

a manner that their mills might run and become viable.

[*English*]

SHRI DASU 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

corporation and the State Trading Corporation in the past six months;

(b) whether any review of the performance of these organisations has been made; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Exports worth Rs. 1,423.27 crores and Rs. 462.85 crores were effected by MMTC and STC respectively from April, 1991 to January, 1992.

(b) and (c). Yes, Sir. The performance of the two Corporations is normally reviewed on a quarterly basis.

SHRI SARAT CHANDRA PATTANAYAK: I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the convertibility of the rupee will have any impact on the functioning of the STC and MMTC; if so the details thereof

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: The partial convertibility of the rupee will indeed help trade in general; because 60 per cent of export earnings can now be sold at the market determined exchange rate. Earlier, the exporters - that includes the STC and the MMTC - were getting only 30 per cent of their export earnings to be converted as Exim Scripts. I think the enhancement of 60 per cent will help STC and MMTC get a much better convertibility factor when they convert their export earnings in the India market.

SHRI SARAT CHANDRA PATTANAYAK: I would like to know whether the Government is considering to permit STC and MMTC to undertake third country trade through its overseas offices. If so, the likely increase in earning of foreign exchange from these transactions?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: On the contrary I have asked STC and MMTC Board to lay down procedure for doing third country exports. Each of these Corporations will be encouraged to do third country trade, according to the guidelines laid down by its own Board.

SHRI ERA ANBARASU: I welcome the new Industrial Policy as long as there is a provision to dismantle the regime of controls and licensing. But, at the same time, there are as many as nine or ten organisations under the Ministry of Commerce like Export Promotion Council, Export Development Council, DGTD etc. A decision has been taken, I believed to close down these organisations. Nearly four or five thousand employees will be thrown out of employment.

MR. SPEAKER: You should put specific question on the exports by MMTC and STC. You should directly come to the question without any delay.

SHRI ERA ANBARASU: Is there any similar decision to close down MMTC and STC causing unemployment to employees of these organisations?

MR. SPEAKER: You have asked a very pointed and good question.

SHRI ERA ANBARASU: I request the Hon. Minister whether there is any proposal to redeploy these employees, who are thrown out of employment in the organisations like Export Promotion Council, Export Inspection Council etc.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: No.

MR. SPEAKER: No is to closing down or to redeployment.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: No is to closing down.

SHRI, MUMTAZ ANSARI: Mica Trading Corporation i.e MITCO, which was established at kodarma, has been running at a loss. I have just heard that there is a plan of merger of MITCO with MMTTC. Is there any step in this regard being taken by the Government?

SHRI P.CHIDAMBARAM: MITCO is now only a wholly owned subsidiary of MTC. There is no proposal to change the status.

National Highways

*150. **SHRI MUKUL BAGHRISHNA WASNIK:**
SHRI SHRAVANKUMAR PATEL:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have conducted any survey to identify the length of National Highways which are not trafficworthy as per international standards;

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

(c) the funds proposed to be provided for maintenance and repair of National Hiways during 1992-93, State-wise

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SUFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGADISH TYTLER): (a) to (c). A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

STATEMENT

(a) and (b). the Central Road Research Institute had completed an inventory of the Nation Highways in 1987 as part of which they measured the riding quality of the major portion of the National Highway network. State-wise summary of roughness value is given in the Appendix.

According to the norms laid down by the Indian Roads Congress, riding comfort was less than satisfactory on roughly 41.6% length of National Highways. The National Highways are however generally kept traffic worthy, within the availability of funds. Moreover, development of National Highways is a continuing activity and since 1987 further investments have been made to upgrade the system.

(c) In the 1992-93 Budget, a provision of Rs. 169.68 crores for maintenance and repairs of National Higways has been included. The State-wise distribution of the provision will be decided after the Demand for Grants are approved by the Parliament.