

these schemes get a momentum and negotiations are complete in regard to other schemes. I mentioned the other day in my speech on the Plan that we might be able to give some idea about it round about the Budget session, perhaps in April, as to what will be the schemes that we have finally taken over and what might be the schemes that we might take over because of an offer of some foreign exchange assistance.

So far as the particular question is concerned, viz., part (a), it is not a matter of either the Planning Commission or the Finance Ministry looking into our foreign exchange need in terms of particular currencies, because except in special cases, the foreign currency that is available to us is convertible. If I get Dutch Marks, it is convertible into sterling, and also into dollars. If we get dollars, unless it be that it is earmarked for payment in a particular country as it might be in the case of a World Bank loan where a particular country makes available its own portion of its contribution to the World Bank, it is convertible. So, any assessment in terms of particular currencies is not necessary, and it would be a futile exercise.

Of course, I also mentioned the other day, the hon. Member might remember, that we are making half-yearly budgets in regard to our foreign exchange position not merely in regard to the Plan expenditure but also in regard to the non-Plan expenditure which is of a normal nature. So, these exercises are made, and it would not be necessary to make them in the terms required by the hon. Member, but they are being made.

Shri Tyagi: In view of the foreign exchange difficulties, are the Government or the Planning Commission keeping an account of the deferred payment agreements arrived at with various countries and the years of their maturity, and are we planning for the payment in those particular years in future?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: Yes, Sir. It is the duty of the Finance Ministry to do it, keeping an account is not that of the Planning Commis-

sion. The Planning Commission calls for this information from the appropriate Ministry. The Finance Ministry is keeping an account as to what will be the payment that will fall due either in regard to loans or in regard to deferred payment terms which private parties have entered into. I do not know if the hon. Member has seen a notification that was issued a couple of months back that every deferred payment arrangement which involves payment of foreign exchange should be registered with the Chief Controller of Imports. These figures are transmitted to the Finance Ministry so that we know at a given time what would be our commitments say in 1960-61, 1961-62 and so on.

Shri Tyagi: Has any one of these countries agreed to the non-convertible rupee basis of trade?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: There are various cases in which minor agreements of this nature involving small amounts have been made, but anything which is perhaps of some substantial nature happens to be agreements made with East European countries.

Shri T. K. Chaudhuri: May I know whether any register is kept of the demands that might be made of our foreign exchange resources in respect of the import licences that are issued periodically, particularly, the import licences that are issued to the private sector? Is there any liaison with the private sector so that Government might ascertain their foreign exchange commitments?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: Yes. We are now attempting to do it, because formerly the issue of licences did not necessarily mean that they will mature for payment, for, people often got a licence but did not use it, whereas, today with the restriction that obtains we can reasonably presume that every licence will be used. So, these figures are kept, and not merely these, but we have a cross check also. We also know the quantum of letters of credit that are outstanding. That comes on the Reserve Bank. We have various cross checks now in this manner as to what our liabilities will be at a given period approximately.

Textile Mills

*552. **Shri N. R. Munisamy:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of India have recently ordered an enquiry into the affairs of three textile mills in Bombay State;

(b) if so, the terms of reference; and

(c) the total number of workers who have been rendered unemployed?

The Minister of Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): (a) Yes, Sir; in October, 1957.

(b) To make a full and complete investigation into the circumstances of fall or likely fall in the production of these three mills.

(c) The total number of workers affected is 2,108

Shri N. R. Munisamy: May I know the total loss of production in these three units?

Shri Manubhai Shah: It is about a million yards.

Shri N. R. Munisamy: May I know whether it is a fact that these three units had asked for some financial assistance but the Government of India were not able to pay the full requirements of these three units?

Shri Manubhai Shah: No. The reasons are quite different for each unit, and we are awaiting the report of the committee which has been set up to investigate the reasons.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: May I know whether the report of this committee will be received unit-wise or for all the three units at a stretch?

Shri Manubhai Shah: They do come in an interim manner, but the three should not take too much time. Within a month or two the reports should be with us.

Shri N. N. Patel: May I know the names of those three textile mills and where they are situated?

Shri Manubhai Shah: The names of the mills are: The Sholapur Spinning and Weaving Mills, Sholapur; Chaganlal Textile Mills, Chalisgaon; and Gajnda Lal Mills, Jalgaon.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: May I know whether there is a proposal to have a similar enquiry into the affairs of the jute mills which have been closed?

Shri Manubhai Shah: No. That is not necessary, because the reasons for the closure of jute mills are quite different from those for the closure of the textile mills. Over and above that, in the case of jute mills, there is also a ceiling prescribed by the Indian Jute Mills Association, and because of that only certain looms go out of production.

Shri Dasappa: May I know how many textile mills are in a similar plight?

Shri Manubhai Shah: I laid a statement the other day on the Table of the House. There are 22 mills totally closed up to date due to several reasons, since the last five years.

Shri Yajnik: May I know whether any enquiry of this character has been conducted in the case of the mills in Gujarat that have been closed for more than a year?

Shri Manubhai Shah: Yes, Sir. They are: Gopal Mills, Broach; Sayaji Jubilee Mills, Sidhpur; and Hathisingh Mills. The enquiries are being conducted in the case of these.

Small Scale Industries

*555. **Shri Ajit Singh Sarhadi:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that medium and small scale industries in the Punjab, are handicapped due to financial limitations and they are unable to obtain technical skill and know-how of the requisite standard; and

(b) if so, whether Government are contemplating any steps to encourage them on the co-operative lines for pooling their resources and thereby