

tiative in this matter. Thousands of workers from those areas in Bombay have migrated to the Konkan region which is the hinterland of Bombay City. Those powerlooms might be sent there and if, on cooperative basis, some effort is made to set up powerloom factories there, if those looms which are discarded in Bombay are utilised in the backward Konkan region for setting up a powerloom industry, will the Central Government encourage the cooperative endeavour?

SHRI CHANDRASHEKHAR SINGH: The question relates to Bhiwandi, but I would like to tell the hon. Member...

PROF. MADHU DANAVATE : Geographically, Bhiwandi is part of Konkan. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI CHANDRASHEKHAR SINGH: The question does not relate to the closure of mills in Bombay and its impact elsewhere. But I would certainly take note of the hon. Member's suggestion.

[*Translation*]

**Shifting of Headquarters of MITCO
From Patna**

*896. **SHRI SARFARAZ AHMAD :** Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the main activity of mica is centred at Giridih and Kodarma but the headquarters of Mica Trading Corporation is in Patna;

(b) whether in the interest of workers, Government propose to shift the headquarters of Mica Trading Corporation from Patna to either at Giridih or Kodarma and if so, by what time; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

[*English*]

**THE MINISTER OF STATE OF
THE MINISTRY OF SUPPLY AND**

TEXTILES (SHRI CHANDRASHEKHAR SINGH : (a). Yes, Sir. Giridih and Kodarma are main centres for Mica mining in the country. Mica is also mined and processed in Andhra Pradesh and Rajasthan and other areas of Bihar.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Mica has a large export market. MITCO is exporting mica to about 35 countries in the world. For commercial and administrative reasons, the headquarters of MITCO was located at Patna which has good means of communication and is well connected by airline and rail to enable MITCO to maintain close liaison with the foreign buyers.

SHRI SARFARAZ AHMAD : We always talk about workers and labourers. Giridih is an industrially backward district in Bihar and is inhabited by Adivasis. The people of that area have no means of livelihood. The headquarters of MITCO are in Patna which is about 300 kilometres from Giridih, and the workers and staff of MITCO have to run all the way to Patna even for a small work. Apart from that, MITCO has already purchased land in the industrial area at Giridih. The Minister says that due to good means of communications and its being well connected by air and rail, location of the headquarters at Patna will enable MITCO to maintain close liaison. But if that be the reason, you can well shift it from Patna to Delhi which is having better air and rail communications. It will be in the interests of the higher officials of. So from all MITCO. these points of view, I would request the Minister to shift the headquarters from Patna to Giridih which will enable the people of Giridih to have a better say in the functioning of the MITCO.

SHRI CHANDRASHEKHAR SINGH: We feel that it will not be in the interests of those involved in the mica business—the and the traders to shift it from Patna to Giridih because that would retard the functioning of the MITCO it-

self. In fact all other facilities are being provided at Giridih and Jhumrithilaya and for reasons which have been clearly stated, Patna is the ideal location. It has rail facilities, communication facilities and it is close to the producing centres and close to the shipping points also. So in view of all these factors, the Government decision is to continue the present MITCO head quarters at Patna.

SHRI SARFARAZ AHMAD : Do the Government have any plan in the near future to nationalise the mica processing factories at Giridih or to establish their own mica silvering factories or capacitors plants or mica paper plant at Giridih ?

SHRI CHANDRASHEKHAR SINGH : Nationalisation is not under consideration at the moment, but promotional efforts and actual construction work is also going on for mica-based industries. Processing units have been set up at Giridih and Jhumrithilaya and it is also our effort to diversify production into value-added items like micronised mica powder, silvered mica plates, mica capacitors, and insulators, etc.

[*Translation*]

SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to ask the Hon. Minister whether Bihar Government has sent any proposal regarding mica-based industry to the Central Government, and if so, whether the Central Government intend to establish that industry there.

[*English*]

SHRI CHANDRASHEKHAR SINGH : The question should be addressed to the Industries Ministry.

SHRI P. PENCHALLIAH : Gudur in Andhra Pradesh is internationally famous for mica business. In Gudur there are three rubes mica for which

there is no market to dispose of their mica. So many times all the three mine-owners approached the Mica Trading Corporation officers to purchase their mica. If the MITCO purchases their produce the mines may not stop. I want to know why the MITCO officers are not coming forward to purchase their products.

SHRI CHANDRASHEKHAR SINGH : We are not aware of the situation. But if there is any specific difficulty, I will be obliged to the Member if he writes to me. For his information, a mica-processing factory and purchase centre has been operating at Gudur in Andhra Pradesh.

[*Translation*]

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL VYYS : Mr. Speaker, Sir, mica is exploited in three areas in India—Bihar, Andhra and Rajasthan. In Rajasthan it is available in my area, i. e., Bhilwara. You have established processing factories in Bihar and Andhra, but no such factory has been established in Rajasthan, though we have been demanding it for the last ten years. As our mica is of a bit inferior quality, MITCO and other traders do not lift its stock from Rajasthan. If a processing factory could be established there, the people would definitely get employment there. Earlier our demand for such a factory was rejected but as a result of our persistent pleadings, this demand has been received again. I would, therefore, like to know how long it will take to establish the processing factory in Bhilwara.

SHRI CHANDRASHEKHAR SINGH : A processing factory of MITCO is already functioning in Bhilwara. At present it is housed in a rented building. A new building for the same is under construction.

[*English*]

Credit Camps in Bangalore City

*897. **SHRI V. S. KRISHNA IYER :** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :