

Shri S. M. Banerjee: According to the hon. Minister, 14 mills have re-started working. I want to know the total number of mills which are yet to function and what are the difficulties confronting them?

Shri Manubhai Shah: There are still 11 mills which remain closed of which we hope to restart soon five mills. Two mills are to be scrapped. The rest four are experiencing financial difficulties.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: May I know whether some mills out of these 14 mills have been taken over by the Government or whether they are all run by the same concerns?

Shri Manubhai Shah: Two of them have been taken over by the Government and the rest are run by private agencies.

Shri Nambiar: May I know what would be the number of employees involved in these two textiles mills that are to be scrapped?

Shri Manubhai Shah: About 900 or so.

Shri Nambiar: May I know what alternative employment is contemplated for these men?

Shri Manubhai Shah: There are a lot of new industries coming up in those areas. When any industry becomes uneconomic it has got to be scrapped.

श्री रघुनाथ सिंह : जो छः मिलें स्क्रेप होने वाली हैं या हो गई हैं, वे कौन सी मिलें हैं ?

श्री मनुभाई शाह : एक वालाजाबाद में है, एक किशनगढ़ में है, दो पंडेलपाका में हैं, एक बंदेनरा में है और छठी बांकुरा मिल है ।

Shri Oza: May I know whether the Morvi Mills will be restarted?

Shri Manubhai Shah: There is a likelihood of it being restarted, though it is not included in the eleven mills which I mentioned. The Morvi Mills

was perhaps to be transferred to the quota in the Bombay State.

Spinning Mills in Kerala

458. { Shri Vasudevan Nair:
+ Shri Warrior:
Shri Nataraja Pillai:

Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether any new licences were issued to start new spinning mills in Kerala State:

(b) if so, details thereof; and

(c) whether it is a fact that no industrialist from Kerala has received at least one such licence?

The Minister of International Trade in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): (a) Licences have not been issued so far.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Does not arise.

Shri Vasudevan Nair: The hon. Minister stated in this House a few months back that the question of issuing licences is under consideration. The answer is now repeated. May I know for how long this consideration will prolong?

Shri Manubhai Shah: The final decision will be announced very soon, and licences will be granted.

Shri Vasudevan Nair: May I know how many applications of the Kerala industrialists were forwarded to the Central Government by the Kerala Government out of the total applications?

Shri Manubhai Shah: If the hon. Member seems to suggest that 'Kerala industrialists' means some categories to locate some people's origin, I have no idea; but 137 industrialists applied out of which 11 are to be licensed.

Shri A. K. Gopalan: May I know whether it is a fact that the Minister for Industries in Kerala has issued a statement saying that they asked for

spindles a year ago whereas it is being delayed by the Central Government and there is no delay on the part of the State Government?

Shri Manubhai Shah: Partly the hon. Member's comments are correct, and partly the question is otherwise also. We have got several representations from various parties, who have not been recommended, saying that they have been unjustly treated. Therefore, naturally, in order to give the widest possible satisfaction and to remove all possible causes of grievances, we took a little time in further consideration.

Shri A. K. Gopalan: May I know who will take the final decision and when?

Shri Manubhai Shah: By the Government of India, and very soon.

Shri Rameshwar Tantia: May I know whether there is any specific time limit for a licence to be implemented, and if some parties after getting licences do not start work within a limited period of time may I know whether Government will consider the question of transferring those licences to other parties?

Shri Manubhai Shah: That is provided in the rules under the Industrial Disputes Act. If a party does not take the first effective steps in nine months and does not complete all the steps in 18 months the licence is revoked with a notice to show cause why the licence has not been utilized. We review the situation from year to year and every year there are several cases in which the licence has been revoked after the show cause notice has been issued.

Shri Venkatasubbaiah: In addition to Kerala, may I know whether any licences have been granted in Andhra?

Shri Manubhai Shah: As far as Andhra is concerned, no licence has been issued. Out of the 14 States, licences were issued in practically ten States. For the other four, States the matter is under discussion with the State Governments.

Nepa Newsprint Factory

*459. { **Shri Birendra Bahadur Singh:**
Shrimati Maimoona Sultan:
Shri Morarka:

Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that production of newsprint at the Nepa Newsprint Factory has of late been hampered for want of adequate supply of power and raw material;

(b) what efforts are being made to achieve sufficiency in this respect; and

(c) by what time Government hope to solve this problem?

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

STATEMENT

Due to restricted power supply, it has not been possible for the National Newsprint and Paper Mills to maintain a sustained target production of 100 tons per day. So far production has not suffered for want of raw materials.

The Madhya Pradesh Electricity Board are making arrangements to make the power available from the Chambal System. The Mills have also approached the Governments of Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra for allotment of additional areas from where salai and bamboo could be obtained with a view to not only maintaining optimum production but to doubling the present capacity. The factory is expected to reach and maintain production upto full capacity from the middle of next year.

Mr. Speaker: Next question.

Shri Birendra Bahadur Singh: May I know whether.....

Mr. Speaker: Now it is too late. I have called the next question. I looked at him for such a long time. He