

[English]

**Closure of Non-Viable NTC Mills**

- \* 148. <sup>+</sup> SHRI SUDARSHAN  
RAYCHAUDHURI  
SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA:

Will the Minister if TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken any decision regarding closure of non-viable mills under the National Textile Corporation;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of workers likely to be rendered unemployed, mill-wise; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken to safeguard the interests of those employees?

[Translation]

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

(b) to (d). Do not arise.

[English]

SHRISUDARSHAN RAYCHAUDHURI:  
The tripartite settlement was concluded last year. A new work norm has been introduced in the NTC mills and the workers are trying their utmost to improve the position, the viability of the NTC mills. But what about the modernisation programme that was to be undertaken in the NTC mills without which their mills will not be completely viable? And what is the time frame by which the modernisation programme is likely to be completed?

[Translation]

SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT: As regards modernization programme we are concerned about N.T.C. Mills which are absolutely non-viable, what is to be done about them. A tripartite discussion has taken place under that there is a proposal for 63 mills. We have been asked to supply information to the labour union. We have supplied all the information. It shall depend upon that to what extent can we modernize those. At this moment, nothing can be said.

[English]

SHRI SUDARSHAN RAY-  
CHAUDHURI: This is the fate of modernisation programme. One of the major reasons behind the prices of the NTC mills in the eastern region is lack of raw materials, I mean cotton. When the NTC mills in West Bengal need, I am told, 600 to 700 cotton bales per day, they are getting for the last few months only 300 to 350 bales. What steps have been taken by the Government to supply this rawmaterial, these particular cotton bales to the NTC mills in West Bengal?

MR. SPEAKER: What steps have been taken to supply cotton bales?

[Translation]

SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT: If they are worried about the West Bengal mills, we shall obtain information separately and we shall try that they are supplied the inputs in time. The hon. Member is well aware of the circumstances prevalent in these mills, in which the budgetary support has decreased. Apart from West Bengal there are many such mills, like the Kanpur mills in U.P., which do not receive supply of their full requirement of cotton. That is why it is our attempt to restructure their activities in such

a manner that their mills might run and become viable.

[*English*]

SHRIDASU DEB ACHARIA: Out of the 124 mills which are under the National Textiles Corporation, there are about 40 to 41 mills which are sick. Those mills were sick and the abandoned mills were taken over by the Government and nationalised. But what was to be done to make those those mills viable, that was not done, to modernise them, and to replace the worn out machinery. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the National Textile Corporation has submitted a re-structuring proposal of the entire Corporation. If so what action has the Government taken on this re-structuring proposal of the NTC

[*Translation*]

SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT: Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, I recently said that we have made two proposals. On the one hand, mills has been amalgamated, out of which nearly 35 mills, which are viable, are proposed to be converted into 15 mills. There are nine subsidiaries of N.T.C and except one all others are running in loss. We want that the maximum number of subsidiaries make profit. Our effort is continuing in this direction. As I said just now, under the chairmanship of the Labour Minister tripartite talks were held, in which we gave them a comprehensive proposal because we want to supply all the data to the labour unions. All three parties should meet and decide. That is why nothing can be said in isolation and I hope that very soon, action will be taken on it.. (*Interruptions*).

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Hon'ble Speaker, I would like to submit to the hon'ble Minister that these mills are the mainstay for people of Beawar city in Rajasthan and there two...

MR. SPEAKER: Questions are not asked like that. Put a specific question. If I disallow you will complain. This is a national question.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: I am asking a question. It is a national question. Some misunderstanding is prevalent among the labour class there in the mills of N. T.C that the mills are being closed. I would like the Government to tell me very clearly whether the Government has decided to merge the two sick mills of N.T.C. ? Will the mills be closed and the labourers will become jobless? The Government should declare its policy very clearly, I would like to know very clearly.

MR. SPEAKER: Sir, One minute back, they have replied to this about restructuring.

ASHOK GEHLOT: You are talking about Beawar, both the mills in Beawar are running in profit, there is no question of closing them.

SHRI RATILAL VARMA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, mills in Gujarat are lying closed and there are N.T.C. mills also in Gujarat, but day by day they are becoming sick. Will the hon. Minister give an assurance that the N.T.C. mills in Gujarat will continue to run?

SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT: None of our mills there is closed there nor there is any plan to close any mill.

[*English*]

**Exports by MMTC and STC.**

\* 149. SHRI SARAT CHANDRA PATTANAYAK: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount of exports generated by the Minerals and Metals Trading