

more is needed the Indian community in Burma will find as much as Rs 7,500

Shri D. C. Sharma: May I know if this memorial will be financed entirely by our own Government?

Shrimati Lakshmi Menon: I have already stated that Rs 35,000 will be found by our Government and Rs 7,500 by the local Indian community in Burma

Development of Industries

*620. **Shri Bahadur Singh:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state

(a) whether the Punjab Government have approached the Union Government for liberal financial assistance for the development of Industries in the State, and

(b) if so, the action taken on their request?

The Minister of Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): (a) and (b) While there have been many discussions on the subject between the State Government and us, there has been no specific request of the type that the Hon'ble Member refers to. However, I may add with your permission, Sir, that last year we provided Rs 75 lakhs for small industries in the Punjab

Closure of Jute Mills

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*621. { **Shri Sadhan Gupta:**
Shri S. M. Banerjee:

Will the Minister of Labour and Employment be pleased to state

(a) whether it is a fact that many jute manufacturing concerns in West Bengal have closed down certain mills and installed the machinery in other mills belonging to them, and

(b) if so the number of jute mills closed and the number of workmen rendered unemployed without any retrenchment benefits whatsoever?

The Deputy Minister of Labour (Shri Abid Ali): (a) and (b) Four

Jute Mills employing 3400 workmen have closed down in the last three months. As far as the Government is aware, the machinery in these mills had not been installed in other mills belonging to the companies concerned. The retrenched workmen would be entitled to compensation as provided in the Industrial Disputes (Amendment Ordinance) 1957.

I may add that only 300 workmen out of those employed in two of these mills have been rendered unemployed. The rest of them have been absorbed in the sister concerns of the mills concerned.

Shri Sadhan Gupta: May I know how many of these mills were closed down before the 27th April, when the ordinance came into force, and whether the workers of the four mills who have not been absorbed would be entitled to receive compensation under the new ordinance?

Shri Abid Ali: Yes, Sir. The workmen who are not employed by the mills which are connected with these mills which have been closed down, will be entitled to compensation, and the West Bengal Government has already taken up this question.

Shri Sadhan Gupta: May I know whether there has been a discussion between the West Bengal Government and the management of these mills and, if so, what is the outcome of the discussion?

Shri Abid Ali: As I have already submitted, this matter has been taken up by the Government of West Bengal and they have not communicated to us the details or the results of their efforts.

Shri Palaniandi: It is said "Rationalisation without tears". Now, in regard to these workers who are retrenched, may I know whether the Government will try to give them employment?

Shri Abid Ali: This retrenchment was not due to rationalisation. Two of the mills were uneconomic and two