

forthwith, or has some future date been given by which they have to wind up?

Shri Karmarkar: Not forthwith, but by about the middle of 1954.

BANNING OF LOCKOUTS IN TEXTILE MILL

*1120. **Shri Buchhikotaiah:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal to ban lock-outs in textile mills in the country was received from any organisation; and

(b) if so, what steps are being taken or are proposed to be taken to check the unemployment due to these lock-outs?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Karmarkar): (a) Yes. A proposal was received from the Indian National Textile Workers' Federation, Ahmedabad, suggesting that Government issue instructions that no textile mills should close down without previous permission of the Government.

(b) An Ordinance was promulgated on the 24th October, 1953 under which provision has been made for compensation to the labour which may be laid off or retrenched. In place of this Ordinance a Bill entitled "The Industrial Disputes (Amendment) Bill, 1953" has already been passed by both the Houses of Parliament and is now awaiting Assent of the President.

Shri Buchhikotaiah: May I know the number of lock-outs in 1953, the number of workers affected, and the number of days lost?

Shri Karmarkar: At the time of the textile crisis, i.e. 21st October 1953, the number of threatened closures of textile mills was 42, and the number of workers affected 42,791. As to the actual number of workers thrown out at that time, I should like to have notice.

Shri Bhagwat Jha: In view of the fact that a large number of textile mills have already been closed, and a

large number of labourers have been thrown out of employment, may I know what proposals are under the consideration of Government to check such things in future, and what actions are being taken against those mills?

Shri Karmarkar: If I might refer to the earlier question, which is also relevant,—the actual number of workers thrown out of employment I am able to give now—a number of mills closed down, and the number of workers thrown out of employment was 14,764.

Regarding the hon. Member's question put just now, the answer is that the present Ordinance, and this Bill, when it becomes an Act, will meet with the situation, because any mill that closes down will have to compensate the workers retrenched or laid off.

Shri Muniswamy: May I know whether it is a fact that in some mills, they have closed down one shift, and if so, how far the labourers have been affected?

Shri Karmarkar: Some of them have closed down one shift; some of them have closed down two shifts, and some of them have closed down completely. As I said earlier, the number of workers affected by the closure was 14,764.

RUBBER TYRES

*1121. **Sardar Hukam Singh:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any steps in the matter of reduction in prices of Indian-made tyres; and

(b) if so, what?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Karmarkar): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir; the question of fixing fair selling prices for Indian made rubber tyres and tubes has been referred to the Tariff Commission and their report is awaited.

Sardar Hukam Singh: Is it a fact that Indian tyres are being marketed under four different makes, and yet

they are being produced virtually under one monopoly?

Shri Karmarkar: They are produced under different names, but regarding the monopoly, I am not aware.

Sardar Hukam Singh: So far as price and durability are concerned, how does the Indian tyre compare with that produced by these firms in their own countries?

Shri Karmarkar: Our tyres compare quite well with those produced abroad.

Sardar Hukam Singh: Is it a fact that though these tyres are being manufactured here, foreign tyres of the same make are being frequently used for replacement purposes, though the policy of Government is to prohibit the import of such tyres, when such tyres are being manufactured in our own country?

Shri Karmarkar: I could not follow the purport of the question, Sir.

Mr. Speaker: Will the hon. Member repeat the question?

Sardar Hukam Singh: These four companies are manufacturing tyres in our country; they have their plants in England, U.S.A., and France as well. In the beginning, when the motor cars are sold with tyres of indigenous make, their replacement is being allowed by tyres of foreign make, by the same companies. Have Government allowed these companies to import those tyres?

Shri Karmarkar: Our import policy has been that licences for the import of certain sizes of 'Giant' and other tyres not manufactured in India, are issued to the established importers only on a quota of 100 per cent. Regarding the tyres being locally produced, we are not encouraging any imports.

Sardar Hukam Singh: Is it a fact that 'Michelin' tyre gives double the mileage, and costs much less than a similar tyre of 34x7x10 produced here?

Shri Karmarkar: It depends on the ground on which the car is made to run. Otherwise, our tyres are perfectly satisfactory.

TITANIUM

*1122. **Kumari Annie Mascarene:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state whether a loan has been sanctioned for the titanium products in Travancore-Cochin State from the Industrial Finance Corporation?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Karmarkar): Yes, Sir.

Kumari Annie Mascarene: Is it a fact that the Industrial Finance Corporation scrutinised the accounts of the company and looked into the causes of failure?

Shri Karmarkar: Yes, Sir.

Kumari Annie Mascarene: May I know what the reasons for the failure are?

Shri Karmarkar: I am sorry I did not hear the word 'failure' quite well. I thought the question was whether they were considering it. The fact was that a loan for Rs. 20 lakhs was asked for. We in the Ministry supported the demand to the extent of Rs. 15 lakhs. Actually, to skip over the whole history, the matter is now under consideration. I understand that the Industrial Finance Corporation decided on the 21st November 1953, to sanction a loan of Rs. 15 lakhs against the security of the fixed assets, and an advance of Rs. 6 lakhs has been made.

Kumari Annie Mascarene: May I know why a reduction has been made from Rs. 15 lakhs to Rs. 6 lakhs?

Shri Karmarkar: It is not a reduction, but pending further inquiries, we have already given Rs. 6 lakhs in anticipation of the fulfilment of the whole thing.

Shri V. P. Nayyar: In view of the fact that the titanium dioxide produced in the factory is very costly,