

whether they have been referred to the same agency which connives with them in these black-market operations.

Shri Manubhai Shah: It is very difficult to answer it in a general way. But I must submit that these are details of the State administration and it will be too difficult for individual cases to be debated in the House. I can give information as to how many are arrested and for what offence and how many of them are punished.

Mr. Speaker: He wants to know whether some independent agency is dealing with those cases.

Shri Manubhai Shah: For instance, the District Commissioner of Ambala is looking into the conduct of Inspectors of Food Supplies in other districts. They have taken care to see that there is an independent investigation as far as possible.

Shri Indrajit Gupta: In spite of the figures which were given by the hon. Minister in the beginning of his reply, I want to know whether it is not a fact that the overall impact of this drive so far in Punjab has been negligible and it is rumoured or reported that due to the pressure put on by the traders, the drive has virtually been stopped.

Shri Manubhai Shah: No Sir. That is entirely wrong.

श्री यशपाल सिंह : क्या सरकार बता सकती है कि कांग्रेसियों का जो एक बहुत जबरदस्त टोला गवर्नर साहब के खिलाफ प्रोपेगंडा करता फिरता है और होम मिनिस्टर को एप्रोच करने की कोशिश करता है, उस टोले की रात-दिन की एक्टिविटीज का सरकार पर क्या असर हुआ है ?

श्री मनुभाई शाह : हमारा पूरा सपोर्ट गवर्नर साहब को है ।

Shri Hem Barua: Since the drastic steps taken by the Governor of Punjab have pinpointed the discrepancies to the sorrow and shame of other Congress Governments in other States, may I know whether it is a fact that the hon. Home Minister has asked the Governor of Punjab to slow down

the operations against black-marketeers and profiteers ?

Shri Manubhai Shah: I entirely deny the insinuations contained in the hon. Members observations. (Interruption).

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. He has answered it.

Mr. Buta Singh.

Shri Buta Singh: I want to know whether black-marketing has been mainly concentrated in the Punjabi region of Punjab as compared to the Hindi region. I also want to know whether the Government is resorting to the application of the Defence of India Rules to this drive and if so, to how many cases these have been applied.

Shri Manubhai Shah: As the House knows, we are not applying the Defence of India Rules, but are applying only the Essential Commodities Act and other relevant Acts.

Mr. Speaker: Next Question.

Shri Kapur Singh : What about the first part of the question? That has not been replied to.

Mr. Speaker: Order, now. Next question.

Cotton Mills in Maharashtra

S. N. Q. 26. Shri D. D. Mantri: Will the Minister of Commerce be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that six cotton mills have closed down in Maharashtra and the Maharashtra Government have asked for permission to run them;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto and when these mills are likely to start functioning;

(c) whether the Maharashtra Government have given some suggestions in regard to payment of full wages to workers and not reducing their number; and

(d) the reaction of Government thereto?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Commerce (Shri Shafi Qureshi): (a) There are only four Cotton Mills lying closed in Maharashtra; one of them is under an Authorised Controller appointed by the

Central Government. No request has been received from the Maharashtra Government for running the other three Mills.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

श्री द्वारका दास मंत्री : क्या मन्त्री महोदय को यह मालूम है कि परसों जब जग-जीवन राम जी, यहां के मजदूर मन्त्री, बम्बई गए थे तो वहां उनके पास महाराष्ट्र के मजदूर मन्त्री ने जो छः मिलें बन्द हैं उनके सम्बन्ध में रेप्रेजेंटेशन किया है और यह भी मांग की है कि टैक्स के सम्बन्ध में एम्पाइव्ड टैक्सेज, पब्लिसाइज्ड इण्ट्री और प्राविडेंट फण्ड, इनके सम्बन्ध में अगर कुछ केन्द्रीय सरकार छूट दे तो पूरे मजदूर वहां काम पर लग सकते हैं और पूरी मिलें भी चन सकती हैं।

वाणिज्य मंत्री (श्री मनुभाई शाह) : लेबर मिनिस्टर साहब ने कहा था, मुझे भी कहा था और उनकी चिट्ठी भी आई है कि एम्पाइड इण्ट्री में रियायत की जाये। हम उस पर गौर कर रहे हैं। लेकिन हमारी राय ऐसी नहीं है कि सरकार कोई फैक्ट्री को ले ले तो उसको एम्प्लेज का एग्जम्पशन दिया जाये।

श्री द्वारका दास मंत्री : क्या सरकार को यह मालूम है कि जो मिलें चलाने को वह सोच रहे हैं उनमें यदि कुछ ऐसी नये तर के की मशीनरी डालने की आवश्यकता है जिसके कारण ज्यादा से ज्यादा और मजदूर वह एम्प्लाय कर सकें तो इस सम्बन्ध में केन्द्रीय सरकार राज्य सरकार को इन मिलों को चलाने लिए कोई आर्थिक सहायता दे रही है और यह जो मिलें लायी जाने वाली हैं क्या वह टैक्सटाइल कारपोरेशन नियुक्त करके उनके द्वारा चलायी जाने वाली हैं ?

श्री शफी कुरेशी : इस वक्त तो 12 मिलें ऐसी हैं जो कि एथोराइज्ड कंट्रोलर के जरिये चलायी जा रही हैं और वह अच्छी तरह से चल रही हैं। गवर्नमेंट का कोई ऐसा ख्याल नहीं

है कि कारपोरेशन के जरिये से इन को चलाया जाय क्योंकि एथोराइज्ड कंट्रोलर अच्छी तरह से उनको चला रहे हैं और कुछ मिलों में फायदा भी हो रहा है।

श्री द्वारका दास मंत्री : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मेरे प्रश्न का उत्तर नहीं आया। मेरा प्रश्न जो बन्द मिलें हैं उनके सम्बन्ध में है जो सरकार चलाने वाली है। प्रश्न तो बन्द मिलों का है, क्या वह टैक्सटाइल कारपोरेशन नियुक्त करके चलायी जाने वाली हैं ?

अध्यक्ष महोदय : वह तो कहते हैं कि उनका इरादा नहीं है।

श्री शफी कुरेशी : मैंने जवाब दे दिया कि कारपोरेशन के जरिये से इन मिलों को चलाने का कोई इरादा नहीं है।

श्री बड़े : अभी मन्त्री जी ने कहा कि 6 मिलों में से तीन शुरू हो गई हैं और तीन क्लोज्ड हैं, तो मैं पूछना चाहता हूँ कि तीन में कितने मजदूर ऐसे हैं कि जिनको कुछ मजदूरी नहीं मिलती है और जो वह एनएम्प्लायड हैं, बेकार हैं, उनके लिए सरकार ने कुछ इन्तजाम किया है क्योंकि वह जो तीन मिलों के मजदूर हैं, उनको कुछ नहीं मिलता ? वह ऐसे ही बड़े हुए हैं और कितने दिनों से यह मिल बन्द हैं ?

श्री शफी कुरेशी : यह जो चार मिलें हैं इनमें कुल 9 हजार आदमियों के करीब ऐसे हैं लेबरर जो कि काम से बाहर हैं लेकिन इस किस्म की हमारे पास इतिला नहीं है कि उनको डिस्ट्रेस में छोड़ दिया गया है और उनके लिए कोई कायवाही नहीं की गई है।

श्री बड़े : उनको पैसा दिया जाता है या नहीं ? जब तक मिल बन्द रखते हैं, तो यह प्राविजन है कि कुछ पैसा उनको दिया जाता है, तो वह पैसा उन को दिया जाता है या नहीं ?

श्री शफी कुरेशी : स्टेट गर्वनमेंट की तरफ से जब तक कोई इत्तला ऐसी नहीं है कि इन को टिक ओवर किया जाये जब तक स्टेट गर्वनमेंट ऐसी इत्तला न दें, हम कुछ नहीं कर सकते हैं।

Shrimati Ramdulari Sinha: May I know what are the conditions under which the management of a corporate body is taken over by the Government and whether such conditions are satisfied and what will be the total recurring and non-recurring liability that the Government will have to undertake in taking over the management?

Shri Shafi Qureshi: This question has been answered many times. Whenever there is a grievance or a complaint about a mill not running due to inefficiency or difficulties of mismanagement or obsolete plant and machinery or financial difficulties, the State Governments refer the matter to the Central Government. Then an investigation committee is appointed under the Industries (Development and Regulations) Act. After the report of the Committee is submitted, the Government thinks about the feasibility of taking over the mill. Then, an authorised controller is appointed. As for the finance. It is the authorised controller who makes a reference to Government that such and such amount of money should be made available so that the mill can run smoothly. There is no question of referring the matter to any corporate body.

Shri Priya Gupta: In the case of banks, there are certain security arrangements taken by the Government of India when they fail. May I know whether in the case of textile mills also, Government are thinking of any such security measures before a textile mill is opened so that inbetween the mills may not close down due to certain reasons? If no such scheme is already there, may I know whether steps will be taken by Government to finalise such a scheme, because we do require textile mills in our country which will be run properly?

Shri Shafi Qureshi: For the information of the hon. Member, I must state that out of about 600 mills, it is only a question of about 17 mills which are closed at this time,

Whenever any financial guarantee is required by the mills, Government guarantee that, and the money is made available to them, and then it is for the banks to see whether the mill has got enough capital and enough assets in order to ensure that the money which they advance is state.

Shri Priya Gupta: Instead of allowing the mills to be closed down, may I know whether Government are thinking of any security arrangement?

Shri Manubhai Shah: The compensatory action is twofold. Wherever there is a mill which has gone old and decrepit, we immediately issue a new licence for a much larger capacity so that all the working forces are absorbed in that very place. Secondly, under the retrenchment compensation scheme passed by this House, there is adequate provision for retrenchment compensation.

Shrimati Vimla Deshmukh: May I know the names of the closed mills and since when they are closed?

Shri Shafi Qureshi: The four closed mills are: The Sawatram Ram Pershad Mills, Akola; the New Pratap Spinning and Weaving Manufacture Co., Ltd., the Vidarbha Mills, Berar; and the Aurangabad Mills Ltd., Aurangabad.

Shrimati Vimla Deshmukh: Since when are they closed?

Mr. Speaker: Shri Kashi Ram Gupta:

श्री काशीराम गुप्त : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि इन मालिकों ने जो मिलें बन्द की हैं उसका मुख्य कारण मशीनरी का पुराना होना बताया है और अगर यही बात है तो क्या उन्होंने नवी मशीनरी के लिए सरकार से मांग की है लौडसेंस और रुपया लेने को ?

श्री शफी कुरेशी : मैंने अर्ज किया कि जो मिलें बन्द हैं उनमें से माननीय सदस्य चाहें तो मैं सबके मुतालिक कह सकता हूँ कि क्या क्या खामी है ? किसी में फाइनेंशियल खामी है, किसी में लेबर ट्रब्ल्स हैं, किसी में इनएफिगियेंट मैनेजमेंट है, किसी में डिस्ट्रीब्यूटेड मशीनरी है। यह सब कारण हैं।

श्री काशीरान गुप्त : पुरानी मशीनरी होना भा शामिल है क्या ?

श्री शफी कुरेशी : जी हाँ ।

श्री किशन पटनायक : महाराष्ट्र में जितनी सूती मिलें हैं उन पर करीब 6 हजार रुपये लगा है और हमेशा कुछ न कुछ खामियां इनमें मिलती हैं, तो मैं मन्त्री महोदय से जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या उन्होंने कोई इसका मूल्यांकन किया है और इस नतीजे पर पहुंचे हैं कि इनमें जो असल समस्या है ज्यादातर मिलों के बारे में वह मशीनरी की है। यह सब मशीनरी पुराने डंग की है और नयी मशीनरी की जरूरत है और इसलिए इधर उधर कोई मदद दे देना लाख दो लाख रुपये की, उससे कुछ नहीं होगा। कुछ रुपये खर्च करके इन को बिल्कुल नयी बनाइए और राष्ट्रीयकरण करने की बात सोचिए क्योंकि सरकार को इतना पैसा खर्च करना पड़ेगा।

श्री शफी कुरेशी : यह तजवीज है। इस पर गौर किया जायगा।

श्री किशन पटनायक : हमने पूछा अध्यक्ष महोदय, क्या मन्त्री महोदय को यह जानकारी है आलरेडो... (व्यवधान)

11.28 hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO A MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

REPORTED DEPLETION OF RICE STOCK IN KERALA AND PROPOSED CUT IN RICE RATION

Shri A. V. Raghavan (Badagara): I call the attention of the Minister of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation to the following matter of urgent public importance and request that he may make a statement thereon:

"The reported depletion of rice stock in Kerala and the proposed cut in the rice ration."

The Minister of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation (Shri C. Subramaniam): It is a fact that the stocks of rice available with the Government for distribution through informal rationing that is in force in Kerala have

become depleted. This is the leanest period for the rice crop season and stocks of rice available with Government of India have fallen to a low level all over the country and not in Kerala alone. As the House is aware, we had a shortfall of 8.4 million tonnes of rice. We have stepped up our imports of rice to the maximum extent possible. It is expected that with the steady arrivals of the rice that has been purchased abroad and with the releases from the stocks from the surplus States, it will be possible to keep the distribution system going till the situation improves with the harvesting of the new rice crop. The Government is watching the position very carefully and is doing every thing possible to maintain supplies to the State. There is no proposal for any immediate cut in the rice ration in Kerala.

Shri A. V. Raghavan: May I know what is the quantity of rice required this month and what is the present stock position in the State?

Shri C. Subramaniam: Generally I do not give the stock position. But we have adequate rice to meet the situation for distribution during September.

Shri Kappen (Muvattupuzha): Are Government aware that many families in Kerala today do without a meal a day and the price of rice in many parts of the State ranges from Rs. 2.80 to Rs. 5.00 and even at that price rice is not available, while in the neighbouring State of Madras the price is much lower? What steps are Government taking to rush rice to the State and also...

Mr. Speaker: Not so many questions.

Shri Kappen: Is it also a fact that the shortage of rice is due to corrupt practices in some of the checkpoints? What steps are Government taking to remedy this situation?

Shri C. Subramaniam: As far as the distribution is concerned, it is only in Kerala State that every individual is assured of a supply of rice and wheat; it happens in no other State, and it is only with regard to the extra quantities available that some people purchase in the open market. Even with regard to the open market price, prices in Madras have also shot up; if anything, in my own district adjacent to Kerala,