

after the introduction of the passport system or any other kind of regulation of travel, this should be very liberally interpreted so far as Eastern Pakistan, West Bengal, Assam and Tripura are concerned.

Shri A. C. Guha: Are we to understand that the Pakistan Government initiated this proposal without consulting the Government of India and in spite of the Government of India's reluctance to accept any such proposal?

Dr. Keskar: Again, I would draw the attention of my hon. friend to the Press Note in which we have clarified the whole position. The Pakistan Government took the initiative in informing us that they proposed to introduce the passport system, considering the present permit system to be inadequate and unsatisfactory.

Dr. S. P. Mookerjee: Has the attention of Government been drawn to the Press reports in the last few days that a large number of people have already started moving out from East Bengal to Assam and West Bengal as a result of the announcement of the passport system proposed to be introduced by Pakistan?

Dr. Keskar: Government have seen Press reports on the reported move of large numbers of people from East Pakistan to Assam but they cannot say whether this is due to the coming in of the passport system. Presumably, it is so.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: May I add that apart from vague Press reports the actual figures are otherwise.

Mr. Speaker: We will proceed to the next Question.

BOTTLING OF PENICILLIN

*2. **Shri Hukam Singh:** Will the Minister of Works, Production and Supply be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Penicillin Bottling Plant at Bombay has been working to its full capacity since it started work;

(b) whether any public requirements were also met after satisfying Government demands; and

(c) when the Poona Penicillin factory is likely to be constructed?

The Deputy Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Shri Buragohain)
(a) Yes.

(b) No sales have been made to the public direct but supplies have been made to municipalities and other public institutions.

(c) The construction of the Factory is expected to be completed by about March 1953.

Shri Hukam Singh: Do the Departments of Government get all their requirements from this bottling factory, or do they also import from foreign countries?

Shri Buragohain: The position is that we import penicillin in bulk and it is bottled in this factory and distributed to the various Departments under the Central and State Governments.

Shri Hukam Singh: My question is this. Do all Government requirements get met by this bottling factory, or are the Government requirements supplemented by imports from foreign countries also?

Shri Buragohain: So far, after meeting Government requirements and the needs of other institutions of a public nature, there is still left some quantity of penicillin and Government are now considering the appointment of agents for the distribution of this surplus to the public.

Shri T. K. Chaudhuri: Will Government make available the latest report on the working of these factories?

Shri Buragohain: I am not aware of the receipt of any formal report on this factory, but if and when that is received the question will be considered.

Shri Velayudhan: May I know whether there is only bottling of penicillin taking place in this factory, or whether there is any real manufacture of penicillin also?

Shri Buragohain: I have already explained the position. We are importing penicillin in bulk and we are bottling it in this factory. The idea is to cut down the expenditure and the higher cost involved in the imported material.

Shri B. S. Murthy: May I know what is the total annual import of penicillin at present, and how the Government proposes to reduce it in coming years?

Shri Buragohain: I should like to have notice.

Shri Hukam Singh: Do Government of India perform their part of the agreement which was entered into with the W.H.O. or the U.N. Children's Emergency Fund for providing land for the construction of factories and other buildings?

Shri Buragohain: I have already stated that. This related to part (c) of the question. I have said that the construction of the factory is expected to be completed by March 1953. Already the work has been begun and it is expected that it will be completed some time next year in order to enable the machinery that will arrive then to be installed.

HOUSES FOR DISPLACED PERSONS FROM KASHMIR

*3. **Shri Hukam Singh:** Will the Minister of Rehabilitation be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of India have opened a Home for old and infirm displaced persons from Kashmir; and

(b) what is the number of displaced persons admitted to this Home?

The Minister of Rehabilitation (Shri A. P. Jain): (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

Shri Hukam Singh: Do Government propose to open such a Home?

Shri A. P. Jain: No.

Shri Hukam Singh: Is the Government prepared to extend any relief to such weak, old and infirm persons?

Shri A. P. Jain: They are already receiving relief, but they are living in the camp.

Shri Hukam Singh: What about those outside the camps?

Shri A. P. Jain: There is none.

NIGHT SHIFTS IN TEXTILE MILLS

*4. **Shri B. R. Bhagat:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of textile mills in the country have decided to cut down production by closing their night shifts;

(b) if so, the reasons for the same;

(c) the number of workers who will be affected thereby; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to meet this situation?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): (a) One mill has actually closed down and four mills have closed down partially.

(b) Accumulation of stocks.

(c) 5,058 to the best of our information.

(d) The following steps have been taken to meet the situation:

(1) Mills have been permitted to sell to buyers of their own choice the entire production of fine and superfine varieties of cloth and yarn of all counts made out of foreign cotton.

(2) Mills have been permitted to sell 80 per cent. of the production of coarse and medium cloth to buyers of their own choice. Similarly they have been allowed to sell yarn made out of Indian cotton if it is once rejected by the State nominees.

(3) Export of fine and superfine cloth is allowed freely for shipment till the 30th September, 1952.

(4) Movement of cloth and yarn by postal parcels within the country has been made free.

(5) Production control has been relaxed by permitting mills to utilise 40 per cent. of wide looms for the production of *dhoties* and *sarees*, instead of 50 per cent. which was the maximum limit laid down.

(6) State Governments have been asked to license freely wholesale and retail dealers in cloth and they have already proceeded to do so.

Shri B. R. Bhagat: In view of the reported statements by almost all the labour organisation leaders that the cut in production is resorted to by mill-owners for increasing their profit and increasing prices of cloth, has Government examined the real position regarding the cost of production and other relevant data in regard to production?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: Government is not aware of any validity behind this complaint, because, I think, April more or less recorded the highest output in regard to production during recent months. The matter is being very carefully watched and as I said only one mill has actually closed down. If the situation is such that Government action is required, they are empowered under sections 15, 16 and 17 of the Industries (Control and Regulation) Act to take the necessary action.

Shri B. R. Bhagat: May I know whether Government views this aspect of the matter as a temporary crisis or as a permanent feature coming in the textile production of the country?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: Government is not in a position to make up