

Closure of Textile Mills in Bombay State

1950. {
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 Dr. M. S. Aney:
 Shri L. Achaw Singh:
 Shri Goray:
 Shri Jadhav:
 Shri Tangamani:
 Shri Jagdish Awasthi:

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

(a) whether Government are aware that four cotton mills in the Vidarbha Division of the State of Bombay, Model Mills of Nagpur, Vidarbha Mills of Achalpur, Bansilal Abirchand Mills of Hinganghat and the Badnera Cotton Mills have been closed from the 1st April, and consequently more than ten thousand labourers have been thrown out of employment;

(b) if so, what steps Government have taken so far or propose to take with a view to put an end of the serious situation created by this large scale unemployment; and

(c) whether Government propose to hold an enquiry into the management of the mill and take over under their management, those mills which may be found to have been mismanaged under section 18-A of the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act, 1951?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Kanungo): (a) and (b). A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha. [See Appendix VII, annexure No. 2.]

(c) No action for investigation under Industries (Development and Regulation) Act, 1951 seems to be called for in respect of Berar Manufacturing Co., Ltd., Badnera and Bansilal Abirchand Mills, Hinganghat. As regards the other two Mills, appropriate action will be taken in the light of the circumstances in each case after the preliminaries are over.

Dr. M. S. Aney: May I ask the hon. Minister whether he is aware that on 18th April, there was a large crowd of these labourers assembled at the

railway station, and they proceeded to obstruct the Grand Trunk Express?

Shri Kanungo: I have read something about it in the newspapers.

Dr. M. S. Aney: Is the hon. Minister aware of the urgency of the thing and also of the gravity of it?

Shri Kanungo: This is very urgent, and therefore, we are taking steps.

Dr. M. S. Aney: Will he take steps as early as possible to bring about a solution?

Shri Kanungo: Yes.

Dr. M. S. Aney: Is the hon. Minister also aware that on those days the hon. Prime Minister was going to visit these tracts, and this position created by these labourers was a matter which created a good deal of tension and made more difficult the question of security?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri): I might inform the hon. Member that action has already been started. The Textile Commissioner and his organisation have already started, or they have decided to start a survey, and they are contacting the millowners

Shri Tangamani: One of the four mills that have been closed is the Model Mills, Nagpur. That mill closed on 6th April, 1950, and the number of workers involved is 7,080. This demonstration was by those workers. May I know whether this closure is to be there for these two months only and since because the Textile Commissioner has concluded his inquiry may I know when this particular big unit will be reopened, because the agitation is only on this particular mill?

Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri: I did not quite follow the question.

Shri Tangamani: The main agitation was about this Model Mills

Mr. Speaker: When will this particular mill be reopened? That is the question. The rest are arguments.

Shri Tangamani: They said that this was going to remain closed for two months.

Mr. Speaker: Let the hon. Member leave all that alone. He should only ask a question. The question hour should not be utilised to make a speech regarding that particular matter. When is this mill likely to be reopened? That is the question.

Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri: It has been closed for two months, but we think it would be possible to restart this mill, and within this period, and as early as possible, we shall try to do our best and we shall give whatever help is possible and see that this mill is reopened. The Textile Commissioner is already going into the matter.

Shri Balkrishna Wasmik: May I know whether it is a fact that the hon. Prime Minister during his visit to Nagpur recently assured the workers of the Model Mills that when he returned back to Delhi, he would be discussing the matter with the Labour Minister, and if so what has happened thereafter?

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): When I was in Nagpur, or rather in Wardha, I received two deputations in regard to the closure of these mills, and they gave me memoranda. All I could tell them was that I felt that the situation demanded as early action as possible, because, of course, large numbers of people were involved, and because very grave charges were made against the owners who had closed down the mills. And from that point of view, from the point of view of the workers as well as the effective investigation of those charges, early action should be taken. I said that I would communicate immediately with the Labour Minister which I did on my return. Immediately I sent those memoranda and wrote to the Labour Minister.

Shri M. B. Thakore: May I know the decision taken by the Government regarding the closure of the cotton mill in Gujerat?

Mr. Speaker: This does not refer to it. This is about Nagpur.

Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri: I may add about this particular mill, that we have received a communication only today from the Bombay Government. They have said that they propose to take it over. We are considering this matter today, this afternoon, at about 3 o'clock, in a meeting of the National Industrial Corporation.

SHORT NOTICE QUESTIONS

12 hrs.

Pakistanis Trespass into Indian Territory

S.N.Q. No. 27.

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 { Shri Assar:
 Shri S. M.
 Banerjee:
 Shri Hem Barua:
 Shri Vajpayee:
 Shrimati Ha
 Palchoudhuri:
 Shri P. C. Borooah:
 Shri Barman:

Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state

(a) whether it is a fact that 300 armed Pakistani Nationals trespassed into Indian territory on the 10th April, 1959 in Baragorajhar under the Dinhat Police Station in Cooch-Bihar;

(b) whether it is a fact that they have damaged and looted property, burnt houses and assaulted Indian nationals;

(c) if so, the total amount of property damaged, the total number of houses burnt, total amount of property looted and number of persons injured and dead;

(d) whether Government have taken any action; and

(e) if so what?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shrimati Lakshmi Menon): (a) to (c). On the 10th April, 1959, at about 1400 hrs a band of 250 Pakistani nationals armed with swords, daggers and other weapons trespassed into Indian territory and