

श्री पद्म देव : माननीय मंत्री ने जवाब दिया

Mr. Speaker: I have already passed over to the next question. The hon. Member did not rise earlier.

श्री पद्म देव : मैं दो बार खड़ा हुआ किन्तु दृष्टि भ्रामक नहीं कर सका ।

Retrenchment of Salt Workers

*1773. { Shri S. M. Banerjee:
Shri Tangamani:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that 10,000 salt workers working at Sambhar Lake, Didwana and Kharaghoda are to be retrenched;

(b) whether they have been served with any discharge notices;

(c) if so, the reasons for effecting this retrenchment; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to stop this retrenchment?

The Minister of Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d). Do not arise.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: May I know whether the attention of the hon. Minister has been drawn to a statement in the paper that about 10,000 workers had to be retrenched? May I know if these workers are to be retrenched in the near future?

Shri Manubhai Shah: There is no such intention. Several statements do appear from time to time but they are all totally unreliable. It is not the intention of the new company to retrench any worker.

Shri Harish Chandra Mathur: What is the new company about which he is speaking?

Shri Manubhai Shah: The Hindustan Salt Company which has taken over the departmentally-run salt works in Rajasthan and Bombay States.

New Karnatak Mills, Hubli (Mysore State)

+
*1773. { Shri Siddananjappa:
Shri Wedeyar:
Shri Agadi:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the New Karnatak Mills, Hubli, Mysore State has been recently closed down;

(b) if so, the reasons for closing down the Mills;

(c) the number of labourers thrown out of employment; and

(d) the action contemplated to restart the Mills and to provide employment to retrenched workers?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Kanungo): (a) Yes, Sir. (Since 4-4-1958).

(b) (i) Financial stringency.

(ii) The machines are worn out and outmoded and practically uneconomical to work.

(c) The number of workers affected as a result of this closure is 1175.

(d) The management is not serious about running the mills even as a powerloom factory. They have requested for cancellation of licence and for permission to sell the machinery as scrap. In view of this position, there is no immediate likelihood of the mills restarting or the retrenched workers being re-employed.

Shri Siddananjappa: Were the Government aware of the detailed position of the mills before the actual closing down? Were any attempts made to prevent the closure?

Shri Kanungo: Yes, Sir. The Management was asked to replace its spinning equipment. They were also offered the opportunity of working it as a powerloom factory.

Shri Achar: May I know why they did not accept such an offer? What was the difficulty?

Shri Manubhai Shah: When the National Industrial Development Corporation offered them a loan, they felt that the security was inadequate. The financial working was not at all satisfactory. That is why they were unable to accept the loan.

Shri Dasappa: May I know whether the permission to work as a powerloom factory enables them to take advantage of the compounded levy or they will have to pay as composite mills?

Shri Kanungo: They will be liable to pay excise duty on the number of looms they run.

Shri Dasappa: I asked whether they would be asked to pay on the basis of compounded levy or on the basis of composite mills.

Shri Kanungo: It is their option. The option is available to them.

Mr. Speaker: It does not matter; the hon. Member has some interest in Madras. Next question.

Building Materials

*1778. **Shri D. C. Sharma:** Will the Minister of Works, Housing and Supply be pleased to state the latest position with regard to the use of substitutes for steel and cement in the execution of Building Projects by the Central and State Governments?

The Deputy Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Shri Anil K. Chanda): Recommendations have been made by the National Buildings Organisation for substitutes for cement and steel in building construction and these have been passed on to various State Governments and to the Ministries concerned on the 30th

June and 30th December, 1957 respectively. It is too early yet to assess the extent to which the recommendations made have been adopted and found effective.

Shri D. C. Sharma: What are the main recommendations forwarded to the State Governments and other organisations?

Shri Anil K. Chanda: In the main the recommendations are of a technical nature and I propose to lay on the Table of the House the reports submitted by the National Buildings Organisation. In short, the recommendation is that wherever possible lime mortar should be substituted for cement and pre-stressed and precast concrete components may be used in place of steel.

Shri D. C. Sharma: May I know if it has made any suggestion with regard to the availability of these materials?

Shri Anil K. Chanda: Lime is obtainable in our country in various parts and recently we held a symposium on the use of lime in the building industry.

Shri Tyagi: Are the Central Government acting up to the advice of this Organisation in the matter of their own construction in Delhi or elsewhere?

Shri Anil K. Chanda: Yes, Sir; as far as it is possible, it is being done.

Restricted State Auditors

*1779. **Shri Tangamani:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to declare the Restricted State Auditors (R.S.A.) eligible for appointment as company auditors throughout India;

(b) if so, the steps taken; and

(c) if the reply to part (a) is in the negative, the reasons therefor?