

**Retrenchment in Mills managed by
National Textile Corporation**

2999 SHRI HARI SINGH;

SHRI RAM BHAGAT
PASWAN:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state.

(a) whether about 25000 workers have been thrown out of job from the mills managed by National Textile Corporation of India recently; and

(b) if so, the steps Government have taken for their absorption in other mills?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE
MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI
VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) The question does not arise.

Export of Chromite Ore

3000. SHRI ARJUN SETHI Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether State Government of Orissa has approached the Union Government for direct export of chromite ore without routing it through the Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Central Government thereto?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE
MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI
VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH):

(a) Yes, Sir

(b) Export of chromite ore is banned at present, except for ad hoc exports which may be specifically authorised.

**Closure of Tea Gardens in West
Bengal**

3001. SHRI NOORUL HUDA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether seven tea gardens in the District of Darjeeling (West Bengal) have been closed and several others are facing closure; and

(b) the reasons for such abnormal closures and how many workers have been retrenched and laid off?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE
MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI
VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH)

(a) According to an assessment made in 1975, there are about 13 sick/closed tea gardens in the District of Darjeeling

(b) Some of the factors to which uneconomic/sick condition of a tea estate can be attributed are over-capitalisation, poor labour management relations, misapplication of funds unscientific agricultural practices, mis management etc. No information is available in regard to workers affected.

Sick Tea Gardens in Assam

3002 SHRI NOORUL HUDA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state

(a) the number of sick tea gardens in the State of Assam and in Cachar District; and

(b) the total number of workers and employees who have been working in such tea gardens?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE
MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI
VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH):

(a) According to an assessment made during 1975, there are about 17 sick/closed tea gardens in the State of Assam out of which 6 are in Cachar District.

(b) No information is available in this regard.

Procedures for Export of Garments

3003. SHRI MOHINDER SINGH GILL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian exporters have conveyed it to him that the procedures they have to go through at the Indian end need immediate streamlining to promote the exports of garments and the buyers from abroad attending the Indian Garments Fair have also complained of delay in the delivery of goods on orders; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken to improve matters in this regard to widen our export markets?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Following steps have been taken are being taken to remove the bottlenecks in garments exports.—

(i) Excise duty on garments has been abolished.

(ii) Other problems like inadequate cargo space, non-availability of fabrics of the right quality in sufficient quantities resulting in delayed deliveries are also being sorted out by augmenting production of such fabrics and by arranging chartered flights for airlifting of cargoes whenever there is a cargo congestion.

Meeting held by Indo-US Business Council

3004. SHRI MOHINDER SINGH GILL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether, in the light of the Joint Communiqué issued after Indo-US Economic and Business Sub-

Commission some practical steps are proposed to be taken immediately to enhance the scope of joint ventures between the two countries; and

(b) if so, the broad features thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM): (a) and (b). It has been agreed that action along the following lines would be pursued to encourage joint ventures in third countries:—

(i) providing increased flow of information to US business in regard to India's technical capability in various fields and bringing to the notice of the US business the great scope for such collaboration arrangements;

(ii) visits of US businessmen under the auspices of the Joint Business Council to come to India and see Indian technology and capabilities.

Credit Facilities by Nationalisation Banks to Farmers, Artisans, Labourers and Weaker Sections of Society

3005. SHRI RAM PRAKASH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some banks, like Punjab National Bank have come forward to extend easy credit facilities to farmers, artisans, labourers and other weaker sections of society in States as a result of the suggestion made by Government to nationalised banks in this regard; and

(b) if so, the names of States where such loans have been advanced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN CHARGE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE AND BANKING (SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE):

(a) and (b). After nationalisation of