

those areas on priority basis provided that proposals are recommended by state Governments.

Sale of Land and Building by NTC

368. SHRI CHHEDI PASWAN:
SHRI SHRAVAN KUMAR PATEL:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Textile Corporation Limited has sold its land and buildings entirely in order to raise resources;

(b) if so, the details thereof, region-wise; and

(c) the broad details of the policy laid down by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) It has been decided to keep the sale of surplus land and buildings of NTC in abeyance till its restructuring is finalised.

SHRI CHHEDI PASWAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, National Textile Corporation, possesses a large area of land in Bombay. The Government has taken a decision to sell it off but the proposal as been postponed for some time. So my question is this, whether the Government has made any assessment regarding total areas of surplus land with N.T.C. ? As the hon. Minister has accepted, while replying to a question that some mills of N.T.C. would be closed and some others would be merged with other mills. My second question is how much land is there in the possession of each mill and how much time will it take?

SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT: Mr. Speaker,

there was n House to the last ten days. Nobody has come prepared. It would be exposed afte this.

The hon. Member has asked whether an assessment had been made regarding the total area of land or not, in this connection I would like to reply in affirmative and state. That there is a proposal to merge 34 mills and the total area of land in the possession of these mills is 838.84 acres and its value is Rs. 443.62 crores at the rate of Rs. 50 lakh per acre. At the present rate the value of the surplus land is near about Rs. 160 crores. Thus we have made all the assessment in this regard. But first of all we wish to complete out plan, then only we would take up the issue of the land the aş fate of our laboures is also linked with it. They know that the money earned from selling the land, would go to collection and neither the mills would be modernised not would be recommissioned. Therefore, they wish that these mills whould run and our scheme is completed.

SHRI CHHEDI PASWAN: Mr Speaker, Sir, I would request you to at least ask the hon. Minister to come prepared. My second supplementary question is this that what provision has been made in the Eighth Five Year Plan for the modernisation of NTC Mills, and what are the sources of getting this money? Do these also include the solling of surplus land of N.T.C. and whether it would be sold at market rates or there is proposal to sell it off to Government Housing Corporations or to private dealers or there is a plan to establish new mills on these lands?

SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT: Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is no such plan as yet. It has not been decided as to which mills would be set up o.n which plot of land. The Government does not set up new mills. So far as the question raised by hon. Members regarding coming prepared is concerned, I have not said that I have not come prepared. I have

only said that I would keep in mind the forthcoming events.

[English]

SHRI SHRAVAN KUMAR PATEL: Sir, a delegation of NTC workers representing the Joint Action Committee of all Central Trade Unions called on the Prime Minister in July this year. While expressing their apprehensions about appropriation of funds proposed to be raised by way of sale of lands and buildings and putting the blame of sickness of NTC mills on bad management, I had made a number of suggestions for restructuring and reorganising the NTC.

May I know what were the main suggestion made...

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Shravan Kumar, this relates to the lands which the NTC mills have. It does not relate to the restructuring of NTC as such.

SHRI SHRAVAN KUMAR PATEL: I am talking about the lands only.

MR. SPEAKER: Otherwise, I will disallow it. If you have any question to ask on that, please ask.

SHRI SHRAVAN KUMAR PATEL: Okay, Sir, I will ask another question. May I know whether there is any proposal to hand over the NTC mills back to the original promoters and if so, how many mills, on what terms and what guarantees, if any, are to be secured to ensure that the lands, buildings and other properties, including equipments are not disposed of by the promoters to the detriment of the workers.

[Translation]

SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT: Mr. Speaker, Sir, so far as the question of taking over the mills is concerned, I have already said that

no decision has been taken in this regard, so far.

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: The lands which are proposed to be sold, I take it that they are for the purpose of raising resources for running the mills and not for winding them up or for merely paying the unsecured creditors or even secured creditors like the banks.

When the proposal is finalised and land is sold to be ploughed back into the company, may I take it that the Government will consider also to revive those mills which have been previously run by the NTC as managers, like Mohini mills near Calcutta?

Fifteen hundred workers are out of jobs for three years. Twenty of them have already died of starvation. We have gone to the court. The Government is taking time. I have been repeatedly requesting him-I do not know who is deciding the future of this country, whether Mr. Ashok Gehlot or IMF or the Department of Textiles to do the needful.

May I know from the Government, whether along with the restructuring or reviving of the sick NTC mills, they will also revive those mills which were being run by the NTC under the direction of the Government of India. (Interruptions)

I want to know what will they do from the money that will come after the sale of these lands. He must say this. What for the lands will be sold? I want to know what is the Government's policy on this.

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR: There were six mills which were taken over.

[Translation]

SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT: After the 1985

Textile Policy, the Government decided not to nationalize any new mill. Therefore, I feel that this question of hon. Member does not arise on it.

Coal Washeries

[English]

369. SHRIMATI MALINI BHATTACHARAYA:

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have constituted a committee to review the performance of coal washeries under the Central Coal Washeries Organisation;

(b) if so; the composition and terms of reference of the committee; and

(c) the time by which the Committee is likely to submit the report?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI S.B. NYAMAGOUDA)(a) to (c). In an Inter-Ministerial meeting held in September, 1992, it was decided that there was a need to undertake a strategic planning for reducing dependence on coking coal imports in shortest possible time. For this purpose, a group comprising representatives from Ministry of Coal, Bharat Coking Coal Ltd., Steel Authority of India Ltd., and Central Fuel Research Institute, Dhanbad has been constituted to study all the related aspects of production and washing of coking coal and submit an Action Plan. This Group is expected to submit its report by March, 1993.

SHRIMATI MALINI BHATTACHARAYA: In part(b) of my question, I have asked about the terms of reference of the Committee. Now, I would like to know from the hon.

Minister whether the reason for the deterioration in the quality and quantity of washed coal coming from the Central Coal Washeries is being taken into consideration by the Committee.

Since 1983 when the coal washeries were taken over by BCCL, there has been a steady deterioration in the supply of coal both qualitatively and quantitatively. So, my question is whether the Committee is considering the reason for such deterioration.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): Yes.

MR. SPEAKER: The reply is in the positive.

SHRIMATI MALINI BHATTACHARAYA: If the reasons are being considered, then I would also like to ask the hon. Minister - the Steel Authority of India Ltd. is also part of this Committee - whether take over of the coal washeries under the Central Coal Washeries Organisation by the Steel Authority of India, Ltd. is being contemplated by the Government; because earlier on, these washeries were under the Hindustan Steel Limited; and at that time, their functioning had been much better than it is today.

SHRI P. A. SANGMA: The suggestions of handing over the washeries back to the Steel Authority of India came from some quarters including the hon. Member and some other hon. Members of Parliament from West Bengal. Therefore, the group is also going into these suggestions.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: There are 16 coal washeries and three of them previously belonged to the Steel Authority of India, the erstwhile Hindustan Steel Corporation. In 1983, three washeries, namely, Dugdha, Bhajerdi and Patherdi were