

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir, Closures may be due to shortage of raw materials, labour trouble, financial difficulties, mismanagement etc. In cases of shortage of raw materials, Government issue, where necessary, advance import licences. In case of labour trouble, the Central and State Industrial Relations Machinery make efforts to secure the re-opening of the closed units through persuasion. Requests for financial assistance are considered by the appropriate agencies in terms of the rules governing such assistance. As for closure due to mis-management, necessary action is taken by Government under the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act. The recent Industries (Development and Regulation) Amendment Ordinance, 1971 empowers Government to take over closed units without investigation under certain specified circumstances.

(c) According to the available information, the number of factories which closed down during the period April 1, 1969 to March 31, 1971 was 3,115; the number of factories which were still closed as on March 31, 1971 was 2,397; the number of factories which had re-opened during the above period being 718.

Increase in Unemployed Labour Forces

2580. **SHRI P. VENKATASUBBAIAH :** Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether unemployment statistics in India and the findings of an expert committee on unemployment corroborate Mr. Robert McNamara's statement that 20 per cent to 25 per cent of labour forces in the developing countries are unemployed ;

(b) whether the number of job-seekers in India has risen from 2.8 million in 1968 to 4.7 million at present ; and

(c) if so, the reaction of Government thereto and the steps proposed to be taken to solve this gigantic problem ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR) : (a) Reliable estimates of unemployment in the country are not available. The Report of the Committee of Experts on Unemployment estimates to which the Hon'ble

Member has presumably referred, does not contain any supporting statistics to corroborate the statement made by Mr. Robert McNamara.

(b) Yes, between May, 1968 and July, 1971.

(c) In this connection reference is invited to the statement laid on the Table of the House in reply to parts (a) to (c), of Starred Question No. 970 on 7.7.1971.

Deposits of Minerals in Himachal Pradesh

2581. **SHRI P. VENKATASUBBAIAH :** Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether rich deposits of minerals have been discovered in Himachal Pradesh recently ;

(b) if so, whether any analysis of the find has been made ; and

(c) if so, the outcome thereof and their prospects of commercial exploitation ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN) : (a) As a result of investigations conducted by the Geological Survey of India in Himachal Pradesh since 1966 sizeable deposits of limestone have been estimated in Kansar and Sataun areas of Sirmur district. Some minor deposits of Barytes in Kanti and Tatyana areas of Sirmur district and Rock phosphate in Ochaghat area in Simla district have also been located.

(b) and (c). Analysis of limestone, has already been made and on that basis, this (Sataun) limestone has been reserved for a cement factory which has already been sanctioned by the Government of India. The occurrences of barytes have been leased out for exploitation by the State Government. Further work on the rock phosphate is in progress and a decision on the commercial exploitation of these deposits will be taken when a clear picture of the quantum and quality of reserves is available.

Procedure for Distribution of Steel

2582. **SHRI S. N. MISRA :** Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) the procedure laid down for the supply

of steel to the consumers by the steel plants both in the private and public sector at present;

(b) whether the re-rollers in the private sector are permitted to appoint their own agents for the sale of the steel bars, billets and end products;

(c) if so, under what conditions; and

(d) the measures Government propose to take or have taken to prevent any malpractices by the trade in the matter of sale of steel products?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN): (a) Most of the production of the Steel Plants both in the public and the private sector is supplied to actual consumers on the basis of the priorities accorded by the Steel Priority Committee on a quarterly basis. The balance is distributed through the producers' stockyards spread over the country to small consumers and to traders and stockists for resale purposes. For distribution of steel from the stockyards also there is an uniform policy evolved by the Joint Plant Committee. Billets are, however, supplied only to Registered Billet Re-rollers as per the allocation made by the Billet Re-rollers Committee, in accordance with an annual policy approved by Government.

(b) and (c). So far as the Registered Billet Re-rollers are concerned the products re-rolled from billets allotted to them by the Billet Re-rollers Committee are distributed in accordance with the directions of that Committee. Other re-rollers are free to dispose of their production in any manner they like.

(d) A small percentage of the production of the Steel Plants is earmarked every quarter for distribution to trade. There is no regulation of the re-sale of such material. However, complaints have been received that some materials allocated for actual use are finding their way to the open market. To prevent such malpractices, regional Offices of the Iron and Steel Controller have been set up in different parts of the country and one of their functions is to check misuse of steel. The Iron and Steel (Control) Order has also been amended to provide that utilisation of steel for purposes

other than that for which steel is allocated or applied for is now a violation of the Control Order and as such would attract the penal provisions of the Essential Commodities Act. In investigating such complaints, the assistance of CBI is also being taken wherever necessary.

Car Advance by E. F. F. O. Officials

2583. SHRI MD. JAMILURRAHMAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of officials of the Employees Provident Fund Organisation having taken car advance to purchase cars and the particulars of the persons, their designation and scale of pay as on the 1st August, 1971;

(b) whether the officials posted at Jamshedpur, Ranchi and in the State of Kerala have taken prior permission to purchase the car;

(c) whether advance for the vehicles is allowed under the rules; and

(d) if so, the rules in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR): (a) and (b). The Provident Fund authorities have reported that the required information is not readily available with them.

(c) and (d). The Employees's Provident Fund Organisation generally follows the Central Government Rules on the subject.

Closure of Industrial Training Institutes in Delhi

2584. SHRI SHASHI BHUSHAN:
SHRI AMAR NATH CHAWLA:

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

(a) whether the instructors of all the seven centres of Industrial Training Institutes in Delhi have been agitating for certain demands;

(b) if so, the nature of their demands;

(c) whether all these Training Centres have been closed down; and

(d) the action taken by Government in this respect to safeguard the interest of the trainees there?