

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now the lobbies have been cleared. Which of the cut motions does Shri Lobo Prabhu want to be put separately?

SHRI LOBO PRABHU: Let them all be put to vote by voice vote.

MR. CHAIRMAN: All right. I will not put all the cut motions to the vote of the House.

All the cut motions were put and negatived.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That the respective Supplementary sums not exceeding the amounts shown in the third column of the order paper be granted to the President to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1970, in respect of the following demands entered in the second column thereof—

Demands Nos. 7, 44, 60, 61, 66, 82, 93, 98, 116, 121, 124, 125 and 131."

The motion was adopted.

17.34 hrs.

APPROPRIATION (NO. 4) BILL*, 1969.

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JAGANNATH PAHADIA): On behalf of Shri Prakashchand B. Sethi, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain further sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of the financial year 1969-70.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain further sums from and out

of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of the financial year 1969-70."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI JAGANNATH PAHADIA: I introduce† the Bill.

17.35 hrs.

POINT OF PERSONAL EXPLANATION

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING AND WORKS, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI K. K. SHAH): Sir, in the morning Shri Prakash Vir Shastri stated on the floor of the House, when I was not present in the House, that I was a member of the Board of Trustees of Janahit Nidhi Trust. I wish to emphatically deny this allegation and regret that an hon. Member should have made such an unfounded statement. I request your permission to deny such a wild allegation.

श्री प्रकाशवीर शास्त्री (हापुड़) : सभापति महोदय, मैंने यह बात कही थी । लेकिन अगर आप उस के ट्रस्टी नहीं हैं, तो मैं इस के लिये दुःख प्रकट करता हूँ ।

17.36 hrs.

HALF-AN-HOUR DISCUSSION
NATIONAL TEXTILE CORPORATION

SHRI S. R. DAMANI (Sholapur): Sir, I am very grateful to you for giving me this opportunity to place before the Government the difficulties and hardships suffered by the families of hundreds and thousands of workers who have been thrown out of employment by the closure of so many mills in different parts of the country during the last few years. The mills which have gone out of commission and have broken down last year are mostly situated in small

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†Introduced with the recommendation of the Chief Justice of India discharging the functions of the President.

towns and the economy of those small towns, mostly dependent upon employment catered by those mills, has been affected to a great extent because there was no alternative employment in those small towns for those workers.

The reason for the establishment of the National Textile Corporation was to start those mills so that these workers could get employment. One mill in my constituency, Sholapur, went out of commission four or five years back. When the workers came to know that the Government has set up this Corporation to restart the mills, they were very happy. They thought that now the mill would start, their misery would be over, they would get employment; so, they were jubilant and very happy. When I went to Sholapur, many workers, who were previously working in the old mills, asked me when the mill was going to be opened.

Now we have the opportunity to examine as to what the National Textile Corporation has done so far to re-open those mills and to help the industry. Therefore the first thing that I would like to say is that you should examine the working of the National Textile Corporation since its inception, that is, about two years ago. I would also like to draw the attention of Government, through you to this and seek urgent and practical steps to overcome the difficult position created by the closure of the mills.

The closure of these mills was due to increase in the cost of production. The price of cotton had gone up; wages had gone up and the price of chemicals and colours which they were using had also gone up. In comparison to this steep rise in the cost of production, the increase in the sale price of cloth and yarn was not adequate; as such, they started losing and after some years it was not possible for them to continue any longer. The increase in the cost of production can be offset only by moderni-

sation, by putting up high speed machines to increase production, to produce better quality goods. But that is not possible because the mills are already in financial difficulties. Neither did the government give them any finance nor are they in a position to finance the modernisation themselves. As such, there was only one alternative before them, and that is to go out of production. Government is aware of this position and that is why it has appointed many committees to go into this position. Even though those committees have submitted their reports, no action has been taken by government and hence the present position.

Now we have to examine what the National Textile Corporation has done in the matter. According to the reply given by the Government, which I will refer to afterwards, they have so far taken over only one mill, namely, New Manekchock Spinning and Weaving Co. Ltd., Ahmedabad. They have examined about 21 mills but they have re-started only one mill. Even though so mills have gone out of production, they were able to re-start only one mill in 24 months. Out of the other 20 mills which they have examined, 9 mills are being run by the State Governments already. What is the purpose of examining those mills which are already run by the State Governments? Actually, there is no point in doing that. I would like to know when they are going to start the other 11 mills and give employment to those people who are without employment for the last 24 months. They can do a lot of things for expediting the re-starting of those mills. I would like to know by what time definitely the government or NTC will re-start those mills which they have examined.

Secondly, as I have said earlier, the only way to reduce the cost of production and put the industry on a sound footing is modernisation. From the reply I find that the NTC

(Shri S. R. Damani).

has not prepared any scheme to help the industry in the matter of modernisation by way of finance. Unless they prepare and implement some such scheme of financial assistance for modernisation how can the weak mills which are running with losses survive? Is there any plan before the NTC for modernisation of mills?

One redeeming factor here is that 95 per cent of the plant and machinery required by the textile industry, even for modernisation, are manufactured in this country and now most of those units have idle capacity. Therefore, it is very much easier for the government or NTC to help the industry in the matter of modernisation by utilising that idle capacity.

I will now give some suggestions for improving the position. Now machinery is available for modernisation. Only the mills have no finance. So, if finance is guaranteed to the industry for the purchase of machinery, the problem can be solved. Therefore, if there is any scheme for modernisation, it should have provision for financing it. Otherwise, the industry will not be able to take advantage of the scheme. So, I would like to know whether any scheme has been drawn up for modernisation or for running the mills which are weak, or closed mills, whether there is provision for supply of finance.

Then, the office of the Textile Commissioner has some experienced and talented persons. How are they utilized now? Now they scrutinise applications, collect figures, distribute imported cotton or carry out statutory rules and regulations. I would say that their services should be utilized in a better way. For instance, if the mills are about to be closed, they can go and make an on-the-spot survey of the mills, suggest in what ways the mills can improve their efficiency and reduce the losses. On account of limitation on

time, I cannot elaborate on this point. But I would say that the staff of the Textile Commissioner should not be utilized only for statutory work of comparing figures or compiling statistics, etc. Whenever any of the mills face any difficulties, they should be asked to go, study the problem and suggest how it could be solved.

Lastly, I would like to say this. This is also very important. We are importing cotton worth Rs. 84 crores every year. How much are we spending on development of cotton? You will be surprised to know that Government is spending only Rs. 20 lakhs per year for the development of cotton whereas they are importing cotton to the extent of Rs. 84 crores! Out of these Rs. 20 lakhs, how much is being spent on administration and how much is actually spent on development of cotton? This should receive Government's serious attention. Government should give more attention for increasing the per acre production because our country's per acre production is very much lower than that of the others; it is rather the least. As such, there is ample scope for development and if we develop, we can be self-sufficient and the cost of production of the mills can also be reduced; the farmers also will be benefited.

In conclusion, I would say that those mills which are situated in small towns should be given preference in re-starting; modernisation schemes should be put into operation; the Textile Commissioner's office should be utilised for development purposes instead of for compiling and scrutinising statistics. The production of cotton should be increased.

THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN TRADE AND SUPPLY (SHRI B. R. BHAGAT): I am very glad that the hon. Member has raised this discussion. This is a very important subject. Textile is one of oldest and the largest industries, and it has been

going through a period of difficulties which have been aggravated more by many factors, including shortage and rise in prices of cotton. Basically the ills from which this industry is suffering are lack of modernisation, obsolescence, financial difficulties, bad management and other things—all combined. The combination of these factors has made this industry to be in rather a sick state. For the last two years, the House has shown a great concern. A number of mills were closed. Although the number is not increasing, the corrective measures that were taken have at least halted the process; today the position remains as it was, if not better . . .

SHRI UMANATH (Pudukkottai): The number has increased . . .

SHRI B. R. BHAGAT: The number is about the same.

SHRI UMANATH: In Tamil Nadu, before the formation of the Corporation, the number was 21, and after the formation of the Corporation, it is now 29.

SHRI B. R. BHAGAT: On 30th June, 1963 the number of closed mills was 55 in addition to 15 mills which were fit to be scrapped. Today the number is 57 in addition to 16 which are fit to be scrapped. This is the position about closed mills. (Interruptions) So, the position remains more or less what it was. The corrective measures taken have paid. A number of other measures were also taken. I need not go into these—the fiscal relief, bringing down the area of control on production so that the mills are able to have more profitability and certain other measures taken to improve the position of the textiles. These things apart, the hon. Member has raised two or three basic issues. He has complained that the National Textile Corporation has not yet started functioning. Well, Sir, when the Bill was passed, a number of restraints were put on it and it has to follow a cer-

tain procedure. Then in many of the decisions that have been taken either for liquidation or for reconstruction the matter has to go to the courts. But basically the position remains as it is. The hon. Member says that only one mill has started working. That is not true. If you take the number of mills for which authorised controllers were appointed before NTC came into being, that was 12. Most of them are in operation. They are also running. You cannot say that they are not running. There are mills—the hon. Member knows—like the Muir Mills and the India United Mills. If the mills were not running, what position would have been there? Then the NTC went into the case of all these mills and they have made their recommendations that either the mills be taken over for liquidation or for reconstruction. In case of liquidation mills, new companies may have to be set up. In case of reconstruction the company will be reconstructed with subscriptions of new share capital. That process has already been gone through.

The number of mills in which it has been decided to appoint authorised Controllers is 4. Out of these 4, 2 are running and 2 are about to run. The number of mills in which NTC has recommended the appointment of authorised Controllers but which decision is yet to be taken is 7. The number of mills in respect of which it has been decided on the recommendation of the NTC not to appoint authorised Controllers is 7. So this is the work which is proceeding. I wish the NTC should be more efficient and go ahead more quickly, but in a matter like this where we have to carefully examine the position, an investigation Committee as an expert body goes into that, the Committee report has to be scrutinised in the Textile Commissioner's office, then the NTC goes into it and then it goes to the Finance Ministry and then it has to go to the Industries Min-

[Shri B. R. Bhagat]

istry, it will naturally take time. All this is provided in the framework of the Act itself. Now the hon. Member wants that it should go ahead like a jumping horse. (Interruptions).

SHRI UMANATH: By that time the unemployed workers will die.

SHRI B. R. BHAGAT: What is the remedy?

SHRI UMANATH: You must find some way out to circumvent it.

SHRI B. R. BHAGAT: Now you have heard the statement by the Chairman of the NTC. In the beginning he expressed dissatisfaction at the procedural delays. Now he says that the momentum has gathered. Now the NTC will take up as many mills as are closed for investigation and such of those that are reconstructed will be formed as speedily as possible. He is giving his utmost attention to this.

Another question the hon. Member has raised is the question of modernisation. He said: what is being done? That is the crux of the question. Our textile industry is obsolete by and large and, therefore, unless the modernisation process is gone through, there is no other way of remedying the situation. There may be many more on the sick list. Although we are trying to do everything possible to see that there are no more closed mills on hand, in a difficult situation like this, it may be possible that unless these mills are modernised and made more efficient, things may go from bad to worse. In this respect the hon. Member is right. What is being done? A working group was set up to take stock of the situation and find out as to how much money is needed. A representative of the Indian Cotton Mills Federation was also there. They have come to the conclusion that in 4-5 years during the Fourth Plan period a sum of about Rs. 180 crores will be needed. That is the minimum.

That is their assessment. Some people dispute that and say we need much more. We need Rs. 500 or Rs. 300 crores. But out of this Rs 180 crores, Rs. 75 crores is to be met by the industry itself and Rs. 105 crores by credit institutions. Now the position as it is is that we have to find this Rs. 105 crores. I will be happy if the finance Ministry and the financial institutions fork out Rs. 105 crores for modernisation. I will be happy about it. But unless we do this there is no point in saying that we need Rs. 300 crores or Rs. 400 crores. The assessment has been made that if the industry is able to have an investment of this order we may be able to provide the necessary modernisation to this industry. Particularly we have to proceed on a selective basis in respect of the export mills which produce the qualities that are going out for exports. They must be absolutely modernised. Then the other mills should come forward and we want to do this and proceed on a priority and selective basis. The hon. Member said about cotton which is another important problem. It is true that although there has been some improvement in the per acre yield of cotton, but, compared to countries like the Soviet Union, or U.A.R. or United States we are very hopelessly behind in this regard. This matter is dealt with by the Agriculture Ministry. But I have taken it up with them and a special committee has been formed to go into this question. Whatever is necessary has to be done. The necessary inputs should be applied; much of the cotton is grown in dry areas; the plant protection measures, better seeds and intensive measures are being taken up. But I agree that the funds provided so far and care taken so far are not adequate and much more is to be done. If we want to be self-sufficient in cotton we must be self-sufficient in cotton to the extent we should not import any PL 480 cotton in future, if we are able to produce more of the long-

staple varieties of cotton. We have to make maximum effort to be self-sufficient but our commercial obligation and trade relations with some of the countries which have cotton to offer are such that we can maintain these imports and these may continue. Otherwise we should be self-sufficient in cotton not in 5 or 10 years but in 3 or 4 years time; in the foreseeable future we must be self-sufficient. That should be the objective. And, I have urged upon my colleague the Food Minister that enough money should be provided. This question is being looked into and I hope ultimately in this vital aspect, apart from modernisation, the vital aspect of the raw material, that is cotton, is looked into.

SHRI S. R. DAMANI: Is there any scheme for modernisation? There are mills which are under the Government and making losses.

SHRI HARI KRISHNA (Allabad): Sir, there is no quorum in the House.

श्री जाजं फरनेडीज (बम्बई दक्षिण): यह अच्छा तरीका निकाला है सिंडिकेट ने।

श्री रामावतार श.श्री (पटना) : सभी पार्टियों ने यह तय किया था कि कोरम का सवाल नहीं उठाया जाएगा

SHRI HARI KRISHNA: Sir, I object to the remark of the hon. Member.

श्री जाजं फरनेडीज : बिल्कुल सिंडिकेट के नीकर हैं — यह तय हुआ था कि हाफ एन आवर में कोई भी पार्टी का सदस्य कोरम का सवाल नहीं उठायेगा।

MR. CHAIRMAN: The bell is being rung—

Now there is quorum. Shri Lobo Prabhu.

18 hrs.

SHRI NARENDEA SINGH MAHIDA (Anand): If a member from my side has raised this question, I

am sorry. It is the right of the Opposition to raise it.

SHRI LOBO PRABHU (Udipi): I am not going to dwell on the fact that only one mill out of 80 has been reopened on an advance of only Rs. 12.75 lakhs in the course of six months. This matter is such a great shame that I am sorry that the Minister indulged in a lot of confusion and referred to mills which were taken over before.

There are two human problems involved. I entirely sympathise with my hon. friends who made the point that 75,000 people are unemployed on account of the closure of 80 mills. This Government takes the plea that it takes time to work these mills. There is something very wrong with the Textile Corporation.

SHRI B. R. BHAGAT: What is his suggestion?

SHRI LOBO PRABHU: The other problem is this. One reason which he has not touched why the textile mills are in this position today is consumer resistance. During the course of the last ten years, the price of cloth has gone up 100 per cent. This is largely because of the tax element which forms 40 per cent of the cost of cloth. Everytime a man buys a coat piece, he is paying to Shrimati Indira Gandhi 40 per cent of the price, not to the person who produce that cloth. Government should pay attention to this before they think of modernisation. They will not look at this problem organically. The Minister would just come here with some prepared reply and reply to his own members: 'we are doing this, we are doing that in regard to cotton, we are doing something else about modernisation'. Think of the human problem, think of the common man.

SHRI SONAVANE (Pandharpur): Why did he not think of the common man when the Bank nationalisation Bill came here?

SHRI LOBO PRABHU: This shows that he has the mental capacity of a child; he is saying something utterly irrelevant. Also he does not know that bank nationalisation has done no good to the common man; it has only done good to the Congress Party.

SHRI SONAVANE: Time will prove it.

SHRI LOBO PRABHU: When 75,000 workers are idle, why not reduce the taxes which are the real cause of the present textile crisis?

श्री जार्ज फर्नेंडीज (बम्बई दक्षिण) : सभापति महोदय पिछले दो डार्ड बरसों में इस सदन में इस प्रश्न पर कई बार बहस हो चुकी है। जब सरकार ने बिमार या बन्द मिलों को देने का फैसला किया तब हमें बताया गया था कि इस समय जितनी बन्द बीमार मिलें हैं उनको इस कार्पोरेशन के द्वारा चलाया जायेगा। लेकिन अब जो हकीकत हम लोगों के सामने आ रही है उससे यही मालूम होता है कि सरकार ने इस सदन में बीमारमिलों को लेने सम्बन्धी विधेयक को पेश करते हुए जो आश्वासन दिये थे, उनमें से किसी भी आश्वासन को पूरा नहीं किया गया। नतीजा यह हो रहा है कि मिलें अभी भी बन्द हो रही हैं बम्बई, अहमदाबाद और दक्षिण में और इस तरफ कानपुर में जो सूती मिलों के बड़े केन्द्र हैं इन तमाम केन्द्रों में मिलें इस समय बन्द हो रही हैं। कर्मचारी और उनके प्रतिनिधि लगातार दिल्ली आते हैं। दिल्ली में उनसे कहा जाता है कि राज्य सरकार के पास चलो और अब राज्य सरकार के पास जाते हैं तो कहा जाता है कि दिल्ली सरकार के पास चलो। तो राज्य सरकार और दिल्ली सरकार इन दोनों के बीच में इन कर्मचारियों के लाचारी दिवस चल रहे हैं। इसलिये मैं जानना चासता हूँ कि जो वायदा आप

लोगों के इस सदन में किया था विधेयक के समय बीमार मिलों के लेने के लिए उसे कब करने जा रहे हैं? विधेयक को पेश करते तमाम बीमार मिलों को लेने की जो बात चली थी और जो देश में यह हुई थी कि अब मजदूरों की समस्या हल करने के लिए कोई ठोस कदम उठायेगें और जितनी बीमार मिलें हैं उनको अपने हाथ में लेंगे तो इन तमाम मिलों को लेने के लिए क्या प्रयत्न किया जा रहा है?

दूसरा प्रश्न यह है कि जिसके बारे में मैं मंत्री महोदय का स्पष्टीकरण चाहूँगा कि एक यह भी बात देश में कही जाती है कि आजकर जो टेरिलीन का कपड़ा चला है उसके कारण सूती मिलों के कपड़े का इस्तेमाल कम होता जा रहा है क्योंकि टेरिलीन का कपड़ा, यह कहा जाता है कि अधिक दिनों तक चलता है जबकि सूती मिल का कपड़ा उतना नहीं चलता है। तो इसमें क्या तथ्य है कि टेरिलीन का कपड़ा आने से आपके सूती मिल के ऊपर क्या इसकी परेशानी हो रही है और वहां पर जो कपड़े की पैदावार इस समय देश में होनी चाहिए उसमें कमी हो रही है? अगर यह सही है तो एक तरफ जो आधुनिकरण की बात चलाते हैं उस आधुनीकरण के साथ साथ दूसरी तरफ जो मिलों के कपड़ों का इस्तेमाल कम होकर वहां बेकारी की नई समस्या खड़ी हो रही है उसका मुकाबला करने के लिए आपने कमी सोचा है? अगर सोचा है तो क्या योजना बनाई है।

SHRI N. SHIVAPPA (Hassan): The hon. Minister spoke about financial implications and his endeavour to persuade the Finance Ministry to advance money to the corporation. I am sorry for his efforts which ended in vain. I am sorry ont for him but for the 75,000 workers referred to by my friend Mr. Lobo Prabhu who have lost their bread. It means their 75,000 families go without bread. Just like

the hon. Minister they are human beings and they have wives and children. I do not know the use of the slogans which they mouth when these things happen. The sick mills were taken to be improved financially and physically so that those labourers could be profitably employed. They had Joglekar Committee and Manubhai Committee Reports. Was it not possible for them to dig out some recommendation and use it effectively to improve these mills? The Corporation has not at all been functioning though it was created 1½ years ago. We expect a concrete reply.

But that apart, I want to have a categorical answer to my question. There are certain mills functioning all right. There are certain sick mills taken over by the institution. Why not these two be combined together, by which the mills that are already functioning with profit will pick out others and provide finances for them, instead of seeking aid with a begging bowl from the Finance Ministry or some foreign country? I want a categorical answer from the hon. Minister. What is the infringement, what is the obstacle, what is the problem for him, in not mingling these two institutions and seeing that the machinery and the functions are put together, thereby giving an opportunity to the workers on the one side for enough work, and also giving a sound financial position to the textile industry which is the oldest industry, which is the soul of the country. This industry will have to function properly for the betterment of the people, for the betterment of our finances and help the unfortunate people.

The last point I want to make and to which I would invite the attention of the hon. Minister is this. In any democratic country, where they have got a democratic feeling, where they have got respect for the democratic feeling, respect for labour, in any such democratic country in the world, if there is a labourer who is put out of work for the fault of the Government, by taking over one institution,—where

ther it is public or private—he will be provided with shelter, preferably a bungalow, and with a certain amount of money not only for himself but for the members of his family.

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is too long. Please put the question straight.

SHRI N. SHIVAPPA: I am putting the question. Will the Government tell me very categorically that they will improve the workers' conditions, that they will provide all these facilities taking into account human considerations and democratic values? I want an answer. What is the infringement? Is it not possible to provide these facilities? What about the report of the investigating committee?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Ask the question.

SHRI N. SHIVAPPA: It is a big subject which is before us and it is in the interests of the nation. I will put an ordinary question, and I shall confine myself to that question. What is that so-called investigating committee? That is with regard to 20 mills: three mills in Gujarat, one in Maharashtra and one in Madhya Pradesh, and 15 mills in Tamil Nadu. Is it right on the part of this Government, on the part of the Ministry, to sleep over the matter when an investigation has been done? Why not the matter be expedited? That is my final question and I will leave it at that stage.

श्री रामवितार शास्त्री (पटना) :
सभापति महोदय, स्वतन्त्रता के बाद हम लोगों ने समझा था कि हमारे देश में सूती मिलें बढ़ेंगी और हर सूते में ये मिलें कायम की जाएंगी। लेकिन मैं जिस प्रान्त से आता हूँ, हमारे माननीय मंत्री जी भी उसी प्रान्त से आते हैं — बिहार, वहाँ सूती कपड़ा मिलें बिल्कुल नहीं हैं। जो एक दो है—जैसे एक गया में है, वह बन्द हो गई है। एक फुलवारी शरीफ में है, उसकी हालत भी गदरेबूद है

श्री बंली राम भंगत: वह तो चल रही है।

श्री रामावतार शास्त्री : क्या चल रही है, उसकी हालत भी गदरेबूज है। हम देख रहे हैं कि बीमार मिलों की संख्या बढ़ती जा रही है। इन्होंने जो नेशनल टैक्स-टाइल कारपोरेशन बनाया है, उसने 21 मिलों की जांच - पड़ताल की है और अपनी रिपोर्ट में चार बातें कही हैं, मैं उन सब बातों में तो नहीं जाऊंगा लेकिन एक बात जरूर कहना चाहता हूँ कि जिन मिलों की जांच की है, उनको तीन मिलों को सरकारी कब्जे में लेने का फैसला किया है। एक मिल को तो खत्म ही कर दिया, उसके लिए कह दिया कि इससे कोई फायदा नहीं होगा। इसको समाप्त कर दिया जाये, चार मिलों के सम्बन्ध में यह कह दिया कि वे आर्थिक रूप से सम्पन्न नहीं हो सकतीं, इसलिए वे बेकार हैं। बांकी के बारे में अभी विचार विनिमय किया जा रहा है। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि यह विचार-विनिमय कब तक चलता रहेगा कितने दिनों तक चलेगा? क्या इस के लिए कोई मुद्दा या अवधि तय की गई है?

दो मिलों को आपने एडवांस दिया है—जिनमें से एक के सम्बन्ध में बोलने वाले माननीय सदस्य ने बताया था—न्यू मानिक चौक स्पिनिंग एण्ड वीविंग मिल्स कम्पनी लि० अहमदाबाद, इसको 12 लाख 75 हजार रुपया दिया गया है और दूसरी मिल है—भारतीय मिल्स लि०, पाण्डिचेरी, जिसको पांच लाख रुपया दिया गया है। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि आपके मदद करने के बाद इन मिलों की स्थिति क्या है, क्या वे ठीक से चल रही हैं या नहीं चल रही हैं। आपका जो मुकदमा था, वह पूरा हो रहा है या नहीं हो रहा है—यह हम साफ साफ जानना चाहते हैं?

इसके अलावा जो मजदूर बेकार हो गये हैं उनको काम दिलाने के लिए आप के सामन कौन से ठोस प्रस्ताव विचाराधीन है? उस पर आप विचार कर रहे हैं या आगे करेंगे?

SHRI B. R. BHAGAT: A number of issues have been raised, some of which are fundamental. For instance, the question of the switch over to synthetic fibres or terrylene cloth is a more fundamental issue. I would like to say on this occasion that the National Textile Corporation is trying to do its best within the limitation set upon it by the Act itself. I do not know what impression my predecessor in office gave but it is a fact that it is not the function of the NTC to take over and run all the closed mills. Because, as will be seen from some of the figures given, some of the mills are fit only to be scrapped; whatever amount is invested on them will be throwing good money after bad, because they are so obsolete that they cannot be put into operation. Therefore, the investigating committee goes into the question carefully and then makes recommendations on the basis of the capacity and feasibility of the mills. On that basis information was given that so many investigations have been completed and action has been taken in certain cases.

An hon. Member wanted to know the cases pending before government. At the moment, there are seven recommendations, either for reconstruction or for liquidation and forming new companies. We have got the concurrence of the Finance Ministry in two cases and five are pending. In the mean while, other reports are coming in. Therefore, the process will go on. The working of the NTC is gathering momentum and we expect that the complaint raised in this House and elsewhere that it is not working fast will cease to be valid soon.

Then, it is said that it is not looking to the human side. I am glad to note that the hon. Member has suddenly woken up to the human side of our teeming millions. It is a good thing, if it is genuine. Of course, I take it for the face value because all of us are hon. Members.

The position is that today the Corporation is trying to pursue its activities as fast as it can. An hon. Member asked about the position of those mills which have been taken over. They have started working only a month or two back. But I can inform the hon. Member that all those mills under the various controllers are working well. Some of them are making profits while others have cut down their losses. Most of them are in a much better position today than what they were at the time of taking over. I am quite sure that these two mills, or the other two which will be started soon, will not only be put on their own foot but their health will be restored to them.

As for the changeover to artificial fabric, terylene yarn, the point that has been made by the hon. Member is very valid. Here I can make only a general statement. The present position seems to be that in the foreseeable future we can still depend that the cotton fabric will be the main wearing material. Because of the price differential, for the common people cotton will be the fabric. For the very rich people only terylene can be there, although there is demand in the younger generation; but at the moment because of

the price differential it can only be from a small class of people.

Secondly, the production of artificial fabric is limited. The position after the recession is that the demand for cotton cloth has again picked up.

श्री जार्ज फर्लेन्डीज : इस पर आप के किसी भी मंत्रालय में लाइसेंस की नीति के बारे में और तमाम सूती मिलों की परिस्थिति के बारे में जहाँ अध्ययन होता है, वहाँ इस प्रश्न पर कोई अध्ययन हुआ है कि नहीं ?

SHRI B. R. BHAGAT: I cannot say with any definiteness that there has been any study made of this; but, as I said, it is a valid point. At least now a very careful study should be made. I agree with the hon. Member.

Then, I know the workers who were working in the closed mills are in great difficulties. If there had been any way of speeding up their reopening through the National Textile Corporation, certainly it could have been done. But I can assure the hon. Member that all that is possible in taking over more and more mills and to make them run as good mills and be an asset to the production system in the public sector, is being done. No effort will be spared in bringing more mills under this Corporation.

18.22 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Tuesday, August 26, 1969|Bhadra 4, 1891 (Saka).