

Ambernath Woollen Mill

*1406. **Shri Assar:** Will the Minister of Rehabilitation and Minority Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ambernath Woollen Mill is closed for the last three years;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether any attempt has been made to sell that Mill;

(d) if so, the result thereof;

(e) whether Government are aware that the condition of the machinery of the Mill is deteriorating; and

(f) if so, the steps Government propose to take in the matter?

The Minister of Rehabilitation and Minority Affairs (Shri Mehr Chand Khanna): (a) Yes.

(b) Consequent on the termination of the lease of Shri Ambernath Mills Corporation, the ex-lessees brought a series of suits against the Union of India and obtained stay orders restraining the Government from selling the Mills to a party other than the ex-lessees. The restraint order was vacated only on 13th December, 1956, when the High Court dismissed the appeal of the ex-lessees.

(c) and (d). During the pendency of the suits, Government invited offers and called for tenders both for lease and for the outright sale of the Mills, but the response was not satisfactory. Negotiations were also carried on with leading industrialists but without any result. The Government have now entered into an agreement with a party to sell the Mills.

(e) and (f). Every possible care is being taken to keep the machinery in good condition.

Manufacture of Cycles and Spares

1086. **Shri M. V. Krishna Rao:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to have an extension Centre to demonstrate improved technique in the manufacture of cycles and their spare parts at Vijayawada in Andhra Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the stage at which the matter stands at present?

The Minister of Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): (a) and (b). The establishment of an extension Centre in Vijayawada has been sanctioned for the demonstration of improved technique and methods in the manufacture of general engineering goods (including cycles and cycle parts) and offering common service facilities for such operations as welding, grinding and electroplating. The scheme was sanctioned in November, 1956 and the Centre will be set up during the current financial year.

Industrial Development of Madras

1087. **Shri Dharmalingam:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) the industries to be set up in the Madras State during the Second Five Year Plan;

(b) the amount of financial aid asked for by the State Government for these industries; and

(c) whether the amount sanctioned by Government is in the nature of grants or loans?

The Minister of Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): (a) to (c). The Second Five Year Plan of Madras State provides for an amount of Rs. 83.75 lakhs for the establishment of the following large and medium scale industries in the State:

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|----------------------------------|-------|
| 1. Four Cooperative
Factories | Sugar |
| Rs. 76 lakhs. | |
| 2. Wood seasoning | Plant |
| Rs. 7.75 lakhs. | |

There is also a proposal to set up an Aluminium Project at Mettur

(Salem District) under the aegis of the National Industrial Development Corporation.

In addition, provision of Rs. 12.19 crores has also been made in the State Plan for the development of Village and Small Scale Industries in the State during the whole of the Second Plan period. Financial assistance to most of the Schemes so far proposed by the State Government within this provision has been sanctioned in the form of both grants and loans.

Commercial Blasting Explosives

1088. **Shri Dharmalingam:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) the number of foreign firms with which the Government of India have entered into agreements for the production of commercial blasting explosives;

(b) whether there is any such factory in the South similar to the one established in Bihar with the collaboration of Imperial Chemical Industries (India) Ltd.; and

(c) if not, whether there is any proposal for the establishment of a similar factory in the South?

The Minister of Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): (a) Only one

(b) No, Sir.

(c) No, Sir.

Radio-Active Rain in Kashmir

1089. { **Shri Harish Chandra Mathur:**
Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:
Shri P. K. Deo:

Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been invited to the reported statement by Kashmir Government's Director of Fisheries that a large number of fish in Kashmir's springs and lakes have been found dead or dying owing to radio-activity;

(b) if so, what is the extent and source of this pollution; and

(c) what steps Government have taken or propose to take for protection from this menace?

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): (a) Yes.

(b) and (c). The radioactivity reported by non-official scientists in Kashmir is certainly not sufficient to cause the death of fish. The Department is not aware of any other measurements of radioactivity in Kashmir. Nor has the Director of Fisheries, Kashmir, indicated how he measured the radioactivity of the fish or how he came to the conclusion that radioactivity was responsible for their death. Government are awaiting a detailed report from the State Government. Samples of the affected fish are being obtained and necessary investigations will be carried out. Until the results of these investigations are known, it is not possible to express any definite opinion on whether the fish were killed by radioactivity.

Penicillin

1090. **Shri D. C. Sharma:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of penicillin manufactured annually in India; and

(b) the quantity produced during 1957 so far?

The Minister of Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): (a) The Penicillin factory at Pimpri is the only manufacturing unit in the country. It produced 14.12 million mega units in the year 1956, which is the factory's first complete production year.

(b) 11.90 million mega units upto 31st July, 1957.

Illegal Entry of Pakistanis

1091. **Shri D. C. Sharma:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons who crossed the border between Punjab and the West Pakistan without passports during 1957 so far;