

the welfare and rehabilitation of these unemployed labourers?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI RADHA KISHAN MALVIYA): (a) and (b). According to information received from the Ministry of Textiles the number of closed/locked out Textile Mills as on 31st January, 1989 was 140.

(c) The Government have taken a number of steps to avert closure and rehabilitate sick textile mills. Following the announcement of the Textile Policy 1985, the Government have set up a Nodal Agency in 1986 which draws up rehabilitation packages for the sick textile mills in consultation with financial institutions. With a view to rehabilitating the workers of closed textile mills, a Textile Workers Rehabilitation Fund has been set up which came in to operation in September, 1986. An amount of Rs. 1.33 crores has so far been disbursed out of the Fund.

[English]

Agitation by Employees of Medical Store Depot, Karnal

1895. SHRI RAJ KUMAR RAI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the employees of Medical Store Depot, Karnal are agitating for a long period as per report appearing in the 'Nav Bharat' dated 17 January, 1989;

(b) if so, the details of the demands of those employees; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed by Government to meet their demands?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE):
(a) Only a handful of employees have been

raising certain issues since October, 1988.

(b) In their representations made to the Ministry, the Sarkari Chikitsa Samagri Bhandar Karamchari Sangh, Karnal, have demanded action against officials of the Government Medical Store Depot, Karnal, who are allegedly responsible for victimisation of employees (in the form of suspensions/termination/irregular promotions), misappropriation of funds and acceptance of bribes for stocking sub-standard and spurious drugs. They have also demanded common facilities like canteen, public convenience and cycle stands for the benefit of the staff of the depot.

(c) Although the Sangh is an unrecognised body, their grievances have been looked into and preliminary enquiries indicate that there is no substance in the complaints regarding bribery and misappropriation of funds, leading to stocking of spurious/sub-standard drugs. Common facilities already exist in the Depot for the benefit of the staff.

Food and Drug Control Administration

1896. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to strengthen the Food and Drug Control Administration; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE):
(a) and (b). Proposals to strengthen the Food and Drug Control Administration are under preparation for the 8th Five Year Plan.

Losses on Government Publications

1897. SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state: