

Have they got any policy in this regard? Are they examining it? I want a categorical answer from the hon Minister

SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD The question does not arise out of the main question. But since our hon Deputy-Speaker is also from Karnataka apart from the hon Member I may say that as far as Bangalore Airport is concerned I had said it earlier also that we are equally interested in strengthening the Bangalore Airport and we have already sanctioned Rs 13 crores to make it of international standard. Actually we had drawn up the drawings and everything. We were ready with that. We had drawn up the drawings for the aero-bridges. As the House may be knowing this airport does not belong to the Airports Authority of India or for that matter it does not belong to the International Airport Authority. It belongs to the Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL). They have some reservations in converting this particular airport into an international airport (*Interruptions*)

SHRIMATI CHANDRA PRABHA URS I would like to know whether the alternate suitable land is available

SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD According to them if once we put up aero-bridges it might create some obstructions for them. I had a review meeting only the other day and we have decided about that. We are rushing the Chairman of the International Airports Authority and the National Airport Authority to Bangalore to have a discussion with the HAL.

As far as the alternate airport is concerned, we have already identified the site for the international airport.

But the task is very big. It costs us about Rs 600 crore and it is beyond our

capacity to spend Rs 600 crore on alternative arrangement. So, we will first try to complete this particular airport and make it an international airport. Of course, this will be done with the cooperation of the Defence Ministry.

Madam what was the second part of your question?

SHRIMATI CHANDRA PRABHA URS It relates to providing better services and also about phasing out of more than twenty years old aircrafts.

SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD About the old aircrafts we have started a fleet renewal programme. Last year, I have already grounded four 737 aircrafts which were more than 20 years old. So, within ten years time we would like to have new aircrafts and we would rather like to keep those aircrafts which are less than 15 years old. So the fleet renewal programme has already started (*Interruptions*)

MR DEPUTY SPEAKER We have taken a lot of time on this question. So kindly permit me to go to the next question. We have taken 25 minutes just on this one question.

[English]

Cooperative Textile Mills

*143 SHRI ARVIND TRIVEDI
SHRI GAYA PRASAD
KORI

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state

(a) whether some State Governments have requested the Central Finan-

cial Institutions to grant long term loans for setting up of cooperative textile mills in their States:

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

(c) the action taken thereon?

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED): (a) and (b). The Financial Institutions (FIs) have received intimation from the Government of Maharashtra of their intention to set up 50 co-operative spinning mills in the State. 12 applications for financial assistance have since been received by the FIs so far.

(c) No assistance has been sanctioned by the FIs so far.

[Translation]

SHRI ARVIND TRIVEDI: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has said in response to my question that from the entire country only 12 applications for setting up of Co-operative Spinning Mills have been received from Maharashtra State Government. I would like to know whether these applications have been accepted or rejected. If these have been rejected, what are the reasons therefor. If these are pending, when these will be cleared? Perusal of information reveals that maximum injustice has been done to Gujarat. Once Karnawati, the capital of Gujarat was considered as the Manchester of India in the production of cotton textile; but now the position is that many Cotton Mills are closed there and a

lot of workers have become unemployed. Several workers have committed suicide as a result thereof, yet the State Government have not done nothing to sanction long term loan from Central financial institutions for the purpose of setting mills in co-operative sector in the State. Whether the Union Government propose to provide financial assistance by setting up of co-operative society of the workers of closed mills.

DR. ABRAR AHMED: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, as I have said in reply to the main question that Financial Institutions have received requests from the Government of Maharashtra for the setting up of 50 Co-operative Spinning Mills. The list of those 50 units are with me. Applications of 12 units have been received in the requisite proforma. Out of those 12 applications nine have been received by IDBI and eight applications have been received by I.F.C.I. Five are common but none of them have been sanctioned loan so far. The reason behind it is that a large amount of loan is already outstanding against the existing Spinning Mills of Maharashtra. The I.D.B.I. has written a letter in this regard to the Government of Maharashtra on 6th July. Here, I am having a copy of that letter. If you permit, I would read out that letter here or would send it to the hon. Member. It has been stated in the letter that the outstanding overdue on the working units should first be cleared. Moreover, modernisation work should be carried out in these units and there is sufficient scope for improvement in their management. They should try to improve their management. The Hon. Member has asked second question regarding Gujarat. The financial institutions have received no loan application from Gujarat so far.

SHRI GUMAN MAL LODHA: That is what he was trying to say.

SHRI ARVIND TRIVEDI Sir, would like to ask a second supplementary question on the basis of the reply given by the hon Minister All the five cooperative mills located at Bharooch, Surat, Veerpur, Limdi and Himmatnagar in Gujarat are incurring losses and are on the verge of closure The Himmatnagar cooperative Spinning Mill in my Parliamentary constituency is also in a critical condition I would like to know whether the Union Government plans to extricate all these five mills from the clutches of this economic crisis by providing financial assistance and whether the sales tax on their products will be abolished and some other such facilities should also be provided to promote the export of their products I would also like to know whether the Government is planning to inquire into the loss incurred by these mills due to corrupt practices adopted by the Board of Directors of the mills which are under the cooperative sector and also their involvement in certain scams

DR ABRAR AHMED Mr Deputy Speaker Sir, out of total 1062 textile units, 270 are sick and 150 has been closed down till 5th November, 1992, 1.79 lakh labourers were affected by it In the context of these five specific units mentioned by the hon member I would like to say that if they apply for loan then it would be given to them by any financial institutions or bank on the basis of viability But at present it is difficult to tell any scheme in this regard

SHRI GAYA PRASAD KORI Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, earlier weavers in the country were highly skilled and they used to weave very fine clothes. The muslin of Dhaka was very famous The quality of cloth prepared in mills could be better today but the cloth woven in rural region is inferior So I would like to know

whether the Government will give permission to those cooperative Committees who wish to set-up Textiles Mills in the rural areas

DR ABRAR AHMED As I have told earlier that financial institutions can give loan only in case it is recommended by the State Government As far as clearance to set-up any mill or quality of cloth is concerned, it does not concern to my ministry

SHRI SATYNARAYAN JATIYA The pace of the implementation of new Textile policy is so slow that all old textile mills are being closed down Millions of labourers have been rendered jobless Several schemes have been sent to Union Government for setting up of new mills As you also know that the textile Mills are comprised of N T C Mills and Private Sector Mills and the decision to set up new mills and the closure of old ones is taken by the BIFR, which functions under Finance Ministry No mill can run if this institution declares that it is not viable and the future of thousands of labourers become dark and they reach at the verge of starvation I think the Government might have received some proposals to run the textile mills of Ujjain, Indore, Ratlam and all those other mills in Madhya Pradesh which are in crisis in cooperative sector There is no co-ordination among the industrial, labour and financial institutions of the Government

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR DEPUTY SPEAKER Have a pin-pointed question You need not give any explanation You seek information from the Minister

[*Translation*]

SHRI SATYNARAYAN JATIYA: I would like to know what measures the Government is going to take regarding the proposals received from Madhya Pradesh on the co-operative basis.

DR. ABRAR AHMED: The hon. Member has tried to link cooperative units with the sick units. I would like to tell that cooperative units do not come under BIFR. In respect of the modernisation of sick industries I would like to tell that during 1986-93, for 209 sick spinning units, Rs. 455 crores were sanctioned and for composite units Rs. 416 crores were sanctioned. Thus a sum of Rs. 871 crore has been sanctioned for this purpose.

Hon. Member has referred N.T.C. A scheme worth Rs. 533 crore was prepared for its modernisation, out of which Rs. 414 crore were to be taken from financial institutions and rest was to be given as budgetary support. But in 1992 during the review of this modernisation scheme, the amount reached upto Rs. 2005 crore and Government is thinking over it. In 1992-93 budget the working capital of NTC was Rs. 132 crore and in the budget of 1994-95, the provision of Rs. one crore has been made for it.

[*English*]

SHRI ANANTRAO DESHMUKH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, about a year and a half back, the Government of Saudi Arabia had shown a lot of interest in the cooperative spinning mill sector of this country. They had also indicated their interest to the Government of India for being panelled under the Saudi Development Fund. Accordingly the Government of India had got proposals from various States for being considered under the

Saudi Development Fund as per the Government of India's directions. I want to know the latest position in this regard.

[*Translation*]

DR. ABRAR AHMED: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have no information regarding the interest shown by Saudi Arabia which is mentioned by the Hon. Member. Textile Ministry may have such information and I will inform the hon. Member after collecting the information from Textile Ministry, if available.

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Mohan Rawle had sent to me in writing. I will call his name now and then I will call your name, Shri George Fernandes.

SHRI MOHAN RAWLE: Thank you very much, Sir.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It does not mean that everybody should sent it in writing. I know that Shri Nitish Kumar will always raise a technical point. Shri Nitish Kumar, it is not done like that. It is not the custom and it is not the tradition.

[*Translation*]

SHRI MOHAN RAWLE: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, today 70 thousand labourers have become unemployed due to closure of mills in Bombay city. They are willing to run these mills on cooperative basis but they do not have money. Whether the Government's policy is against workers or will the Government give equity capital to workers if they come forward to run the mill on cooperative basis.

DR. ABRAR AHMED: The Hon. Member has mentioned that Government's policy is hostile to workers but I would like to tell that the Government has always tried to provide employment to the labourers. Hon. Member has said that some cooperative institutions are ready to set up mills in Bombay; As earlier also, I told that these institutions owe money to IDBI, IFCI and some other financial institutions and Government do not want to increase their overdues further. The mills cannot run while incurring losses. (*Interruptions*). There are already several cooperative mills which have overdues and are incurring losses. They have been told to improve their management and modernise it to make them viable, only then the plan to set-up new mills will be meaningful. It will not be proper to set-up new mills if the existing mills are incurring heavy losses and are going to be usurped by the management. This point was mentioned by financial institutions. We will try our best and financial institutions have readily agreed to provide loan for cooperative mills which are going to set-up in near future.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, in the reply to the question hon. Minister has told that a provision of Rs. 136 crores was made for modernisation of NTC during 1992-93 and in the budget for 1993-94 NTC has been allocated only one crore. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether holding company i.e. NTC has informed that the Government is not in a position to provide money to all the subsidiary companies and there is no arrangement for salary of workers after the 1st April and now you are going to provide. I do not know what amount of money, you are going to provide for new cooperative mills, for sick units in private sector and new mills to be set-up in private sector. If the

Government is ready to allocate funds for such items then why not to NTC, which is a Government organisation. One lakh and sixty thousand workers of NTC are being rendered to be jobless. The amount allocated for its modernisation has been reduced to almost zero. I would like to know whether the Government has made any alternative arrangement for them. What will be the consequences if the workers will not get their salaries after 1st of April. Is the Government going to take some concrete measures regarding the issue of the salary of workers?

[*English*]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: A package was framed for the purpose of modernisation of some of the mills. Some viable units were identified. Steps were to be taken for that purpose. But no action has been taken. What does the Government propose to do? (*Interruptions*)

SHRI E. AHMED: I want ask one thing.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Kindly excuse me. (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

DR ABRAR AHMED: Perhaps the hon. Members have not seen the original question before asking the supplementary. I have given this additional information as I was prepared for it.

The original question is that whether some State Governments have applied for long-term loans from central financial institutions to set up cooperative textile mills? And if so, the details thereof. The point raised by the hon. Member has no link with the original question. But even

then it was related to textile industry and I have shared the available information with the hon. Members. In context of the point raised by Mr. George Fernandes I would like to tell that a scheme worth Rs. 533 crore was prepared for modernisation of NTC Mills during the Eighth Plan, out of which Rs. 414 crore was to be given by financial institutions and rest was to be given through budgetary support. In revised scheme the amount has been increased upto Rs. 2005 crore and it is being reviewed. I would also like to tell the hon. Members that 33,000 workers of NTC have been benefited under the voluntary retirement scheme, in textile industry, under the voluntary retirement scheme a provision of Rs. 689 crore has been made in which 80,000 persons comprising with 73,000 workers and 7,000 officers will be benefited.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: I have asked about the arrangement made for their salaries of coming months and you are telling about their voluntary retirement.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, reply to the question must be given. I would like to know whether the ministry has made any arrangement for their salaries of next months.

[English]

SHRI JITENDRA NATH DAS: How many cooperations are there under the Ministry of Textiles?

Secondly, how are these corporations helping the cooperative spinning mills?

[Translation]

DR. ABRAR AHMED: Sir, the hon. Member has asked that how many corpo-

rations are under the Ministry of Textiles. I am telling about the views of the State Government which were put forth about the financial assistance being provided by the Finance Ministry. I want a separate notice in this connection.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Smuggling of Heroin

*144. SHRI SANAT KUMAR
MANDAL:
SHRI PARASRAM
BHARDWAJ:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Delhi is becoming a major originating centre for heroin smuggling;

(b) if so, the steps taken or proposed be taken by the Government to check the growing influence of heroin cartels; and

(c) the counter measures being initiated to prevent smuggling of opium out of the cultivation points scattered in the States of Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MUTRHY): (a) Intelligence reports received and seizures made by various enforcement agencies in Delhi indicate that Delhi is being used as transit point by drug traffickers for out