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Title: Issues relating to Ashoka Paper Mill in Assam.

SHRI SARBANANDA SONOWAL (DIBRUGARH): Sir, as you know, Assam is a very backward State in terms of industrial development. Considering our industrial backwardness, the then Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi had promised to reopen Ashok Paper Mill which is situated in the district of Bongaigaon as per the famous Assam Accord of 1985. In this regard, an amount of Rs. 68 crore have been released and the Government of Assam with Shanghi Group of Hyderabad had entered into an agreement to reopen the Mill. But later on, it was reported that the money has been misused. Nothing has been done in this regard so far. The Government of India has also failed to monitor the implementation part. That is why, I say that this is a very serious matter for the State of Assam. Several hundreds of employees and their family members are living in the world of

uncertainty due to the non-fulfilment of the commitment on the part of the Government in the Assam Accord.

I urge upon the Union Government to take up the matter immediately and take all possible necessary steps to reopen the Ashok Mills to meet the promises of the Assam Accord. If it is taken up immediately, then the people of Assam, particularly the youth of the State, will get a lot of inspiration and encouragement as many commitments have been made for the industrial growth of Assam by different Prime Ministers at different points of time. But nothing has been done in regard to this promise. My humble submission to the concerned Minister is to consider this matter as an emergent one and do the needful [\[bru19\]](#) .