

**Shri Vasudevan Nair:** May I know whether the Government has considered the question of taking over the Bharati Textile Mills in Pondicherry which was closed down recently?

**Mr. Speaker:** That does not arise.

#### Asian Common Market

**638. Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath:** Will the Minister of Commerce be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have under consideration either *suo motu* or emanating from a foreign country or organisation, a proposal for an Asian Common Market or alternatively a Common Market for all democratic countries of Asia;

(b) if so, the details of the proposal; and

(c) the stage at which the consideration thereof has reached?

**The Minister of Commerce (Shri Manubhai Shah):** (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

**Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath:** Is it not a fact that there is a global trend today, reflected in the movements such as the European Common Market, the Arab Common Market, and if so, does the Government *suo motu* on their own, propose to take up this matter and sound other Asian countries, at least the democratic Asian countries, with regard to an Asian Common Market and, if not, the reasons therefor?

**Shri Manubhai Shah:** This question has come up several times before the Economic Commission for Asia and Far East. The general consensus among the Asian countries has been that a Common Market envisages a common level of development and prosperity. As the Asian countries represent various degrees of underdevelopment, for instance, India, Pakistan, Burma, Ceylon, Laos or Cambodia, it has not been found practicable to consider any Common Mar-

ket at the present juncture. It is true that an Arab Common Market is being proposed, and how far will it succeed is a question that remains to be seen.

**Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath:** Has the attention of the Minister been drawn to a recent statement of the Japanese Prime Minister wherein he has stated that his country would like to draw closer towards other Asian countries in the sphere of trade, commerce and industry and if so, what has been the reaction of the Government to that proposal?

**Shri Manubhai Shah:** The Government only shares the feelings and sentiments expressed by the hon. Prime Minister, Mr. Sato, of Japan. We have invited a very high-powered business delegation from Japan very soon. Similarly two Delegations are going from India to Japan maybe, the Finance Minister also will be going to Japan very soon.

**Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath:** The hon. Minister also will be going?

**Shri Manubhai Shah:** Later on, some other dignitaries also will be visiting Japan to draw the two countries closer for technical and economic co-operation.

**Shri K. D. Malaviya:** With regard to the views expressed by the Minister on the merits of the question of Asian Common Market, is that the considered view of the Government also?

**Shri Manubhai Shah:** Yes.

**Mr. Speaker:** The Question Hour is over.

I must congratulate the members today because the supplementaries were to the point and not very long.

**Shri Nath Pal:** Is it a compliment to Mr. Kamath?

**Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath:** He also put a question.

**Mr. Speaker:** Yes, a special compliment to Mr. Kamath.

**Shri S. M. Banerjee:** Congratulations to the Ministers also for the ready-made answers.