

wanted to come here as personal guests of their friends?

Dr. Keskar: I have not understood the question.

Mr. Speaker: It is not necessary. They might have intended.

Shri Thimmaiah: May I know whether these experts visited any of the radio factories and given any suggestions regarding their working?

Dr. Keskar: That was a radio delegation; and generally, in their programme, ancillary industries of radio were also included. But I am not aware whether they visited any radio manufacturing factory. I require notice.

Closure of Textile Mills

*139. **Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that closure of marginal textile mills is causing unemployment among textile workers; and

(b) if so, what steps Government propose to take to prevent further deterioration in the situation?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Kanungo): (a) The closure of textile mills, whatever may be the cause, does cause unemployment.

(b) Government are keeping a close watch on the situation. Remedial steps depend on the reasons for closure which are ascertained by enquiry where considered necessary, under Section 15 of the Industries (Development & Regulation) Act, 1951. Further ad hoc relief by way of reduction in excise duty by -/-/6 pies per square yard on medium cloth (which forms the bulk of the production by textile industry) together with the amalgamation of the sales tax as an element of additional Central Excise Duty is expected to help the Textile Industry.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: May I know the number of such marginal textile

mills which are being helped by Government?

Shri Kanungo: I am sorry I cannot define a marginal unit. Technically it might be marginal. But, there have been applications for financial aid, and, in the case of at least 9 mills, financial aid has been sanctioned.

Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha: How many textile mills approached Government in 1956-57 to close down because they thought that their working was very uneconomic? Can the hon. Minister give the number?

Shri Kanungo: The number is round about 15 to 20.

Shri Dasappa: It has been stated that 9 of such units have been financially helped. May I know how many more are in need of help and have approached Government?

Shri Kanungo: There are about half a dozen applications pending.

Shri Bimal Ghose: May I know if the stock position of the textile mills has improved as a result of the help recently given to them by way of excise duty?

Shri Kanungo: I believe so; the momentum will gather strength as time passes on.

Shri Bimal Ghose: May I have some figures?

(No answer was given.)

Mr. Speaker Next question.

Doll Industry

*140. **Shri Panigrahi:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of India has a proposal to assist the development of doll industry in the country; and

(b) if so, the amount allocated for the doll industry to the State of Orissa?