

answered evasively; we did not say anything. When the third question was put, he answered, giving the facts, without saying exactly from where he got them. If it is the West Bengal Government that supplied it, surely this House is entitled to have the actual data, and know whether a survey was made, what is the effect of the survey and so on. Surely, this is a thing which we expect him to elucidate. But, then, Sir, you made so many obiter dicta. I did not know what to say.

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. Whatever information the hon. Minister has got in his possession, he places before the House. He need not go on repeating the sources from which he got the information. The Minister is entitled to gather information from all the sources available with a view to enable this hon. House to know what exactly the position is. If any hon. Member wants to know further, or dispute that, it is open to him, or her, to put further questions. We are informed otherwise as to whether he has reliable information or data. One or two such questions I will allow instead of having rambling questions and cross-examination of the hon. Minister. I never disallowed any such questions. Hon. Members must wait in patience. If they have any doubt regarding the source of information, they can ask a question. I never disallowed that. But while he is speaking, interrupting him and all that I object to. When an hon. Minister or any other hon. Member is speaking, I would request all other hon. Members to keep patience and not interrupt. They should wait till he finishes, note down any points on which they want to elicit information and ask a question after he finishes.

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: I can even volunteer a little more information. According to the recent survey undertaken by the State Government, over 40 per cent. of these families, as per their own statement, are earning about Rs. 50 per month and nearly

40 families were reported to have a monthly income of over Rs. 100 per month. Many of these families do not react favourably to any proposal for their dispersal and in many cases they are resisting to disperse. I am making that statement on the strength of the survey of West Bengal Government.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: What Shri Bibhuti Mishra said was that the condition of those displaced persons in Sealdah station excites horror than pity.

Mr. Speaker: That is not the question here.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: What positive steps have been taken to clear out those squatters and give them some rehabilitation, may be on compassionate grounds?

Mr. Speaker: I thought he had answered that.

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: May I tell the hon. Member that I have as much sympathy, if not greater, for those unfortunate people who are squatting at the Sealdah station.... (Interruption). Three years ago there were 11,000 of them. We dispersed them. Then came about 7,000 of them and we dispersed them. Now there remain about 500 or 400 families, who come to my share, and I am trying to move them away and rehabilitate them. But, as I said just now, we have rehabilitated about 1,50,000 or 1,60,000 persons within the last two years, who are in camps, vagrant homes and at Sealdah station.

Jute Mills

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*261. { Shri Ramenwar Tanti:
Shri Bhojanath Biswas:
Shri P. C. Saha:

Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether some jute mills have remained closed for a considerable period;

(b) whether these mills have sold their working hours to other mills; and

(c) the steps being taken to restore the working of these mills?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Kanungo): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir. In one case the looms have been sold to another mill.

(c) No particular steps have been taken by Government in view of answer to part (b). Two of the closed mills are expected to resume working shortly.

Shri Rameshwar Tantia: During the last session in answer to a question the hon. Minister had said that he would enquire in the matter as to whether mill looms were being sold and purchased. I want to know whether he has enquired in the matter as more than one mill have sold their working looms. Is it a fact that a 500-loom mill can sell its working hours at Rs. 1 lakh per month? If it is so, what action is the Government taking to abolish this new type of zamindari?

Shri Kanungo: Apart from inferences, the fact is that there is an agreement amongst members of the IJMA for transfer of looms. Government have taken particular care to see that the employment potential is not affected at all and that production is kept up and not decreased.

Shri Rameshwar Tantia: A mill in Bihar is closed for the last two years. I want to know as to how the labour there is not affected. They have sold their working looms to the Calcutta mill and this mill is closed for the last two years.

Shri Kanungo: The Katihar Mill is in negotiation with the Bihar Government. They are likely to open in three weeks.

Shri Bimal Ghose: Although the hon. Minister has stated that there is an understanding that labour should not be curtailed even though looms are sold to some other mill, is he aware that these things are actually happening? If these things happen, to whom should the labour go—to the Central Government or to the State Government? Workers are being unemployed by such transfer of looms and the agreement is not being adhered to that there should be no reduction in the employment potential.

Shri Kanungo: We make our own enquiries. The State Governments also make enquiries. We are satisfied that there is no unemployment on that account.

Dr. Melkote: The hon. Minister said that employment potential is not affected. May I know whether during the period that the mill is not working, the workers get the same wages as before?

Shri Kanungo: Workers are employed in the particular trades, in which they had been employed, in the new mills where the working hours are worked now.

Pandit D. N. Tiwari: In regard to answer given to part (a) of the question, may I know the number of mills that are not working and which are likely to work during the next few months?

The Minister of Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): If I may amplify the statement of my hon. colleague in answer to the hon. Members' questions, this is a working time agreement. The Industry Committee on Jute met last year under the presidency of the hon. Labour Minister at the Centre. We examined the matter and found that the working time agreement does not generally render any unemployment. The men who work in one factory, when that factory's working hours are sold to

another factory, gets transferred in the same job in other mills. I can assure the House that that working time agreement as well as the Industry Committee of Labour are carefully watching the progress and that modernisation is generally taking place without any retrenchment.

श्री D. N. Tiwari: An answer to my question has not been given. I wanted to know the number of mills that have actually been closed down and out of them how many are likely to work again.

श्री Manubhai Shah: That has already been answered. Two are likely to reopen and one is closed at the moment.

श्री विभूति मिश्र : हमारे प्रधान मंत्री जी बैठे हुए हैं। बिहार में बहुत कम जूट मिलें हैं। कटिहार का जूट मिल है उसके बकिंग एक्टर बेच दिये गये हैं। नतीजा यह है कि वहाँ के मजदूर बेकार बैठे हैं। उस मिल में किसान अपना जूट बेच देते थे, अब किसानों को भी नुकसान ही रहा है। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि सरकार इस सम्बन्ध में क्या कर रही है ?

श्री कानूनगो : जैसा मैंने कहा, कटिहार मिल बिहार गवर्नमेंट से सलाह मशविरा कर रहे हैं और खुलने वाला है। बिहार में जो जूट पैदा होता है उसका ज्यादातर हिस्सा कलकत्ता में बिकता है, कटिहार में नहीं।

श्री विभूति मिश्र : अध्यक्ष जी, बिहार में १६ रुपये मन जूट बिकता है और कलकत्ता में २३ रुपये मन। इस बात रुपये का क्या होता है और यह कहाँ जाता है। कटिहार में जो जूट बिकता है उसका पैसा किसानों को तत्काल मिल जाता है। इससे उनको ज्यादा लाभ होता है।

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member is giving information.

श्री Surendranath Dwivedy: Am I to understand from the reply of the hon. Minister that the workers un-

employed at a Bihar mill are taken to Calcutta for working there?

श्री Manubhai Shah: No, Sir. There is a slight lacuna there in that that the working time agreement will now apply only to Calcutta and those mills which are in the outer region will be re-started, as we are doing in the case of cotton textiles and engineering industries. But no working time agreement will apply to mills outside Calcutta.

श्रीमती रमा चक्रवर्ती: May we know the distance between the mills that have sold their working hours and the mill to which they have been transferred and whether any survey has been made as to the exact number of workers who used to work before and who are now being transferred to the other mills?

श्री Kanungo: Enquiries have been made by the State Government and by our own agency also. We have found that when the working hours are transferred the labour is also transferred.

श्री Nagi Reddy: What is the answer? (Interruption).

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member wants to know as to how far away they are transferred, what is the length of distance that has to be passed by them, to elicit if there is any special convenience for them to attend.

श्री Kanungo: Jute mills in the Calcutta region are just adjacent to each other. If the hon. Member wants to know about any particular pair of mills or about any particular mill, I am prepared to make an enquiry and give her the information.

श्री P. C. Borooah: May I know whether there is a system of granting license of working hours to mills and whether that is made transferable among the mills?

श्री Kanungo: There is an agreement between the members of the Jute Mills' Association and Government is informed about it.

Shri Damani: May I know whether Government is considering to restart the closed mills in consultation with State Governments as they have done in the case of textile industry?

Shri Kanungo: As I have said, we are making efforts to start two mills which are likely to be started very soon. We are making efforts for starting the other mills also.

Shri Rameshwar Tantia: I do not know what is the reply to my question. The hon. Minister said that workers are adjusted in other mills. I want to know as to how the workers of the Katihar mill were adjusted in the Calcutta mill who have purchased their working hours.

Shri Manubhai Shah: In the case of Katihar mills we are not transferring. What the hon. Member says is quite right. How can Bihar labour be transferred to Calcutta? Therefore we are trying to re-start the Katihar mill there itself by investigating the affairs of the company and, if possible, by taking action under section 18A of the Industries Act.

Shri Bimal Ghose: The Government has set up a committee to enquire into the conditions of jute mills including this problem as to whether there was unemployment as a result of this selling off of working hours. Do I understand that the committee has reported and has said that there is no unemployment as a result of such transfer?

Shri Manubhai Shah: We went into this carefully and also with the labour representatives. By and large, there has been no unemployment caused due to working time agreement which is in operation in Calcutta for the last 60 to 65 years.

Shri Aurobindo Ghosal: May I know whether the workers of the two closed mills, the Lawrence Jute mills and Fort Gloster Jute Mills (Old) have not been transferred to any mill and may I know the conditions of their service?

Shri Kanungo: My information is that all the looms have been transferred. About particular mills and the particular information which the hon. Member wants, if he gives separate notice, I will make enquiries.

Automobile Industry Reviewing Committee



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Shri Ram Krishan Gupta:
Shri M. L. Dwivedi:
Pandit D. N. Tiwary:
Shri Prakash Vir Shastri:
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Shri K. C. Majhi:
Shri S. M. Banerjee:
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