, their number and how many of them have since been released by the Pakistan authorities?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of External Affairs (Shri J. N. Hazarika): (a) Yes, Sir

(b) Five Indian nationals were taken prisoners by the East Pakistan forces during border incidents in July and August, 1958. All of them have been released.

Shri Rameshwar Tantia: May I know the trend of these incidents after the military regime took over in Pakistan, whether they are on the decrease or increase?

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): I laid a paper on the Table of the House some days ago giving a list of such incidents—I think it was on the 19th or 20th November—which indicated an increase in trend.