

**Shrimati Savitri Nigam:** May I know if the hon. Minister has received some complaints that in the rural areas people find it very difficult to withdraw money because sometimes the signature do not tally? What steps have been taken to instruct the rural post offices to get their signature tallied with the help of Pradhans, Sarpanches etc.?

**Shri Bhagavati:** In reply to another question I answered the other day I told the House that now Sarpanches of village Panchayats can also attest the signature of the depositor and identify him.

**Shri P. R. Patel:** We have got savings bank accounts today in the post offices. I want to know whether there is any difficulty in having current accounts in the post offices. If there are any difficulties, what are the difficulties?

**Shri Bhagavati:** The main object of the savings bank is to foster the habit of thrift. With that object the savings bank....

**Shri P. R. Patel:** My question is whether there is any difficulty in having current accounts in post offices. If there are any difficulties, what are they?

**Shri Bhagavati:** Then all the paraphernalia of banks will be necessary. Now we have liberalised the rules so as to give more facilities to P.O.S.B. depositors. I do not think at present we can consider anything more than that.

**श्री तुलशीदास जाधव :** जब लोग पोस्ट आफिस से सेविंग्स का रुपया लेने जाते हैं तो उस दिन पोस्ट आफिस के पास जितना रुपया होता है, वे उतना ही देते हैं। इस के कारण बहुत से लोग वापस जाते हैं और उन को बार बार वहाँ आ कर दो दो तीन तीन दिन बैठना होता है। क्या यह बात सरकार के ध्यान में है और इस के लिये कोई उपाय किया गया है ?

**Shri Bhagavati:** I do not think the situation is so bad. Sometimes it may so happen that there is not enough money; but we take steps in that regard.

**चीनी मिलों क प्रबन्ध का सरकार द्वारा लिया जाना**

१०४१. श्री कछवाय : क्या साद्य तथा कृषि मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार घाटे में चल रही चीनी मिलों का प्रबन्ध अपने हाथ में लेने का विचार कर रही है;

(ख) यदि हाँ, तो इस समय कुल कितनी मिलें घाटे में चल रही हैं और वे कहाँ कहाँ पर हैं; और

(ग) सरकार उन का प्रबन्ध अपने हाथ में कब तक लेने का विचार कर रहे हैं ?

**The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. M. Thomas):** (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

**श्री कछवाय :** मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि यह जो कुछ मिलें घाटे पर चल रही हैं, उस का प्रमुख कारण क्या है।

**Shri A. M. Thomas:** With regard to this matter the Government of India, as has been stated in this House earlier, had set up a committee in June 1963 to investigate into the problem of uneconomic units. We are awaiting their report. After the receipt of their report we will take the necessary steps.

**श्री कछवाय :** मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि कमेटी की रिपोर्ट कब तक आ जायेगी, और हमारे देश में कितनी चीनी की मिलें हैं।

**Shri A. M. Thomas:** Now they have visited already the main sugarcane producing areas. They have to visit some more States. I think, they will be submitting their report shortly.

**Shri S. M. Banerjee:** May I know whether it is a fact that the Central Government has issued any instructions to the State Governments to take over some of the uneconomic units and, if not, what technical or financial aid will be given to those uneconomic units so that they may run efficiently?

**Shri A. M. Thomas:** We are taking over certain mismanaged factories. Last year we have taken over three factories, namely, the MK Sugar Mills, Ramkola; then, another factory in Bhatni and also the Samastipur factory. They were mismanaged factories. After our taking them over the conditions have improved considerably.

**श्री विश्राम प्रसाद :** मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि ये जो अनइकॉनॉमिक मिल्स हैं उन की मशीनरी खराब है इसलिये वे अनइकॉनॉमिक हैं या कोई और कारण है जिस की वजह से वे अनइकॉनॉमिक हैं ।

**Shri A. M. Thomas:** Mainly, the machinery is outmoded and that is why they incur losses. There is also mismanagement. Because of both these factors, some of these factories run at a loss.

**Dr. L. M. Singhvi:** May I know whether the Government has considered the suggestion made by the men in public life, such as, Mr. Jain and others that sugar mills should be taken over or nationalised in the country? May I know whether the Government have found that suggestion feasible, economical and practicable?

**Mr. Speaker:** Nationalisation is a different thing altogether.

**Dr. L. M. Singhvi:** My submission is that this suggestion was made by Mr. Jain and one of the grounds of which was that the sugar industry is wholly uneconomic and that is, in general, for the benefit of the State.

**Mr. Speaker:** That is a different thing.

**Dr. L. M. Singhvi:** Let them say they do not want to take over.

**Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad:** Since the taking over of the sugar mills, specially those which are running at a loss, has been advocated in this House and supported by the economic experts, may I know what are the specific grounds for the Government not to take them over.

**Mr. Speaker:** That is what he has said that a Committee has been appointed and they are awaiting the report. The Committee will give that report and then they will take action.

**Shri R. S. Pandey:** With regard to the question of losses, I wanted to know whether the losses are in terms of money or in terms of production.

**Shri A. M. Thomas:** It can be in terms of production as well as in terms of money.

**Shri Shivaji Rao S. Deshmukh:** Is there one of the terms of reference of this Committee that it will go into the question of converting uneconomic units into growers' co-operatives?

**Shri A. M. Thomas:** We asked the Committee to investigate into the position and problems of uneconomic units in the sugar industry. They have to suggest measures whereby those uneconomic units can be made economic, such as, by expansion of existing units by rehabilitation and modernisation of plants and also by schemes of merger and solution of consequential problems of surplus labour. The Committee can also report on the feasibility of converting these into co-operatives.

**Shri P. K. Ghosh:** May I know if the uneconomic units which have already been taken over by the Government are running efficiently?

**Shri A. M. Thomas:** As I have already indicated, these mismanaged factories which have been taken over by the Government have run very well and some of these factories have shown profits.

**श्री यशपाल सिंह :** जिन मिलों ने अभी तक काश्तकार के गन्ने का पेमेंट नहीं किया, क्या उन मिलों को भी सरकार अपने हाथ में ले कर काश्तकारों का पेमेंट करेगी ?

**अध्यक्ष महोदय :** यह सवाल तो अन-इकानामिक मिल्स का है ।

**श्री यशपाल सिंह :** जहाँ पेमेंट नहीं हो सका है . . . .

**अध्यक्ष महोदय :** वे अन-इकानामिक तो नहीं हैं ।

**श्री बड़े :** क्या सरकार यह बताने की कृपा करेगी कि जो मिलें अभी तक घाटे में चल रही हैं, जैसा कि उन का बैलेंस शीट देखने से पता चलता है, उन को भी अपने हाथ में लाने वाली है, या उन का भी कोई परीक्षण होने वाला है ?

**Shri A. M. Thomas:** I cannot say how many factories are running at a loss. The House has to appreciate that it is not all the factories that run at a loss, that Government wants to take over. The Government has taken over these mismanaged factories. We have also to proceed under the Industries Development and Regulation Act, 1951 under which certain procedure is also prescribed. We have taken over some of these factories under the Defence of India Rules because the action was needed urgently.

**श्री तुलसीदास जाधव :** जिन मिलों को शगर के त नहीं मिलता था उनको सरकार ने पांच छः करोड़ की एड दी । मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि इन्हीं मिलों को घाटा हुआ है ?

**Shri A. M. Thomas:** Yes. Because of non-availability of cane also, some factories are incurring a loss.

**Shri S. M. Banerjee:** My question was whether it is a fact that the Uttar Pradesh Government has been issued some instructions from the Centre to take over certain uneconomic units and, if not whether the Government would afford financial help and technical aid to those factories so that they run efficiently?

**Shri A. M. Thomas:** We generally take over these mismanaged factories on the recommendation of the State Governments. We proceed only on their recommendation. We do not proceed arbitrarily in this matter.

#### Steel and Iron for Agricultural Implements

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**Shri S. C. Samanta:**  
**Shri N. R. Laskar:**  
**Shri Maheswar Naik:**

Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Governments have been asked to assess their three-year requirements of steel and iron for agricultural implements;

(b) whether they have taken any action so far in this regard;

(c) if so, what is the total requirement; and

(d) whether the States have also set up co-operative manufacturing units for these implements?

**The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Dr. Ram Subhag Singh):** (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d). Information has been called for from the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations and will be placed on the Table of the Sabha as soon as received.