

(c) if so, the reaction of the Government of India thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI K. C. PANT) : (a) The Deployment of the Armed Forces of the Union in aid of civil authority is constantly reviewed and the Armed Forces of the Union are so deployed only where the situation requires such assistance to be provided.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Radio Station at Silchar

1137. SHRIMATI JYOTSNA CHANDA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) when Government propose to start the Radio station at Silchar ;

(b) whether Government are aware that the Radio Station at Gauhati do not broadcast in all the languages such as Bengali, Manipuri, etc ; and

(c) if so, the remedial measures, if any, taken by Government ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI DHARAM BIR SINHA) : (a) In 1973

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Gauhati station caters to the listening need of its service area. Broadcasts in Bengali language are made from Calcutta, Agartala, Siliguri and Kurseong stations and in Manipuri from Imphal station.

मध्य प्रदेश से प्रकाशित होने वाले पत्र-पत्रिकाओं के लिए अखबारी कागज का कोटा

1138. डा० लक्ष्मीनारायण पांडे : क्या सूचना और प्रसारण मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) मध्य प्रदेश से प्रकाशित होने वाले प्रत्येक दैनिक, साप्ताहिक और अर्ध-साप्ताहिक पत्र, पत्रिका को अखबारी कागज का कितना कोटा प्रतिवर्ष दिया जाता है ; और

(ख) इन पत्रों को अखबारी कागज का कोटा किम आधार पर दिया जाता है ?

सूचना और प्रसारण मन्त्रालय में उप-मंत्री (श्री धर्मवीर सिंह) : (क) मध्य प्रदेश से प्रकाशित होने वाले दैनिक, साप्ताहिक तथा अर्ध-साप्ताहिक पत्र-पत्रिकाओं को लाइसेंसिंग वर्ष 1970-71 के लिये दिए गए अखबारी कागज के कोटे को दर्शाने वाला एक विवरण 'अ' सभा पटल पर रखा गया है । | ग्रन्थालय में रखा गया । देखिए संख्या LT- 26/871 |

(ख) दैनिक, अर्ध-साप्ताहिक तथा अन्य पत्रों को अखबारी कागज के आवंटन का आधार प्रत्येक लाइसेंसिंग वर्ष के शुरू में घोषित अखबारी कागज आवंटन संबंधी नीति में दिया जाता है । इसका मुख्य रूप से संबंध समाचार-पत्र की औसत परिचालन संख्या उमकी औसत पृष्ठ संख्या और पृष्ठ साइज तथा प्रत्येक लाइसेंसिंग अवधि में नीति के अन्तर्गत उसके अखबारी कागज के कोटे में की गई वृद्धि से होता है । 1971-72 के लिए अखबारी कागज आवंटन संबंधी नीति की एक प्रति 26 मई, 1971 को मदन की मेज पर रख दी गई थी ।

12:02 hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

REPORTED THREAT OF CLOSURE OF COTTON TEXTILE MILLS

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATF (Rajapur) : I call the attention of the Minister of Foreign Trade to the following matter of urgent public importance and I request that he may make a statement thereon :

"The reported threat of closure of cotton textile mills in the country which is

likely to cause unemployment of thousands of textile workers".

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE): Mr. Speaker, Sir, As the House is aware, the cotton textile industry has been facing difficulties since 1965, for one reason or the other. The accumulation of heavy stocks as a result of the Indo-Pakistan hostilities in 1965, the cotton crisis in 1966, the drought and consequent depression in 1966 and 1967 and the difficulty regarding cotton again in 1970-71 have all affected the industry adversely. While steps were taken from time to time deal with the specific situations, as and when they arose, all these factors have resulted in the closure of many mills from time to time. For the last three years, the number of closed mills in any month has ranged between 40 to 60. In the first half of 1970, the position was somewhat better and the number of closed mills on an average remained around 40. In March, 1971, it rose to 56, while in April, 1971, according to the figures available, it was 55. In May, 1971, 4 closed mills are reported to have re-opened, but the figures of fresh closures have yet to come in from the different States. However, reopening of a few closed mills and closures of a few weak running mills has been a fairly common feature every month during the past few years.

I do not know whether the Honourable Members have based this Calling Attention Notice on a Press Report of a Bombay daily in their issue of 23rd May, 1971. The position with regard to the five mills mentioned in the Press Report has been checked, through the Textile Commissioner and the Labour Commissioner of Maharashtra. It is understood that while these mills are facing financial difficulties, there is no immediate threat of their closure; nor has any notice of closure been received from any of these mills. In fact, the paper appears to have already published a contradiction.

Apart from this reference, I have had no reports of any imminent closures of any large number of mills. It is, however, true that the sharp rise in the prices of cotton during the current cotton year and

the credit restrictions accompanied by accumulation of stocks have adversely affected the liquidity position of the cotton textile industry in general. To meet the situation, substantial imports of cotton and staple fibre have been authorised and suggestions regarding credit relaxation have been made to the appropriate authorities.

The only instrument available to Government till 1967 for dealing with the closed mills was the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act, 1951. The management of a number of mills was taken over, under that Act, but it was found that this Act did not permit effective Government management. The Cotton Textile Companies (Management or Reconstruction) Act, 1967, was, therefore, enacted and the National Textile Corporation was formed in 1968. This Act provides for the effective management of mills by government and, simultaneously, for their liquidation as running concerns, or for reconstruction of the mill-companies. As a result of this, and of the activities of the National Textile Corporation, as also the State Governments or State Textile Corporations, 27 mills are being managed today by Government.

In spite of the serious situation caused by the steep increase in the price of cotton, creating special difficulties particularly for weak mills, Government have tried to deal with the situation by providing special relief to such mills by financial assistance, by preferential credit limits and allocations of foreign cotton and other measures. The Central Government, in consultation with the State Governments, are constantly watching the situation and are not hesitating to take prompt measures to avert threatened closures by any mill or groups of mills. It will be seen that effective action has been taken to arrest the closure of any large number of mills, and there is no reason for apprehension on this account. The National Textile Corporation as well as the State Textile Corporations, wherever they have been established, have been specially charged with the responsibility on this account. I hope the Honourable members will appreciate that Government are taking all necessary measures to deal with this important problem.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Sir, is Government aware of the fact that the recurring crisis in places like Bombay, Kanpur, Calcutta and elsewhere with the consequent threat of unemployment is not just an accident but a calculated conspiracy on the part of the millowners to pressurise the Government to disproportionately increase imports of cotton so that artificially the prices of indigenous cotton are brought down and with the availability of cheap cotton, the margins of their profits are increased. Not satisfied with this, last year the millowner, had demanded from the Government the upward revision of prices of controlled varieties of cloth. On the plea that the entire issue of prices has been actually referred to the Bureau of Industrial Costs and Prices, the Government did not yield to the pressure of the millowners. But again pressure is being mounted on the Government. Will the Government take firm steps to see that it will not be further pressurised by millowners and there will not be any further increase in the prices of controlled varieties of cloth ?

The millowners have been playing another game. For instance, under the pretext of non-availability of cheap cotton, inadequacy of capital for replacing old machinery, either wholly or in part, lack of credit facilities and stringent restrictions on them and many other considerations they have been indirectly compelling the Government to take over the sick mills. They manage to get compensation when the State takes over the sick mills. When the machinery is replaced, new machinery is brought in and the mills are rehabilitated and placed on a sound footing, by the State, the mills are handed back to the millowners. Thus they find in Government some sort of a sanatorium or a health centre where their sick mills can be treated and brought back to health and normalcy after which they could take them over. This is the type of health insurance they get from the Government.

Will Government take some positive steps to see that the millowners are forced to change this attitude with regard to the sick mills ?

Then the problems of cotton growers, consumers and textile workers have to be

tackled in a very effective manner. Will it be possible for the Government to extend and widen the scope of the present National Cotton Corporation so that all the three important aspects, namely, providing necessary seeds to the cotton growers, supervising the activity of production of yarn and ensuring its equitable distribution among the textile units, will be taken over by the Corporation ?

Is the Government aware that in places like Bombay the trade union organisations have advised the workers that in the event of closure of mills, they should resort to sit down satyagraha in the mills and refuse to leave the mills ? Is Government aware of the gravity of the situation throughout the country. According to the Report of the Indian Cotton Mills Federation, let us not forget that the millowners belonging to the federation are the very people responsible for bringing about the closure of the mills—by April, 1971, 81 mills have been closed down and 81,000 textile workers have been rendered unemployed. Probably the Government is not counting those 23 mills which they feel deserve to be scrapped. That is how their number of the closed mills and the number given by the Federation do not tally. This is a grave situation.

Since the crisis in textiles has been of a recurring nature, rather than tinkering with the problem and trying to solve it in a piecemeal way by taking over the sick mills only, will it be possible for the Government to have a more comprehensive review, overhaul its policy and move in the direction either of nationalisation of the textile mills, or putting the textile mills under co-operative agencies ?

The Sakseria Cotton Textile Mills in Bombay was taken over as a sick mill by the Government in 1967. The matter went to the Bombay High Court, and they sanctioned a reconstruction scheme under which actually the Government had to give up the charge of the mill. It was transferred to private management, and ultimately the mill went into liquidation and the workers have been thrown out of employment. Such a situation is developing. Therefore, will the Government now take a firm stand, taking

into account the over-all picture of the textile industry, its problems, difficulties and the pressures exerted by the textile magnates, and see to it that some policy of nationalisation or socialisation—the form is unimportant—is introduced? Will some positive steps be taken in that direction?

THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI L. N. MISHRA): My statement was exhaustive and we have said that we are aware of the situation obtained in the textile mills. It is a fact that the situation in many of the mills is not good or healthy or heartening. The N.T.C. has been taking over the sick mills. There are 27 with them now and the cases of 13 more are under consideration. It is just possible that we will be able to take over these mills also. The question is this, that the State Governments have also to agree to make an investment of 50 per cent when the N.T.C. takes over a mill.

The hon. Member also raised the question of yielding to the pressure of the textile mill-owners, for higher prices of controlled varieties. There is no question of yielding to any pressure. We are going to increase the prices of medium, coarse and other controlled varieties of cloth. This I have made clear on a number of occasions in the past, and I make it clear today also.

As regards unemployment of the working class. It is a fact when mills are closed, a number of workers are unemployed, and this is a very unfortunate position. The main reason for the closures is that we have mills which are out-dated and old and cannot compete with others. These mills have to be either modernised or scrapped. The N.T.C. is doing that job, and it deserves our compliments for whatever it has been able to do in the last two years. I must say they have done a good job.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU (Diamond Harbour): In the cotton textile industry there are a set of people who are exploiters, who are exploiting the cotton cultivators, the mill workers and the consumers at the same time, of course with the collusion of the Government. In March, 1971, the number of closed mills has risen to 56 from the previous figure of 40, and the N.T.C. has

been a silent spectator. In West Bengal 18 mills closed out of a total of 41, six during the President's rule. Unemployment in West Bengal alone is 24,000 textile workers. The owners swallowed all the reserves, even the Provident Fund contributions of the workers were misappropriated, and the Government has been a silent spectator. The Bombay and Ahmedabad tycoons want to continue their grip over the West Bengal market which produces only five per cent of the total requirements.

For example the Bengal Fine Spinning and Weaving Mills had not opened for quite a long time. I should like to know what steps are the Government going to take and how soon they will come to a decision? NTC has taken over 7 mills in Maharashtra, 5 in Gujarat, 4 in Tamil Nadu, two in U.P., 4 in M.P., one each in Rajasthan and Pondicherry. How many out of the 24 mills in West Bengal have they taken over? The hon. Minister Shri Mishra has assured in the Rajya Sabha on 24 November, 1970 that he was going to take some quick steps to examine the matter. What specific steps have been taken with regard to the taking-over the closed mills, especially in West Bengal, in view of his assurance. In West Bengal the distress is mainly lack of working capital and I am told that due to that only thirty per cent of the built-in capacity of the mills are being utilised at the moment. Another thing is that the textile mill owner in West Bengal is required to pay Rs. 100 per bale more than what his counterpart in Gujarat or Bombay pays. Will the hon. Minister consider the suggestion to have a national retention price as he has done in the case of steel? The Bengal cotton mills have been paying Rs. 5 crores to the Central revenue. The first mill was opened in West Bengal in Bauria about 100 years ago. Here the textile mills are really in great distress. What specific steps have been taken to tackle the problem and also to improve the position of unemployed workers in West Bengal.

SHRI L. N. MISHRA: I am in full agreement with Mr. Bosu. A number of textile mills in West Bengal are closed and workers are unemployed. I had discussions with officers of the West Bengal Government; perhaps the Chief Secretary was also here. I had suggested to him that the West Bengal Government should agree to the proposal of

[Shri L. N. Mishra]

the NTC to takeover some of the mills which could be run. There were a number of mills which were to be scrapped, very old mills. There were five or six mills which we can take over profitably provided the State Government agrees. Later when the popular Government come into power I wrote to the Minister concerned that the State Government should agree to fifty per cent of the capital required for the purpose and that the NTC will then take over the mills.

With regard to the support price to cotton, at the moment we have got support price for cotton. It will be difficult for me to say anything about the retention price at this stage.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU : How many cotton mills have you taken over in West Bengal ?

SHRI L. N. MISHRA : We have suggested the names of six or seven mills which we wanted to take over and for that we need the co-operation of the West Bengal Government.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU : The reply is nil. Why should he mislead the House.

SHRI L. N. MISHRA : I say : none ; I myself say so.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE (Kanpur) : According to information available with me, 22 textile mills in West Bengal and 13 in Coimbatore alone are closed ; 19 mills are closed in U. P., two mills are under threat of closure. The Labour Commissioner of Maharashtra might have contradicted the statement but my friend Mr. Dandavate has already stated the position. Workers were asked to squat in the mills and do *dharma* and some mills were closed. It appears that Government is going to take over certain mills after detailed investigations. That is exactly what is delaying matters. Textile mill owners have the maximum profit till the machinery is turned into a junk and when it becomes sick or because of mismanagement it is handed over to the Government. After sometime it is given blood plasma and everything and the mill is again handed back to the mill-owners.

I am happy to know that some of the mills have been taken over recently in Uttar Pradesh on a permanent basis ; they will not be handed over to the millowners again. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether any policy has been evolved. Now, detailed investigations under the industries (Development and Regulation) Act take considerably a long time. I want to know whether any other method has been evolved to take over these mills without such a detailed investigation which is delayed by the employers. The employers do not produce the documents and they do not tell the Government what their assets and liabilities are, and these things take a very long time in many places.

Another solemn promise was made in this House and outside also that in Kanpur, the Lakshmi Ratan Mills headed by Shri Ratan Gupta -- I am sorry to mention his name -- would be taken over. This gentleman does not pay any tax : neither the sales-tax nor the income-tax nor the wealth-tax or any other tax as payment to Government revenues. The hon. Minister was kind enough to appoint a team consisting of the Textile Commissioner, the managing Director of the National Textile Corporation of India and one of the very able Joint Secretaries in his ministry. They visited Kanpur recently and saw the horrible, wretched conditions of the workers in these two mills -- Atherton West Mills and Lakshmi Ratan Mills.

I want to know, firstly, what positive steps are being taken to take over the closed mills in West Bengal, Bombay and Coimbatore. In Shencottah, the Balavarme Textile Mills, employing about 600 workers, closed in 1969 and was ordered to be taken over on 11-3-1971 by State Government, but it still remains closed. Another mill in Rajapalayam, employing 400 workers, closed on 18-7-1970 and there is no more for opening it in the near future. Both the State Government and the Central Government are not taking action on it ; it is a sad commentary on our taking over the mills.

So, I want to know whether in West Bengal, Bombay and Coimbatore, what positive steps have been taken and how many mills are going to be taken over immediately and what steps have been taken to place a

ban on the closure of the textile mills. Many laws have been passed and many ordinances have been passed, but I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether there is any ban on the closure of textile mills, that they should not close the textile mills.

I would like to know whether there is any order or ban that the Government would like to make to the effect that no textile mill should be closed without prior notice or without adequate reasons for closure. The millowners cannot close the mills according to their whims and declare the workers as surplus. I want to know whether any final decision will be taken to take over the Lakshmi Ratan Cotton mills and Atherton West Mills in Kanpur and, if not, the reasons for the delay in taking them over. The hon. Minister must know that the workers of the Lakshmi Ratan Cotton Mills in Kanpur are on strike since the past four to five days, and they are determined to remain on strike until the mill is taken over by the Uttar Pradesh Government, until the Uttar Pradesh Government takes a decision to take over this mill. I would like to know from the hon. Minister what are the decisions of the Central Government; whether they are going to take over this mill.

SHRI L. N. MISHRA : The hon. Member has asked about a number of individual mills. It would be difficult for me to give any categorical answer about individual mills. But as a general principle, the position is like this. If in the case of any individual mill, if it has to be taken over and a decision is to be made about it, a team for investigation is set up and it is only after such an investigation that a decision regarding the taking over of the mill is taken. The hon. Member said that we should take over the mills without any investigation. It is not possible. There are some methods.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : Sir, kindly hear me. I have not suggested that. I asked whether there is any other method by which the delays can be avoided; whether there is any other method by which these mills can be taken over immediately, and whether they will ban the closure of a mill. These are the two questions; the third question is about the Lakshmi Ratan Mills.

SHRI L. N. MISHRA : As I said, without detailed investigation, mills cannot be taken over. If it is not in national interest and if it is difficult for the textile corporation to run the mills how can we take over such mills which are not working at all or which cannot be made to work? About Lakshmi Ratan Cotton Mills, I have discussed it with him on a number of occasions and also with the officers of U.P. Government. We had appointed a team of officers for investigation and their report is before us. We are in correspondence with the State Government. The moment the State Government agrees to invest 50 per cent of the capital required, we will take it over. In principle, we have agreed to take it over.

He said, no textile mill should be closed without prior notice. There is a provision that proper notice should be given to the workers before closure is done. So far as workers are concerned, he may take up the matter with the Labour Ministry. But my advice to the textile mills has been if they are in difficulty, they should come to our ministry and we shall help them with credit facilities, funds for modernisation of machinery, etc. But there are a number of mills which have not been cooperative in this respect. But the main reason why a number of mills had closed was that they felt that it would not be profitable for them to run the mills.

SHRI INDER J. MALHOTRA (Jammu) : Most of the points have already been answered. Only one thing remains. Since this problem is coming up from time to time before Government, may I know what specific steps Government have taken to see that the mill-owners try to modernise their machinery because one main reason for closure is, the machinery is out-dated?

SHRI L. N. MISHRA : Our mills have to be modernised. This is the problem in Europe also that the textile mills have to be modernised. Our mills are very bad and they have to be modernised, but the mill-owners are not coming forward. We have made a provision in the plan for modernisation of mills, but that amount is not being utilised. I would request the hon. member to prevail upon the mill-owners to take advantage of this facility.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri S. M. Krishna 12 30 hrs.
—absent.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: Sir, I know you have admitted a calling attention notice on this tomorrow. But may I say, one former M.P., Mr. Badrudduja and Dr. Yazdani have been detained under the Preventive Detention Act. The Chief Minister has all along been saying that they will prosecute them. But they have not been prosecuted. It has been done with a political motive, because the by-elections are coming. Let them make a statement. (Interruptions).

ANNUAL REPORT AND MEMORANDUM
RE CENTRAL VIGILANCE COMMISSION
AND NOTIFICATION UNDER
ALL INDIA SERVICES ACT

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND
IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL
(SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): Sir, I beg
to lay on the Table:

MR. SPEAKER: I have already admitted that calling attention notice. I am not allowing anybody to raise it now.

श्री वीरभद्र सिंह (मंडी): अध्यक्ष महोदय, आप ने आज अखबारों में पढ़ा होगा कि हरयाना सरकार ने हिमाचल प्रदेश की बसों के ऊपर बैन लगा दिया है...

अध्यक्ष महोदय: यह विदाउट नोटिस कैसे लिया जा सकता है? अखबारों में पढ़ते हैं, रेडियो में भी सुनते हैं। लेकिन बिना नोटिस यहाँ कैसे ले सकते हैं?

श्री वीरभद्र सिंह: अध्यक्ष महोदय, यह हरयाना सरकार ने एक तरफा कार्यवाही कर के हिमाचल प्रदेश की बसों के ऊपर बैन लगाया है, उन के हरयाने में आने के ऊपर बैन लगा दिया है ..

MR. SPEAKER: You cannot get up abruptly without notice.

SHRI VIRBHADRA SINGH: The Himachal Pradesh Government has asked the Central Government to intervene in the matter, because it is the constitutional duty of the Centre to intervene in the dispute. They should intervene in this dispute between Haryana and Himachal Pradesh.

MR. SPEAKER: Punjab also was mentioned in that.

SHRI VIRBHADRA SINGH: You can add Punjab also.

(1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Vigilance Commission for the year 1969-70. [Placed in Library See No LT-268/71]

(ii) Memorandum (Hindi and English versions) explaining the reasons for non-acceptance by Government of the Commission's advice in certain cases mentioned in the above Report [Placed in Library. See No LT 268--A/71]

(2) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (2) of section 3 of the All India Services Act, 1951:—

(i) The Indian Administrative Service (Fixation of Cadre Strength) Eighth Amendment Regulations, 1970, published in Notification No. G.S.R. 2022 in Gazette of India dated the 19th December, 1970.

(ii) G.S.R. 2050 published in Gazette of India dated the 22nd December, 1970.

(iii) The Nineteenth Amendment of 1970 to the Indian Administrative Service (Pay) Rules, 1954, published in Notification No. G.S.R. 48 in Gazette of India dated the 9th January, 1971.

(iv) G.S.R. 126 published in Gazette of India dated the 24th