

to divert this coal gas to any other place?

Shri Manubhai Shah: Yes, Sir. There have been several matters under consideration. The West Bengal Government have proposed that this gas should be taken to Calcutta for normal domestic use. There is also a proposal to use the gas for fertiliser plants. All these matters are under discussion.

Shri Bose: In view of the fact that Jharia coalfields are nearer to Ranchi than Durgapur, is it not more economical to have coal gas from the coke plants of Jharia coalfields, which is now going waste?

Shri Manubhai Shah: The final decision of the experts after examination was, as I said earlier, to have a built-in plant right at the spot.

Shri Bimal Ghose: The hon. Minister stated that one of the reasons why it was not taken to Ranchi was the distance. I do not think the same argument would apply to the case of taking this gas to Calcutta.

Shri Manubhai Shah: That is not the point. In the first case the gas plant was to be used for the purpose of production daily. Regarding the question whether it should be taken to Calcutta or not, it would be examined on its own merits from economic angles.

Indo-Japanese Foundry and Light Engineering Centre

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*367. { **Shri Subodh Hansda:**
Shri R. C. Majhi:

Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No 305 on the 14th August, 1958 and state.

(a) whether the contract for Indo-Japanese Foundry and Light Engineering Centre for Calcutta has been negotiated, and

(b) if so, when the foundry is going to be set up?

The Minister of Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): (a) Not yet, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Closure of Textile Mills

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*368. { **Shri Keshava:**
Shri S. M. Banerjee:
Shri Ajit Singh Sarhadi:
Shri Raghunath Singh:
Shri Muhammed Elias:
Shri Khadiwala:
Shri K. B. Malviya:

Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to lay a statement on the Table showing

(a) the number of textile mills which served notices of closure during the year 1957 and 1958 respectively,

(b) the names of textile mills which remained closed during the same period,

(c) the total number of working days lost and the extent of loss in production as a result of closure of textile mills in 1957 and 1958,

(d) the names of the textile mills which reopened after intervention by Government during the above period,

(e) the names of textile mills which have been taken over or are proposed to be taken over by the State Governments, and

(f) the other steps contemplated to reopen the mills which are closed at present?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Kaungo): (a) to (f) A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix I, annexure No 104.]

Shri Keshava: May I know the main reasons for the extensive stoppage of these mills?

Shri Kaungo: The reasons are well known to the House, at any rate. Generally, out of 470 establishments 20 to 25 mills remain closed for various reasons. In the last two years there

have been slightly heavier closures because of the depression in the trade

Shri Keshava: Is it a fact that the workers of the Supn Silk Mills, Chmnapatnam, Mysore, made proposals to this Ministry that the Mills should be re-opened even by appropriating the accumulated provident fund of workers to the extent of Rs 2 lakhs, if so, may I know what is the result of that representation?

Shri Kanungo: As far as I know the mills are under liquidation proceedings. No such proposal has been received by Government.

Shri Ajit Singh Sarhadi: May I know if the Government has got any plan whereby these periodical closures of textile mills should not take place and Government should take over management wherever possible.

Shri Kanungo: As the statement will show, State Governments in various places have taken over the management in certain cases. But there are cases where it is not worthwhile running them. The condition of the machinery and the condition of the company may be so bad that it may not be possible to run it.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: From the statement it is found that in 1957 the Kanpur Cotton Mills Kanpur closed, and in 1958 another mill, the Atherton West Mills Limited, Kanpur, closed. May I know what is happening to these, whether the investigation committee appointed to go into the working of the Atherton West Mills has finalised its report and whether Government is taking final action to take over this mill as well as the Kanpur Cotton Mills?

Shri Kanungo: The investigation is continuing at the moment.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: My question has not been answered. In regard to the Atherton West Mills, investigation was going on and he says it has not been completed. The Kanpur Cotton Mills has been closed and 4,000 workers have not been paid even their retrenchment

compensation. I want to know what is happening to this mill, whether the UP Government is taking over this mill.

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri): The enquiry of Atherton Mills has been completed. We have not received the report so far, but as far as I know, the general opinion is that the Atherton Mill can be run economically, but the UP Government will have to take it up if they so desire, and I have been of course not officially but unofficially informed that the UP Government is prepared to take over that mill when the report has been finally scrutinised by them.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: What about Kanpur Cotton Mills?

Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri: The Kanpur Cotton Mill is in an extremely bad condition and perhaps it is one of those mills which should definitely be scrapped.

श्री २० क० वर्मा : टेबल पर रक्त्वे गये स्टेटमेंट में उर्ज्जन की नजरअली मिल जो बन्द हो गई है उसका नाम शरीक नहीं किया गया है ।

। अध्यक्ष महोदय : सारे देश में कितनी ही मिलें हैं हर एक के नाम कहा तक दिये जा सकन है ?

श्री २० क० वर्मा : जो प्रश्न पूछा गया है उस के जवाब में जा स्टेटमेंट दिया गया है कि मन् १९५७-५८ में कौन सी मिलें बन्द हुई हैं उन में इस का नाम नहीं दिया गया है ।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : अगर इस स्टेटमेंट में वह नाम नहीं है तो दूसरा प्रश्न पूछना चाहिये ।

श्री कानूनगो : एन्क्वायरी कर ली जायेगी कि क्यों नहीं है ।

Shri Joachim Alva: There are four mills stated to be taken over by the State Governments, two by the Government of Bombay and two by the Kerala Government. May I know whether it is the intention of Government to help the lame dogs over the stile or to offer them to the owners after the Government has run them well?

Shri Kanungo: These mills are being run by the various Governments more or less as unemployment relief schemes, and all the mills are under court proceedings. So, when the court proceedings are finished, that is the stage to consider it.

Shri Raghunath Singh: It appears that two mills have been taken over by the Bombay Government and two by the red Government, the Kerala Government. May I know whether the mills taken over by the Kerala Government are running at a loss or a profit?

Shri Kanungo: As I said, they are running as unemployment benefit schemes, and they are not running into heavy losses; that is all I can say.

Shri Basappa: May I know the number of people rendered unemployed because of the closure of these mills?

Shri Kanungo: That is in the statement.

Shri Sonavane: The hon. Minister has stated that trade depression is the cause of closure. Some mills have closed while others are running. Therefore, I want to know what steps Government want to take to run these closed mills if their demands are legitimate and *bona fide*.

Mr. Speaker: All this is assumed that it would be all right. A specific question ought to be put.

Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri: As my colleague just now said, out of 470 mills there are about 34 mills which are closed, and they are closed on account of different reasons. Firstly,

some of them have become old and they have not got the finances to replace their machinery. If they want to modernise and rehabilitate their mills, Government is prepared to give them loans, and the National Industrial Development Corporation has been giving loans for that purpose, but we do not give money for working capital. We do give for modernisation and rehabilitation.

The second thing is that many of them are fighting among themselves. There are internal disputes and cases are going on in the courts, and many of them are under liquidation. So, it is not possible for us to intervene in each and every matter, but I must say that through the machinery of the Textile Commissioner's Office, where we have got a survey team, we are making investigations into a number of mills and where it is found that they can be run economically, we will certainly try to help as much as we can.

Mr. Speaker: Shri Goray.

Raja Mahendra Pratap: Our socialist pattern of Government should be very grateful for the lockouts because here is a very good chance . . .

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. I have called Shri Goray. The hon. Member must have an ear for me.

Shri Goray: In view of the fact that such a large number of mills have closed down, does not the Government think that the time has come when they should have a general policy evolved about these things?

Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri: General policy regarding what?

Shri Goray: Taking over or managing these mills or handing them over to the workers.

Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri: It is not possible. As I said, we cannot take over each and every mill. In regard to those mills which are to be scrapped, Shri Goray will himself ask a question later on as to why a mill which is being run by Government is account of different reasons. Firstly,

private mills. We are not expected to take over each and every one of them, but as I said, I have advised the Textile Commissioner to go into each and every case. We have slightly to strengthen our survey organisation. It has been a small organisation so far, but if we want to survey all the mills, which are about 34 in number, it will have to be strengthened. So, an enquiry will be made and in case we find that out of the 34 mills, say 20 can be run, we will see that the State Governments either take them over, or we shall think out some other ways and means of running them. But recently 18 mills have been reopened, I might inform the hon. Member.

Raja Mahendra Pratap: Our socialist pattern of Government should be very glad that there are lock-outs because in such cases they can hand over the mills to the workers and try whether they can work the mills or not. Can we not hand over the mills to the workers and see whether they can manage the mills or not?

Mr. Speaker: Without capital?

The hon. Member makes the suggestion that wherever there have been lockouts or strikes or internal disputes among the persons concerned, in view of the socialist pattern of society, even this sector must be taken up one after the other. That is the suggestion.

Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri: These proposals can be considered, but I might inform the hon. Member that in the case of two mills where the workers wanted to reduce their wages so that the mills could be run economically, the unions of the workers, the Central union or the State union, lodged a strong protest and they said that in no case should the workers reduce their wages. So, the hon. Member will realise that in the circumstances we cannot do anything, because the organised bodies do not like that the workers may run their mills by reducing their wages or by taking steps which may in some res-

pects reduce the earnings of the workers.

Price Page Schedule for Newspapers

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*370. { Shri Ram Krishan:
Shri Bhakt Darshan:
Shri D. C. Sharma:

Will the Minister of Information and Broadcasting be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 994 on the 16th December, 1958 and state:

(a) whether a final decision regarding the enforcement of the price page schedule for newspapers has since been taken; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

The Minister of Information and Broadcasting (Dr. Keskar): (a) and (b) A decision in regard to the introduction of a price page schedule is expected to be taken soon.

Shri Ram Krishan: In reply to the same question earlier, the hon. Minister said that he was waiting for the award of the Working Journalists Wage Committee. May I know whether the Government has received that award?

Dr. Keskar: As the hon. Member knows, the Ministry of Labour in their reply regarding the question of the Wage Committee's award have said that it is being finalised. I hope also that after the finalisation and publication of that award, we will be able to finalise this also very soon.

Shri D. C. Sharma: May I know whether any meetings have been held between the working journalists, the newspaper proprietors and the Government, in order to finalise this decision?

Dr. Keskar: The working journalists are not concerned in this question here. As far as newspaper interests are concerned, they have been consulted, but as I said in reply to a question earlier, before any final decision is taken, the draft prepared