

Shri Manubhai Shah: On a large scale, coir fibre is used for different purposes. But in the West Bengal region, there has been a mixture tried for sisal and also ramie with coir fibre.

Shri Achar: May I know whether Government are aware of the difficulties with regard to colouring of the mattresses and mats and also of the fact that the chemical things supplied are not of the required standard and on account of that, there have been difficulties?

Shri Manubhai Shah: That difficulty has been there and it was felt by the exporters. Under the export promotion scheme, we have tried to see that the exporters get the delivery of the fast and good quality colours.

Shri V. P. Nayar: The Coir Board sent a delegation to Europe. May I know whether they have made any positive recommendation for the increase of our export of coir goods and if so, what are they?

Shri Manubhai Shah: I have answered several questions here on that. The recommendations of the delegation have also been laid before the House. They have made several recommendations and we are going to follow them. That is why we hope that gradually the exports will go up.

Textile Mills

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- *774. { **Shri Pangarkar:**
Shri Rameshwar Tantia:
Shri S. M. Banerjee:
Shri Tangamani:
Sardar Iqbal Singh:

Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 779 on the 8th December 1960 regarding re-starting of closed Textile Mills and state:

(a) whether some more closed textile mills have been restarted since December, 1960; and

(b) if so, the number of such mills?

The Minister of Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) 3 Mills.

Shri Pangarkar: In reply to Starred Question 1187 on 7th September, 1960, it was stated that a committee under the presidentship of Shri Parikh was appointed on 25th June 1960, to enquire into the management of the Aurangabad Textile Mills. May I know whether the committee has submitted its report and if so, what action has been taken?

Shri Manubhai Shah: This question does not arise out of this. But as far as Aurangabad mills are concerned, it is under continuous discussion with the Maharashtra Government as to how that mill can be rehabilitated.

Shri Pangarkar: May I know whether they have applied for a loan for rehabilitation?

Shri Manubhai Shah: So far they have not applied for loan. We will consider it when the application is received.

Shri Rameshwar Tantia: What is the total number of mills examined by Government, how many of them have been declared as fit for rehabilitation and how many have been scrapped?

Shri Manubhai Shah: A very considerable amount of work has been done in this matter. We have examined 28 textile mills. The House will be glad to know that as a result of the steps taken by Government, 13 mills have already reopened and another three are going to be reopened very soon.

Shri Harish Chandra Mathur: The hon. Minister said that only 3 mills have restarted. But is it a fact that as many as 5 mills have been closed in Ahmedabad only because of short-supply of coal and if so whether the Minister will take this into consideration?

Shri Manubhai Shah: It is quite a distinct thing. One is of a pathological nature—how the textile industry which has not rehabilitated itself has to be assisted—and another is with regard to the shortage of wagons.

Shri Sonavane: May I know whether any efforts are being made to reopen the mills situated in Barsi of Sholapur District in Maharashtra State?

Shri Manubhai Shah: Yes, Sir.

Shri C. D. Pande: May I know if Government's attention has been drawn to the fact that U.P., Banaras, Moradabad, Agra and Kanpur, there are a large number of mills which are closed and efforts are being made to reopen them? The mills were closed because they were of obsolete nature and so before they are reopened, some renovation is necessary. May I know whether the Government will take the necessary action?

Shri Manubhai Shah: Of course, he had not mentioned the names of the mills. But he will be glad to know that the Kanpur Cotton Mills have restarted. The Moradabad Mills had already been assisted and very soon they will restart. Practically all the mills excepting two are functioning more or less satisfactorily.

Shri C. D. Pande: Are they of obsolete nature and what assistance is being given?

Shri Manubhai Shah: We have given assistance in terms of finance and management skill. That is how they have restarted.

Shri Tangamani: May I know what steps have been taken for reopening the Ganapathy Mills in Tirunelveli District in Madras State? I would like to know the number of spindles and looms lying idle and the extent of loss of production?

Shri Manubhai Shah: There are 496 mills in this country and if every hon.

Member asks about the mills in his place, how can I answer? This particular Ganapathy Mill is being looked into. There is hardly any chance of its rehabilitation. We are taking steps to see whether it could be rehabilitated.

Shri Basappa: May I know how many of these mills cannot be restarted?

Shri Manubhai Shah: I have said 9 mills could not be restarted. 15 have already restarted.

Shri Basappa: What will be done in the case of those 9 mills? Are Government thinking of taking any other measures?

Shri Manubhai Shah: I have already made it clear before the House several times that if a mill is closed and if in the opinion of technical experts, it has to be scrapped, an equivalent capacity will be licensed in the same place preferably or in the same State.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: The Textile Commissioner who enquired into the state of certain textile mills recommended that a corporation be formed to take over the mills which had been closed. That proposal was under the consideration of Government. May I know whether that proposal is still under consideration or it has been dropped?

Shri Manubhai Shah: I have already answered that that corporation proposal has not only been dropped, but it has been given up completely as an impracticable proposition. We did not agree to that recommendation, because the mills are situated far and wide and each State is being empowered to set up authorised controllers. It has brought about results in the reopening of many mills.

Shri B. K. Galkwad: The hon. Minister replied that a certain number of closed mills have been restarted. May I know whether the restart-

ed mills have been gaining or losing concerns?

Shri Manubhai Shah: In all cases, they are making profits.

Shri Sonavane: May I know to what extent production of cloth would be affected by the scrapping of these 9 mills and which are those 9 mills?

Shri Manubhai Shah: The ratio 496:9 is very small. So, the percentage of decrease in production will be very low. It is just a sickness in a large-scale industry which is established for the last 100 years. It is natural that the old mills should go out of existence and new ones must take their place.

Promotion of Exports

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*775. { **Shri Nathwani:**
 { **Shri Morarka:**

Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 811 on the 25th November 1960 and state:

(a) whether Government have considered the question of reducing the number of organisations dealing with the promotion of exports in the interest of both economy and co-ordinated effort; and

(b) if so, the nature of the decision?

The Minister of Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): (a) and (b). The question is being examined by the Special Re-organisation Unit of the Ministry of Finance. The observation of the Estimates Committee has been brought to their notice.

Shri Morarka: What are the different organisations dealing with the question of export promotion and what is the total amount spent on them?

Shri Manubhai Shah: I have not got the figures about the amount spent. But the organisations are very well known—Export Promotion Council,

Export Promotion Directorate, and the State Trading Corporation. They have been dealing with export promotion. We have appointed sub-committees also. Most of the functions are well demarcated. We have taken notice of this fact and in the Ministry we are taking steps even earlier, before the Estimates Committee made the observation. We have said, functions which are overlapping should be avoided.

Shri Morarka: Is it a fact that in spite of the fact that export promotion work is being done, our exports have fallen in 1959-60 from what they were in 1950-51? If so, may I know the main reasons for this fall?

Shri Manubhai Shah: In the last decade, as the hon. Member is fully aware, a lot of economic changes have taken place all over the world. Though the quantitative results were not so different, the value of the exports were higher before the devaluation than after the devaluation. These are very well known factors and efforts are being made. The House will remember that during the course of the last three years, there has been considerable expansion in our export trade to the extent of about Rs. 50 crores.

Shri Mahanty: In the case of engineering export, the Export Promotion Council has to examine the various suggestions and forward them to the Directorate of Export Promotion, who again have to examine and send them to the Ministry, with the result that the engineering export does not get the incentives it expects.

Shri Manubhai Shah: Firstly, I must slightly correct the impression of the hon. Member. In the last three years, out of all the Export Promotion Councils, figuratively speaking, the best results have been achieved by the Engineering Council. It is true that not all these recommendations have completely been accepted by us. But we have tried to give them as much assistance as possible, and the new recommendations made