

Nehru House on Culture, Bhilai

4261. **Shri Baburao Patel:** Will the Minister of **Steel, Mines and Metals** be pleased to state:

(a) the expenditure on the construction of the Nehru House on Culture at Bhilai and the specific purpose it serves;

(b) whether the amount spent on the Nehru House could have been avoided in view of the fact that the Hindustan Steel Limited is losing crores of rupees every year; and

(c) if so, Government's reaction in the matter?

The Minister of Steel, Mines and Metals (Dr. Chenna Reddy): (a) The Nehru House of Culture cost about Rs. 2½ lakhs. It provides facilities for the composite community at Bhilai, which has members drawn from all over the country, to pursue its many-sided cultural life.

(b) Some expenditure on the welfare of employees is an inescapable charge on a progressive public sector enterprise.

(c) Government are keen that the welfare of the employees belonging to their enterprises should be adequately taken care of.

Bharathi Mills, Pondicherry

4262. **Shri Umanath:**
Shri P. Gopalan:
Shri K. Ramani:
Shri C. K. Chakrapani:

Will the Minister of **Commerce** be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bharathi Mills Pondicherry has gone into production after take-over by the Central Government;

(b) if so, since when;

(c) the total strength of workers and staff employed by the mills prior to its closure;

(d) the number of workers and staff re-employed after Government take-over; and

(e) if the number re-employed is less than the total strength prior to closure, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) 1st February, 1967.

(c) About 1,200 workers.

(d) 827 workers.

(e) The reason for not employing all the workers is that the mills has restarted with 16,000 spindles and 144 looms only out of a total of 25,000 spindles and 386 looms.

Bharati Mills, Pondicherry

4263. **Shri Umanath:**
Shri P. Gopalan:
Shri K. Ramani:
Shri C. K. Chakrapani:

Will the Minister of **Commerce** be pleased to state:

(a) whether any workers on the rolls prior to closure of the Bharathi Mills, Pondicherry have been re-trenched after take-over by Government and if so, the number thereof;

(b) whether any compensation was paid to them and if so, on what basis;

(c) whether any workers have been left without being employed or re-trenched and if so, their number and how Government propose to absorb them; and

(d) whether there has been any increase in the workload after the take-over, and if so, the extent thereof?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Dinesh Singh): (a) Around 500 permanent and temporary workers, including semi-clerks have been re-trenched since take-over of the mills by Government.

(b) 268 workers have been paid pension in accordance with Industrial Disputes Act and the rest are being paid in batches.