

The Minister of Planning and Labour & Employment (Shri Nanda): (a) to (e). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

With a view to providing employment to those workers in the rural areas who remain unemployed and under-employed during slack agricultural season, specially in the areas with heavy pressure of population and high incidence of unemployment, a scheme called 'Pilot Projects for Utilising Rural Manpower' was initiated towards the end of 1960. Under the first series, 34 pilot projects were taken up in different States. Each project was allotted a sum of Rs. 2 lakhs and the schemes taken up included such labour-intensive works as land reclamation, soil conservation, minor irrigation, roads, etc. Detailed recommendations on pilot projects for utilising rural manpower were included in section IV of Chapter X on "Employment and Manpower" of the final report of the Third Five Year Plan (page 163). A larger programme consisting of 195 projects has been started since February, 1962 in the various States under the second series. The allotments made for the first 34 projects were treated as outright grant from the Centre. It has now been decided that the projects under the first series will be entitled to a further allotment of Rs. 1 lakh each during 1962-63 and the projects undertaken under the second series will be allotted Rs. 2 lakhs each, 50 per cent of which will be grant from the Centre and 50 per cent loan. The schemes included under the pilot projects are being executed by the Block Development agency assisted by the Panchayats.

Nepa Mills

***366. Shri Mahesh Dutta Misra:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether a notice has been given to the Ministry by Shri Kitkul Ustad, Vice-President of the Workers' Union and also a share-holder to the effect that he will go on fast on the 20th April, 1962 if an Inquiry Committee to investigate into the affairs of the Nepa Mills, Nepanagar, Madhya Pradesh is not appointed; and

(b) if so, what action has been taken by Government or by the management?

The Minister of Industry in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (Shri Kanungo): (a) and (b). A statement is placed on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

Shri Kitkul Ustad, Vice President of the Employees Union, Nepa Mills gave notice to the Nepa Mills authorities on the 3rd April 1962 announcing his intention to go on fast on the 20th April 1962 if a high level Inquiry Committee to investigate the affairs of Nepa Mills is not appointed. The management considered this not justified and Shri Kitkul Ustad accordingly went on fast on the 20th April, 1962. At the intervention of the Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh Shri Kitkul Ustad gave up the fast on the morning of the 25th April, 1962.

The Nepa Mills authorities are examining the notice given by Shri Kitkul Ustad and action will be taken where necessary.

Export Promotion

***367. Shri Rameshwar Tantia:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have assessed the actual contribution made so far by the various export promotion bodies to the export trade;

(b) if so, the result thereof; and