

[Shri Warior]

following matter of urgent public importance and I request that he may make a statement thereon:—

A haul of illicit weapons in Ambala, Punjab.

The Minister of Home Affairs (Pandit G. B. Pant): A person by the name of Ranbir Singh. (laughter).... I am giving the father's name also so that there should be no mistake—son of Jwala Prasad, resident of Jullundur, was arrested by the Jaipur Police under section 109 Cr. P. C. on a charge of vagrancy. The Jaipur Police referred the arrested person to the Ambala Police for certain enquiries in connection with which the person was brought to Ambala where further interrogation resulted in the accused giving information about the existence of some arms and ammunition which, according to him, lay buried in village Kajheri, District Ambala. This information was followed up with a search which resulted in the recovery of the following weapons on 14th September, 1958 (and not 15th September 1958 as stated in the Call Attention Notice):—

- 1 Revolver .38 bore (Webley & Scott-English make).
- 1 automatic pistol 9 mm (Canadian make).
- 10 live hand grenades (single grenades Army type).
- 17 detonators relatable to item (3) above.
- 185 revolver/pistol cartridges [relatable to items (1) and (2) above].

The above was found buried under the ground in two glass jars securely sealed with wax in a cattle shed belonging to one Bawa Harbhajan Das of village Kajheri.

Investigation into the matter continues. The accused says that he is a graduate of the Punjab University

and his father is employed in the P. & T. Department at Patiala. It has not been possible as yet to establish definitely the source of the arms and ammunition recovered. The accused is making varying statements. One of them was to the effect that he was planning to hold people to ransom and commit dacoities.

STATEMENT ON ACTION ON TEXTILE ENQUIRY COMMITTEE'S REPORT

Mr. Speaker: There is another Call Attention notice by Shri S. M. Banerji and Shri Tangamani. Under Rule 197(3), not more than one Call Attention notice can be admitted for the same sitting. But today being the last day of this session, a second Notice has been put down, but the statement in respect of that may be laid on the Table in accordance with Direction No. 47A. The statement will be laid on the Table by the hon. Minister of Commerce and Industry.

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri): I lay the statement on the Table as directed.

Statement

The Textile Enquiry Committee have dealt with the closure of textile mills in Chapter IX of their Report. Particular reference is invited to paragraph 1 of this chapter which shows that the problem of closure of mills is not peculiar to this year. Even in past years, a good number of mills have remained closed for one reason or other.

The Committee recognised that the possibility of a number of the mills that are now closed, being able to reopen at all was remote considering the extremely poor condition of the mill machinery and equipment. In fact, they have recommended that some of these concerns should be liquidated.

Apart from this, the Committee have recommended certain measures

to be decided with reference to each case. These recommendations consist generally of the need for scrapping the outmoded machinery, the provision of financial assistance, the balancing of uneconomic units and measures to avoid mismanagement. Government have already been generally acting on these lines but these matters are once again under further examination.

I would particularly invite the attention of the hon. Members to the fact that prompt and immediate action was taken in order to help such mills by announcement of reduction and rationalisation of excise duties on cloth on 4th July, 1958 on the interim recommendations of the Committee even prior to the publication of the Report.

On the active initiative of the Government, the State Bank and the Scheduled Banks with the approval of the Reserve Bank have reduced the margin from 25% to 10% in suitable cases on advances to this industry.

Powers under the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act have been invoked in several cases for investigating complaints of mismanagement and remedial measures have been taken. The Central Government have also approved of the initiative taken by the State Governments in taking over control of certain closed mills under directions of the competent Court. In such cases, assistance by way of technical guidance and other help also has been readily given by the Central Government.

The House would thus see that the problem of the closed textile mills is being given constant attention by Government.

12.49 hrs.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Mr. Speaker: The Committee on Absence of Members from the Sittings of the House in their Ninth Report

have recommended that leave of absence may be granted to the following Members for the periods indicated in the Report:

1. Shri Bishan Chandra Seth,
2. Shri C. R. Narasimhan
3. Shri J. Rameshwar Rao
4. Shri George Thomas Kottukapally
5. Shri K. G. Deshmukh
6. Shri Nemi Chandra Kasliwal
7. Shri M. Gulam Mohideen
8. Shri K. Ashanna
9. Shri Sarjoo Pandey
10. Shri D. S. Raju, and
11. His Highness Maharajadhiraj Maharawalji Shri Raghunath Singhji Bahadur.

I take it that the House agrees with the recommendations of the Committee.

Some Hon. Members: Yes.

Mr. Speaker: The Members will be informed accordingly.

Shri Tangamani: The same remarks will apply to this case also. So far as Shri Sarjoo Pandey is concerned, he was arrested....

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. I am not prepared to allow hon. Members to raise matters like this. I read this out. I was prepared to sit down and allow any hon. Member to make his point before adoption of the Report.

Now after orders are passed raising the same subject again is a very wrong practice. I cannot allow hon. Members now to make statements even with respect to Shri Sarju Pandey. That stage is over.

Shri Tangamani: There must be some reasons.

Mr. Speaker: Whatever might be the reasons, I cannot allow discussion now. I do not want to shut out discussion with respect to any pending matter. But once I have given a ruling, I am not going to allow that to be reopened for any reason whatsoever.