

ruling. But it would have been better if the Home Minister was here so that he could have replied to all these points.

With these observations, I support the Bill.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR: I am very much thankful to both the honourable members who have whole heartedly realised the grave necessity of this Bill, so that the honourable Vice-President could get pension. Both the honourable Members have also said that the provision made for the secretarial staff may be increased. I would like to clear his misunderstanding about the provision of 6000 rupees for secretarial staff that it is meant for stationery expenses only and the pay of the staff, a steno and a peon provided to him, is exclusive of this amount and it is not included in this amount. Besides I agree to your point that 6500 rupees is not a very big amount but it is a meagre amount. But there are certain norms and the pay of the President of India is calculated for the purpose of his pension. His pension, which is fixed,

[English]

that is 50 percent of that.

[Translation]

When we calculate the salary of the Vice-President.

[English]

This also comes to 50 percent.

[Translation]

This Bill is drafted according to these set norms.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is.

"That the Bill to provide for the payment of pension and other facilities to retiring Vice-Presidents, be taken into consideration."

*The motion was adopted.*

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House will now take up Clause-by-Clause consideration of the Bill.

The question is:

"That Clauses 2 to 5 stand part of the Bill"

*The motion was adopted*

*Clauses 2 to 5 were added to the Bill*

Clause 1

*Amendment made:*

Page 1, line 3,—

for "1996" substitute "1997" (2)

(Shri Mohd. Maqbool Dar)

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That clause 1, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

*The motion was adopted.*

*Clause 1, as amended, was added to the Bill.*

**Enacting Formula**

*Amendment made:*

Page 1, line 1,—

for "Forty-seventh"

substitute "Forty-eighth" (1)

(Shri Mohd. Maqbool Dar)

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That Enacting Formula, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

*The motion was adopted.*

*The Enacting Formula, as amended, was added to the Bill.*

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is.

"That the long Title stand part of the Bill"

*The motion was adopted.*

*The Long Title was added to the Bill.*

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR): Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

*The motion was adopted.*

## DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193

15.35 hrs.

**Discussion Re: Problems of Textile Industry**

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, we will take up the discussion under Rule 193. The time permissible is two hours. I request Shri Sanat Mehta to initiate the discussion.

SHRI SANAT MEHTA (SURENDRA NAGAR): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am here to speak on one very sad chapter of our economic planning. I would say that it is a calamity affecting nearly one million families in the country. It is not a natural calamity, but a man-made calamity, and a calamity created by our economic development.

[Sh. Sanat Mehta]

The textile industry is a pioneering industry in the country. Even when the country was not free, this industry provided the largest employment to the skilled workers. The sickness in this industry was visible not just now, not even for a decade, but for more than a decade. The sickness in the textile industry was visible since 1982.

The Textile Secretary, when he presented his case before the Standing Committee on Industry, reported that 301 mills or companies were registered with the BIFR at present. As on 30th November, 1996 the number of textile mills which have been referred to the BIFR is 189. The Textile Secretary made a very interesting remark that no mill was closed under the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947. This is a very interesting situation.

The Industrial Disputes Act, 1948 is meant for regularising and controlling the closure of the industrial units. When 301 mills were referred to the BIFR, it means that they were either sick or closed down. Those mills have not been closed down as per the Industrial Disputes Act because if you want to close down a unit under the Industrial Disputes Act, then you have to take the permission of the labour authorities in various States.

I am sorry to say that when such an important subject is being discussed, the Minister of Labour of the Union Government is absent. It would have been much better, if he had remained present in the House.

The remarks of the Textile Industry indicate that whatever number of textile mills were closed down, they were closed down without following any procedures laid down in the Industrial Disputes Act. What is the result of it? I can understand if the units were closed down after taking due permission. I can understand if the units were closed down after paying voluntary retirement benefits. But in this industry, which is a pioneering industry in our country and whose labour fought for freedom in the 1942 Movement, the units are being closed down without following any rules and regulations.

The closure of the textile mills took place between 1983 and 1995. The total number of mills which were closed down in Gujarat is 42, and the number of affected employees or workers in Gujarat is 72,933. It means that nearly 80,000 families in Gujarat, who were working in these textile mills, have lost their jobs.

These units are closed down without any rules and regulations and the most tragic part of the story is that these 80,000 workers who toiled for years and years in the textile mills were not paid any of their legal dues. No notice pay and no retrenchment compensation was given to them. Their salaries remained unpaid. The total amount of dues of the Gujarat textile labour works out to Rs. 222 crore. It means that every worker, in addition to his losing his job, has lost Rs. 30,500 in 20 years. These are the workers who fought for freedom and, as a result, in the 50th year of our freedom they got nothing but unemployment and ruin of their lives. Is this not anti-labour attitude of the country? What means of livelihood have been

provided to these one lakh families who have become unemployed? Where will they go?

SHRI A.C. JOS (IDUKKI): May I ask a question? The hon. Member mentioned that State's permission is required for closing the mill. Under the same law, the State is empowered to prosecute the Management of the company which closes down without getting permission. I am interested to know whether the State Government took any action against that factory which closed down or not.

SHRI SANAT MEHTA: I am sorry that your question will not be replied because the Textiles Minister cannot reply this question and unfortunately our Labour Minister is absent on this occasion.

SHRI A.C. JOS: It has to be done by the State Government.

SHRI SANAT MEHTA: This is a question which has been replied a hundred times. They close down on the plea that electricity bill is not paid and the connection is cut off. Then a long procedure of prosecution goes on. The prosecution is never decided and the unemployment continues whether it has resulted out of cutting of the electricity wire or due to some other reasons. I am worried more about the unemployment than about the formalities.

It is not that this industry is in a bad condition today. It is not that out of this industry, the Government of India is not getting anything. This is the industry which is at present providing 33 per cent of the export earnings of the textiles.

As far as production of yarn is concerned, why I refer to this matter is because when the sickness started in 1982, many economists wrote articles in various journals of the country that the textile industry is a sunset industry and that there is no future for that. Those things have proved wrong with the result that production of yarn in 1991-92 was 1,805 million Kg. In 1995-96, it is 2,319 million Kg. While the share out of the fabric has gone down, the share of the textile industry in the manufacturing of fabric was 10 million metres in 1991-92 which is reduced to 6.7 million metres. Export of textile is Rs. 35,506 crore. Today Rs. 35,000 crore export is done by textile mills. The increase in yarn production is almost 50 per cent. I think because of the export, the Government of India must be earning foreign exchange. It is not a situation in 1995-96 or 1996-97 or 1997-98 that the textile industry is a sunset industry. What has resulted is that the composite mills have closed down and the spinning mills are developing and the workers who are working in the composite mills have been thrown out. I do not understand such a situation can be tolerated anywhere.

Then what happened? In July 1991 the new Industrial Policy was evolved, the then Finance Minister came to the Lok Sabha and in his Budget speech, he spoke in para 52 like this:

"Government will establish a National Renewal Fund with a substantial corpus. The main objective of this Fund

will be to ensure that the cost of the technical change and the modernisation of the productive apparatus does not devolve on the workers."

He further said:

"This Fund will provide a social safety net which will protect the workers from adverse consequences of the technological change and the deployment."

I visualise that these are the words of the former Finance Minister. Since 1991, all the Finance Ministers have been making a dream budget because now the Budgets are not called as 'workers' Budget' or the 'poor man's Budget' but a new phenomena has started in the country in the name of 'dream Budget'. In this 'dream Budget' he has mentioned that this Fund will not merely provide ameliorative measures for the workers affected in the course of technical change but more importantly provide re-training to them so that they are in a position to remain active productive partners in the process of modernisation. What happened to this promise? I will give some figures which will prove this. The NRF was started in 1992-93. By now, Rs. 3100 crore was allocated to the NRF in each year's Budget till 1996-97. The House has to know this that we provide money in the Budget but we actually do not know whether the money is utilised or not. The total provision made in this year was Rs. 3100 crore. How much was actually allocated? Rs. 1,769 has been transferred to public account and the remaining was kept without being used or diverted to fill the deficit. And out of that Rs. 1,769 crore, Rs. 1,505 crore was used only for voluntary retirement scheme.

In 1996-97, the hon. Shri Chidambaram presented the Budget. There was no activity whatsoever. The NRF remained standstill. The safety net disappeared. Workers were forgotten. Let me tell you as to why I am referring to the total figure. Under the VRS, out of round about 70,000 workers, most of them were textile workers. It means that the NRF money was neither used for rehabilitation of textile industry nor for providing the dues. I remember that day when the NRF was formed. The then Industry Secretary in the Udyog Mantralaya had invited me from Gujarat. He spoke in the presence of representatives of all the States saying that this money was only meant for the workers. One of the Secretaries of the Textiles Department of one State Government said that he wanted to revive the textile industry in his State. He was told that the State Governments would not get the money for that. The first priority of the money would be to pay the dues of the workers. These were the words. From that onwards till 1997, Rs. 220 crore which was due to the textile workers of Gujarat, not a pie has been paid out of that NRF.

Then re-training for employment was another promise given by the Finance Minister. He said that if they were retrenched, they would be re-trained. What is the record of re-training? The number of persons deployed in five years was 2,990. In how many States? In 16 States, 2,990 workers were deployed. It comes to 186 workers per State in five years. This means, 37 workers per year. This is

the result. The safety net has disappeared; employment re-generation has disappeared. The only things were the VRS and re-training. The figure was 37 persons per year in 16 States.

The ILO made a report on this whole NRF Scheme and particularly on re-training and re-deployment. The ILO reported that it covered less than two per cent of all the employees in Gujarat. In 46 mills, 72,903 workers were affected and only 5000 were trained. This is what the human face of our liberalisation is! The story does not end here. It was referred to the BIFR. What is the history of BIFR? It has a very interesting record. Only the NTC holding companies were referred to the BIFR. What is the track record? Out of 301 textile mills, the BIFR sanctioned only 66 mills under rehabilitation scheme. It recommended 96 mills for winding up and the number of cases not to be maintainable is 57. The Textile Ministry referred the case to the BIFR. The BIFR finds that out of 301 mills, 57 cases are not maintainable. Even then they were referred just to make a face to the labour that their cases were referred to the BIFR. The BIFR examines it.

Another tragedy is that the BIFR has a rule that if a West Bengal Textile Corporation is referred to the BIFR, they will not examine it mill-wise. Suppose, out of eleven mills, six mills are viable, they will say that it is none of their business to examine them. They will examine only the holding company, with the result, even the viable units will be declared non-viable. I will give you the record as far as Gujarat is concerned. The NTC has got 22 textile mills in Ahmedabad. The BIFR asked the IDBI to make a report on that. The IDBI reported New Swadeshi, Sahyog Silver Cotton, Subbalakshmi as the viable units. But because the NTC holding company of Gujarat is referred to the BIFR, all the mills are closed down and with the result, whichever mills were viable, they were also declared to be wiped out.

I have heard that now they are going to ask the BIFR to examine the case individually. This can happen when all the individual mills are declared as individual holding companies. If this is the situation, what is the past track record of this country? How have we travelled during the years after our freedom? I was a member of the Bombay Bilingual State Legislative Council. At that time, Shri Shantilal Shah was the Labour Minister of that State. There was some difficulty in making payment during 1958-60. Shri Shantilal Shah had brought a Bill in the Bombay Bilingual State Council so that employment of labour is protected. During those years, when the mill-owners were able to run the mills, the textile corporations were formed. A number of guarantees were given by the States. At the end of it, when we started progressing more and more, we came to know that nobody cares for these textile workers these days. Nobody does anything. Even prior to the present situation, when Shrimati Indira Gandhi was the Prime Minister, there was a sick textile mill in Gujarat. But overnight, 11 textile mills were nationalised. Then a valuation was done and an authority was appointed. Whatever may be the reason, I have got a list to show

[Sh. Sanat Mehta]

as to how much money was paid to each textile mill.

One textile mill was paid only Rs. 32 lakh as a compensation and overnight mills were taken over and the workers were saved. This was the time in this country that if the textile workers were in difficulties, overnight by Ordinance, textile mills were taken over. The mill owners fought up to the Supreme Court and the Supreme Court said, "Whatever price has been paid to you is all right. You cannot dispute it". And, today what is happening? Those days are over. The maximum compensation given was Rs. 32.31 lakh. Now, in the VRS, Rs. 220 crore unpaid is there. There is a dream promise, promise to keep the parties of industrial production. The promise to the industrial workers is over.

Then came the idea of 'Turn Around Scheme' in the Textile Ministry. The 'Turn Around Scheme' was evolved and 79 mills are covered under that scheme. How much was the cost of the 'Turn Around Programme'? It was only Rs. 2,005 crore. But the Government has no money for those one lakh families. Those workers are of no use. They have served the country for 20 years, they have toiled and built the whole structure of the textile sector and the Government has no money! So, the Textile Ministry found out a way that the NTC has 1514 acres of surplus land in the metropolitan cities of the country. The Central Board of Direct Taxes was asked to evaluate the land. The land was evaluated at Rs. 2,389 crore. This also needs an investigation.

There is another public body in Mumbai which has published a booklet which says about 600 acres of surplus land in Mumbai, the heart of the city. It was before two years, when the land prices were very high. They have estimated that the cost of that 600 acres of land is from Rs. 15,000 to Rs. 20,000 crore. And the Central Board of Direct Taxes says that the total value of this land is hardly Rs. 2,389 crore. They required Rs. 1,900 crore for the 'Turn Around'. The scheme was made on the eve of the elections. All national centres were called and an agreement was signed. Our hon. Speaker was, at that time, the Labour Minister and Shri G. Venkat Swamy was the Minister of Textiles. Every worker thought that "now dream will be fulfilled. Rs. 1900 crore will come, 79 units will recover and he will get the employment". But then came a Statement in this House by the then Textile Minister. He said

"In view of the above-mentioned reasons and fact that the sale proceeds from the surplus land were not available for the investment in rehabilitation, the Turn Around Package of 1995 would not be put to implementation."

He washed his dirty linen in the House by saying, "I am unable to do anything." For two to three years, the workers were provided a dream that this 'Turn Around Programme' would come.

Mr. Chairman, a few days ago, on the 9th of this month, in Parliament I raised this question and then came the reply.

"In the Statement made on the floor of this House on 3.3.1997, the reasons for non-implementation of the 'Turn Around Strategy' for the NTC mill approved by the Government in 1985, have been indicated. Since the sale proceeds from the surplus land are not available and the BIFR has not yet given its approval to the rehabilitation package, the NTC holding companies have submitted a report after reviewing the economic viability of each of the mills by taking into consideration the concessions approved by the Government in 1995 and the concept of net worth becoming positive as per the BIFR norms, this report is presently under the consideration of the Government. No final decision has yet been taken. The salient features of the revised 'Turn Around Strategy' would be laid on the Table of the House as and when finalised."

So, another dream of 'Turn Around' is waiting for the coffers of the Government of India.

16.00 hrs.

During this time, as a man who had spent the whole life in the trade union, I had submitted, at the instance of the Government of India, a scheme. The Secretary of the Industrial Development Department said that such a kind of regeneration scheme was only possible in Ahmedabad because Ahmedabad had a tradition of Mahatma Gandhi's late labour movement. Some 10 to 15 textile mills had gone under liquidation. I had engaged an expert of urban planning and paid him a sum of Rs. 50,000 to Rs. 75,000 from my voluntary organization, from my trade union and prepared a project. The project was very simple. Ahmedabad was the Manchester of India. During this period, in 1982 the share of Ahmedabad was 4.2 per cent in all new investments. And the 1992, the share of Ahmedabad in new investments came down from 4.2 per cent to 2.54 per cent. One-third of the textile mills were under liquidation. The Economic Adviser of the Industrial Development Department, Shri Rakesh Mohan, came to Ahmedabad—he is now being referred to as a magician for the infrastructure development—and requested us to work out something with the help of the town planner and with the help of the economist. We worked out a scheme. The scheme was very simple. The scheme was to reuse the land, to pay the workers their dues and put up the new industries inside the wall of Ahmedabad. Anybody, who is of the old times, would know that Gandhiji was living in the Ashram, which is on the west side of the bank, in 1930. On the east side, there were textile mills. When Gandhiji was asked as to what inspired him to fight for the textile labour he said that daily in the morning he was watching those chimneys of the textiles mills and he was worried about those labour. He started a labour movement in Ahmedabad.

At present, Mr. Chairman, Sir, the whole eastern part of Ahmedabad has been totally ruined because all the textile mills have been closed down. The workers are fed from hand to mouth. Nothing had been done. So, a scheme was worked out. We worked out a scheme. What was the broad outline of that scheme? The value of the machinery, which was under liquidation—there was no problem of

anything and if the Government of India wanted it, it could have asked the liquidator when we would have started this scheme—was Rs. 60 crore; the value of the building was Rs. 4.5 crore; the value of land was Rs. 93.90 crore and the value of fixed assets were Rs. 30.54 crore. The total income, which would have generated, was Rs. 191.84 crore. Somebody would say: "You know the creditors who have given the money. The financial institutions and the banks should be paid back." That was also under consideration. Against the liability of total accredited creditors, who had fought for their rights—the financial institutions, banks, IDBI—Total valued liability was Rs. 191.84 crore and the dues of the workers were Rs. 86.70 crore.

Sir, at that time, the deficit was only marginal. And at a revised land price, now there is a surplus. We requested the NRF to give the money of the workers and their legal dues and said that the scheme would be implemented by Gujarat State and new industries would be started. We had also calculated that the total land was 8.62 sq. metres and plots of 1,000 sq. meters would have created 616 plots, which would have provided employment to about 54,996 workers. So, the money goes back and the land is reorganised and not sold; new industries are allowed to come up and the total dues are given back to the financial institutions and banks. We only requested the NRF to provide the dues of the workers which was promised by the Finance Minister.

What is the latest position? NRF considered it for days together. The scheme was supported by the Textile Ministry. The scheme was supported by the Industry Ministry. The scheme was supported by the Labour Ministry. Then the final result was before the Standing Committee on Industry. The Secretary of the Industrial Development Department concerning NRF said that though the empowered authority of NRF had given in principle approval to this area regeneration scheme of the Government of Gujarat, yet no assistance from the NRF has so far been given for the scheme as the scheme requires necessary clearance from the Cabinet Sub-Committee on Economic Affairs in terms of the transaction of the business rules. Since three years, only because the Cabinet Sub-Committee on Economic Affairs is not giving approval, the Finance Ministry has been sitting tight. A scheme which can regenerate the whole economy of Ahmadabad, a scheme which can provide jobs to 60,000 workers, a scheme that can pay back the dues of textile mills, pay back the dues of the financial institutions is not being implemented. Nobody replies. Even the Secretary twice came. Shri Ashok Mitra, the Chairman asked him why was NRF created; you got a lot of money from the World Bank.

Sir, for Sardar Sarovar Project, I went to Washington. I met the World Bank man in-charge of this NRF who was giving money. I asked him, 'you have given money to the Government of India for VRF or for area regeneration, for re-training or for VRS.' He replied very categorically. 'We have told Shri Montekh Singh Ahluwalia very clearly that if you are going to use all the money for VRF, we will not further finance you. The money is only meant for such

schemes of area regeneration on that new employment can be created.'

At the end of the whole drama in 1997, what is the result? All those mills under liquidation which can be provide Rs. 191 crore, are one by one being auctioned by the High Court. Orders are issued for Amruta, Nutan, Omex, New Gujarat Synthetic No. 1, New Gujarat Synthetic No. 2, Aryodaya, Vivekanand, Rustom and Ahmadabad Commercial.

Who will purchase these mills in the auction? The land sharks will purchase them. You give properties created by the million workers out of their sweat and toil to the land shark, to the private managers but not to a scheme which can regenerate economy, not to the State Government which can regenerate the economy.

We travel from 1991, from the Budget speech of Dr. Manmohan Singh to the day of auctioning of the land of textile mills in Ahmadabad. Is this the way to handle the problem of NTC textile mills? What is happening in other parts of the world? There are people in this country who want to hire-and-fire. It is because in the name of globalisation, in the name of liberalisation, the industry people feel that the labour legislation should be revised.

There is a country called West Germany. There, the labour legislations are more stringent than ours. There the policemen also can form a union. There this kind of situation, technological change is taking place. Globalisation is taking place.

Here are the words of Chancellor of West Germany of CPD, the Christain Democratic Party. These are the words. There are limits to flexibility, says Heiner Geissler, a parliamentary leader of Mr. Kohl's Christain Democratic Party. He says, "We want no part of the hire-and-fire American systems where millions of people go without social protection". Then he refers to Margaret Thatcher's privatisation in Britain. He says, "...nor of the British scene where over half of the workforce is casual labour and where unemployment is still higher than ours".

It seems Germany could develop a new kind of approach for restructuring of the industry. In Roor, which is their steel area, when the steel industry became sick, the West German Government evolved a scheme 'land readjustment scheme'. These steel mills have large areas of land for stocking raw-materials like coal, etc. So, the West German Government told the steel industry people to part with the land at a subsidised price. We will create a new industry wherein your re-trained workers will be absorbed. That is how the land readjustment has worked in Germany without 'hire and fire' with full social security.

This is a very important problem. Ahmadabad today is a totally broken Ahmadabad. This is the 50th year of Freedom. What was our promise? Our promise was that we will implement this scheme in Ahmadabad. Then, we will be able to replicate it in Kanpur, if necessary, and if Shri Jyoti Basu agrees in Calcutta, and if someone agrees,

[Sh. Sanat Mehta]

in Mumbai also. This was our idea. But the bureaucracy, the Ministry of Finance which evolved the N.R.F. went to the world round and said that we have created N.R.F. We want to have a human face. The human face is tarnished by the black tar of unemployment.

I appeal to the Government not to make any dreams; do not accuse one Government and praise other Government. In Mumbai, the State Government did not give us the permission. Hon. Shri Jalappaji, the turnaround cost is only Rs. 2,000 crore. Can this mighty Union Government not take out Rs. 2,000 crore for one lakh families? This is a man-made calamity. Can this Government not give Rs. 400 crore to the people which are their legal dues? In the Court when we argued, when these mills were auctioned by the liquidator, the lawyer of the T.L.A. argued that we should be given our rights first. The judge said that: 'Nothing is possible under the Company Law and whatever share the labour will get out of the auction, you will get. But you have no first right'.

In this country, labour had some rights when the 'liberalisation' word was not there. We have lost all these rights.

I appeal to the hon. Minister that if this is not resolved in the 50th year of the freedom, the country would have no face to talk of Mahatma Gandhi, who started the labour movement in Ahmadabad, who was living in the Ashram on the western side of Sabarmati looking at the mills and telling the people that the exploitation must end. The hon. Prime Minister then should not refer to the name of Gandhiji. We take the name of Gandhiji and we finish the labour movement of Gandhiji. This is not acceptable. I hope that some conscience in the world will be arisen. I hope the trade unions of this country will unite for this problem and see that these textile labourers who were at the forefront of the freedom are given justice.

I remember Sane Guruji. Sane Guruji was the person who moved from Chauul to Chauul in Mumbai. He was an organised textile worker fighting for the freedom. He organised 60 days strike and soon after freedom, he took sleeping pills and committed suicide. As young men we thought that Sane Guruji was highly emotional; as young men we thought that he should have waited to see the fruits of the freedom. Today, many a time, we feel that he was, perhaps, right that in the 50th year of freedom, the textile labourers who he organised for fighting the freedom are being thrown out of employment and even their leave wages and remaining wages are not being paid to them.

With these words I conclude by making the recommendation that even today there is time for the Cabinet Sub-Committee to sanction the area re-generation scheme and I promise to the Government of India that we will make that scheme a success. They will not have to bear a single paisa burden.

With these words I conclude my speech. Thank you very much, Sir for giving me enough time.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Harin Pathak to speak now. I do not like to put any restriction on time. But you should also be conscious on your own that there are other Members who are very much willing to speak on these very important issues.

SHRI HARIN PATHAK (AHMEDABAD): Sir, I will put a restriction on my own because recently I have gone through some cardiac operation. I will not take much of the time. But I will say something.

[Translation]

Mr. Chairman Sir, in this year we are celebrating the fiftieth anniversary of our independence. Recently it was declared that a Special Session would be called and this festival would be celebrated all over the country. On the occasion of the forth coming 15th of August every house would glow with light. Our state Governments would make an assessment of the achievements and also the condition in which we were in 1947 and the progress made till 1997. We have sent 'Arya Bhat' in the space. Rakesh went in the space and returned to earth after viewing it from there. Today some of our fellow Parliamentarians are seen moving with cellars in the house. There are many such achievements which could be mentioned. My veteran friend Shri Sanat Mehta spoke a lot about it. In spite of my illness I would like to place some points before you that while celebrating the 50th anniversary of the country we should not forget the identity of the country. Today we are forgetting our identity. Every aspect of this country's identity is unique may it be culture, politics or industries. Industrial identity of this country was established by—the cotton cloth.

I remember my school days when we were taught in the history that 'Mal Mal' cloth manufactured in Decca could be passed through a ring. It was in the time of pre-partition days.

I have been representing this constituency about which Shri Mehta had mentioned just now. It was the land of Gandhiji and it exists even today. My constituency has three names. My constituency has been named as Ahmedabad in the Parliament which I am representing. It has a population of 35 lakh people. Its old name is Karunavati and I have written to the Government to restore my constituency's original name. My constituency's third name is Manchester.

[English]

It is the city where I was born, which I represented in Parliament for the last nine years and which I represented in Ahmedabad Corporation for twenty years. I represented that city and raised the problem of my city on the floor of this House for the last nine years.

[Translation]

It's third name was Manchester because it had a control over entire country in regard to cotton cloths. There are 76 cloth mills in Gujarat and out of which 65 mills are located in my constituency itself. So, I was born in such

a city. I have witnessed those glorious days of this city and today in the 50th year of my age I am seeing the deteriorating condition of my city.

Just now Sanat Bhai very correctly said that Gandhiji while sitting in his ashram on the bank of Sabarmati river, was very happy to see the smoke coming out of the 65 Mills in my constituency as these mills provided bread to the two lakh families. These mills not only provided bread to the people of Gujarat but also to the people who have come to settle down in my constituency from the every hook and corner of the country such as Bihar, Calcutta, Bengal and Uttar Pradesh etc. That was the golden period for the textile industries as there were 76 textile mills. Why is the House concerned when we have made such a commendable progress? Also why are we discussing it? Because one by one the mills were being locked out. I do not want to indulge in its political aspect. Today only 25-30 Mills are operational. Such condition is not only prevailing in Gujarat but also everywhere in the country. There were 1200 mills in the country. Under the textile policy in 1985 the mills started closing down. We could not protect the interest of the workers engaged in these mills.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have told at the very outset that we are going to celebrate the 50th anniversary. We are proud of our constitution and we would celebrate it. What does our Constitution say? Could we successfully protect our constitution in this matters? I Quote:

[English]

the constitution of India, Directive principles of state policy—Articles 41 and 43.

[Translation]

Where in the protection of the workers interests has been mentioned.

[English]

I quote Article 41. It says:

"The State shall, within the limits of its economic capacity and development, make effective provision for securing the right to work, to education and to public assistance in cases of unemployment, old age, sickness and disablement, and in other cases of undeserved want."

I quote Article 43 which is very important.

"The State shall endeavour to secure, by suitable legislation or economic organisation or in any other way, to all workers agricultural, industrial or otherwise, work, a living wage, conditions of work ensuring a decent standard of life and full enjoyment of leisure and social and cultural opportunities and, in particular, the State shall endeavour to promote cottage industries of an individual or co-operative basis in rural areas."

I quote Article 43A. I request the hon. Minister to please go through this Article 43A of the Directive Principles

of State Policy of our Constitution. It says:

"The State shall take steps, by suitable legislation or in any other way, to secure the participation of workers in the management of undertakings, establishments or other organisation engaged in any industry."

[Translation]

How we can celebrate? Two lakh workers, Ten lakh people and two lakh families have been rendered jobless for the last fifteen years. This has been discussed in this House so many times. Several schemes were formulated but all the schemes remain on papers, they have not been implemented. I have had this experience that is why I have to say this with all anguish. I reside in the centre of Karunawati. A beautiful pond is situated in middle of the city which is known as Kan Karia lake and on one side of the said pond I own a small flat. During the last ten years there is not a single day when there is no dead body wrapped in white cloth at the bank side. The boating site of the pond has become a place to commit suicide for the workers of the closed mill.

Sir, through you I want to put forward some demands before the hon'ble Minister. By putting forward these demands I want to explain the situation in regard to which a mention was made by Shri Sanatji just now, prevailing in the entire textiles industry. In 1985 at the time of declaration of textiles policy. Textile workers Rehabilitation fund was instituted to save this industry. According to the said policy the workers of the closed mill were to receive 75 percent of their monthly salary in the first year, 50 percent during the second year and 25 percent during the third year. Sir, through you, I urge upon the hon'ble Minister that under the rehabilitation programme, under T.W.R.F. twenty crore rupees of twenty thousand workers is outstanding. The workers have been rendered jobless. My city is facing lot of problems. The Government are least concerned about these ten lakh people. We have raised this problem in the House time and again. Sir, through you my first demand is that you should take up this matter with the hon'ble Labour Minister and arrangements should be made at least to release the outstanding amount of twenty crore rupees.

As has been stated by Shri Sanatji, he has himself prepared a scheme which has not been implemented. I would remember my Gandhian leader, perhaps Shri Sanatji has forgotten to mention his name. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SANAT MEHTA (SURENDRA NAGAR): It is for you.

SHRI HARIN PATHAK (AHMEDABAD): It is for me. Thank you.

Eighty years old Gandhian leader Shri Arvind Buch sitting on a dharna for the last three years at Majoor Mahajan pavement in Karunawati, Ahmadabad. The scheme prepared by him and approved by the Government, here I shall not mention that which party was in power in Gujarat and which was in the centre, but after lapse of three years

[Sh. Harin Pathak]

that particular scheme has not been implemented by the Government. Abid Hussain Committee was constituted by the Government in 1985-86 and the said committee submitted its report in 1993-94. I would like to urge upon the Government to implement the twelve recommendations of the Abid Hussain Committee. The region where more than twenty five thousand workers are unemployed, textiles restructuring assets trust should be set up there and there should be a statutory authority to study all the circumstances. Methods should be evolved to refund the outstanding amount of the workers and for their rehabilitation, funds should be raised by selling the surplus land and small industries should be set up there by that money. But it is not being done. Everything is being referred to B.I.F.R. and B.I.F.R. functions under company Act. I would like to demand from the hon'ble Minister through you sir, that the recommendations of the Abid Hussain Committee be studied to solve the lot of problems. ...*(Interruptions)* I have raised this question in the 18 sessions concluded during the recent years. I have raised this question in the House, out side of the House and with the hon'ble Minister. I am happy that we are celebrating 50th year of our independence, this session is going to conclude after two days and we will meet again during the special session after some days, we should think about the workers before commencing the special session. For implementation of the recommendations of the Abid Hussain Committee textiles restructuring assessts trust be set up and provisions should be made therein for this.

Our new industrial policy was announced on 14th July, 1991. There was a mention of safety network to the workers therein. I have already said that I do not want to take much time as I am not feeling well and it is not my nature to deliver long speeches. These are the problems of my constituency and these problems are not of any individual but these are the problems of the entire country. The textile mills once of world fame are closing down one by one in the country. This should be discussed at length some scheme should be prepared in this regard. I would like to demand the twenty crore rupees due to the workers from the Government under the safety network to the workers.

The Gujarat Government have set an excellent example. An agreement has been made between Mazdoor Mahajan Sangh which was set up by Gandhiji 100-125 years ago and 11 mills of Gujarat state textile corporation. Provision of Voluntary Retirement Scheme has been made under this agreement and it has been declared to provide 220 crore rupees to the workers. This scheme is still under implementation. The workers are resigning voluntarily. I have been told that hundred percent labourers would join this scheme.

Mr. Sanat Mandal had raised a good question in this House. And with your permission I made this special mention in this connection. When you were in the chair and you have permitted us. Rest of our friends joined us. Mr. Speaker said that he will request the Government that a meeting of the hon'ble Minister and the Members of the

Parliament representing those areas where mills of National Textiles Corporations are situated be called in his chamber. I request you to kindly call the said meeting at the earliest. I would like to mention here that the scheme prepared in which 2005 crore rupees are involved is in a very sad state of affairs, the Government which has collective responsibility should resolve this problem. A rehabilitation scheme for N.T.C. mills involving 2005 crore rupees was prepared under the leadership of the hon'ble Textiles Minister Shri G. Venkataswami and the said scheme was approved by the Cabinet though the said scheme is yet to be implemented. We have been reading newspapers daily, that the Government have announced a scheme of rupees 2005 crores textile workers have been coming to us daily. I want to know from Shri Harin Pathak whether this news is correct. I recall that day very well. It was a day before Diwali. Bonus was not paid to workers of some textile mills. Two days earlier some people come to me. I have been at the residence of Shri G. Venkataswami a day before Diwali and have requested him to pay salaries and Bonus to the workers of N.T.C. mills. I am happy that he obliged me by acceding to my request.

But what is the fate of this scheme of 2005 crore rupees today? This Government is saying that this scheme is not acceptable to them, the previous Government have prepared this scheme with great efforts and this Government is not ready to accept the same. My friend has made a mention of I.L.O. I would also mention about that. I will conclude within two three minutes.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude. I want that everybody should get the chance.

SHRI HARIN PATHAK: Sir, you have allowed my colleague to speak for 40 minutes. I will take only three-four minutes more.

The International Labour Organisation in its recommendation No. 180 which was made in its convention No. 173 has clearly mentioned that the dues of the workers should be given priority.

[Translation]

Notices is being done. 3000 crore Rupees have been earmarked under the N.R.F. We have been demanding for the four-five years that 300 crore rupees be given to us as loan for rehabilitation of workers of the closed mills and for modernisation of the said mills.

16.34 hrs.

[COL. RAO RAM SINGH *in the Chair*]

Till date even a single rupee has not been given to us. I urge upon the Government that the loan received from the World Bank under N.R.F. We borrow money from world Bank for Modernisation and spend that money in voluntary Retirement Scheme. This is fraud. This is a case of hood-winking. The workers, when this case will get



exposed what will be our position in the world. On one hand our workers are getting unemployed and we are not in a position to fulfil their lawful as well logical demands pending for 5, 10 or 12 years. The Government policies regarding Provident Fund and Gratuity are so much complex that we are not able to even to make the payment of their arrears and their financial demands. I would like to bring two things in the notice of hon'ble Minister through you. Under N.R.F. scheme the workers of closed mills are trained for alternative jobs as Textile mill is a composite unit having different departments like bleaching, weaving and spinning. But the persons who are working there for the last 40 years, where will they go? How they will get their livelihood after closure of the Mill. Three months training is insufficient for them. My suggestion is that the period of training under NRF should be extended upto 4 months instead of 3 months and in lieu of paying them Rs. 30/- per day they should be paid Rs. 100/- per day. We have disbursed millions of rupees to the Banks.

[*English*]

I was fortunate to be a member of the Joint Parliament Committee which enquired into the scam.

[*Translation*]

I know that crores of rupees of this country has been usurped in the name of social obligation because of that scam and there is no one to ask for any account. That's why I wish when they complete their training they should be provided a kit related to their work for which they have been trained. We are celebrating the Golden Jubilee of our independence. I will like to convey the Textile Minister Mr. Jalappa that this basic industry of the country is almost vanishing. In 1942 in my region, a war of independence was fought under the leadership of Mahatma Gandhi. All the Mill-workers in Ahmadabad had gone on without pay strike for continuously 3 months and 15 days on the call of Mahatma Gandhi. Those persons will be given Shields and gold medals. But those mill-workers who were not paid for 3 months and 15 days who were beaten and lathicharged by the police, they should be given their dues; they do not want any medal.

SHRI SANAT MEHTA: They should be paid their dues.

SHRI HARIN PATHAK: Their dues should be paid. I will like to convey through you that this is the right time to revive this vanishing and scattering Textile industry. As our colleague Mr. Sanat Mehta has expressed whether we have made any progress in these 50 years of independence. This city which was once known as Manchester of India is getting lifeless today. Nearly one million families are on the verge of starvation. So instead of making discussion under rule 193 in the House, some solid step should be taken. If it is not possible today then it should be taken tomorrow or day after tomorrow. If we are really worried about those workers and want to solve their problems, we should implemented all those schemes which have been prepared for them.

Infact, this industry, is not completely dead. But it seems dead because of lack on our part. If Government shows her strong will power to save the industry and carry it ahead, then in my opinion there won't be bottleneck. The whole House supports the Government on this issue. With these words I conclude and thank you for giving me an opportunity to express my views.

SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR SINGH (AURANGABAD): Hon'ble Chairman, while agreeing to the views of the previous speaker I would like to conclude stating with few points in this regard. Discussion is going here on textile industry. The Hon'ble Member has expressed his views over textile industry. But there are also industries like looms and handlooms in the villages. Government should also pay attention towards them. In this industry a large number of people are engaged and many of them have been rendered jobless. Handloom industry in my parliamentary constituency where Khadi was spun through looms, has come to closure. Weavers are neither given any cotton-yarn not any financial assistance for their looms. All the weavers who were engaged in loom industry, are jobless today and they are facing starvation. They are totally jobless. The Government should pay attention towards them, specially towards the rural loom-industry. I have been elected from the Aurangabad parliamentary constituency of Bihar. During this discussion I want to draw the attention of the hon'ble Minister towards the closure of Obra carpet industry which had been given a President Award in the past. Today even that industry has been closed.

With these words I would like to say that textile industry that is getting closed one by one, needs the attention of the Government and a serious thought should be given over it. A large number of persons are engaged in this industry. Some steps should be taken to solve the problem of these people with these words I conclude.

[*Translation*]

SHRI SANDIPAN THORAT (PANDHARPUR): Mr. Chairman, Sir, while moving the motion for this discussion, Shri Sanat Mehta has made a very good contribution so far as the textile industry is concerned. I fully endorse his views.

The textile industry is the largest industry in the country. One-fifth of the output of the nation is invested in this industry. One-third of the total export earning is coming from this industry. So, this is the most important industry. But it is unfortunate that the Government has not paid any attention to this industry. I am not blaming any Government this or that. But right from the inception of democracy, this industry is being neglected.

The Indian textile industry is mainly based on cotton. Cotton is pre-dominantly a raw material of this industry. The price of cotton varies from year to year. If the cost of raw material of any industry is much more than 60 per cent, then the industry runs into losses. Similarly, it happens to the textile industry also. Our policy should be in keeping with the raw material procured for this industry at cheaper

[Sh. Sandipan Thorat]

rates. So, cotton should be made available at a reasonable price for this industry.

In so far as production of yarn is concerned, I may submit to the hon. Minister about the textile industries of Maharashtra and not of the whole country. I am limiting myself to the spinning mills that are very much important in rural areas of Maharashtra. Spinning industry in cooperative sector was the dream of the late Shri Y.B. Chavan who was the pioneer of this industry in the State of Maharashtra. This spinning industry is being destroyed because a lot of restrictions are there. First and foremost, I would like to state here about the hank-yarn obligation which is the main hurdle of this industry. The Textile Ministry has issued the Hank-yarn Obligation Order from time to time. Fifty per cent of yarn is to be produced in hank-yarn form. I submit, when the mill produces hank-yarn, there is nobody to purchase it. It is said that handloom is there. But it is only on paper. Handloom is not there in actual working. I am not against the handloom sector. It should work properly; it should work actually. But the people are weaving their clothes on powerloom. They are affixing their seal made from handloom and making money out of it by way of getting concessions from the Government. This should be stopped. You continue this hank-yarn obligation. Suppose the mill has produced a hank yarn, then there should be a scheme to purchase it where you put an obligation on the production, naturally there should be a policy to purchase it. When the Essential Commodities Act is applied here, it should be applied *in toto* and not partially. The Essential Commodities Act implied that when you fix up the obligation on production, you should purchase it and sell it through fair price shops at reasonable price through public distribution system.

The Government should come forward in this direction. The Government should purchase it and keep it in the fair price shops. Let them purchase from the fair price shops. We do not have any objection. A number of mills are suffering because they are having stocks in their godown lying and nobody is coming to purchase from them. This is a fact. It hampers the production and also results in making losses.

Sir, if there is one unit in a rural area having a capital of less than Rs. 10 crore, that unit produces, within 10 years, more than Rs. 150 crore of the national income by way of payment of wages, by way of electricity bills, by way of excise duty, by way of sales tax payments, by way of provident funds, etc. All these things are there. So, please see that the Hank Yarn Obligation Order, 1995 is withdrawn. If you do not want to withdraw, then please have a scheme of purchasing of the yarn.

I would ask why you do not have a yarn bank. Purchase the hank yarn and keep it in the bank. Let the weavers come and purchase it from the Handloom Commissioner. Do not make the spinning mills sick. Some of the spinning mills in Maharashtra are becoming sick due to the Hank Yarn Obligation.

[Translation]

Netaji and Harin Pathakji were saying that Ahmadabad is the Manchester of India ... (Interruptions) Sholapur is also the Manchester of India, this truth is known to Naik Sahab. Even today, a very good quality of cloth is exported from Sholapur. Sholapur is famous for bed-sheets and towels, but its condition has changed a lot. The former Speaker, Shri Shiv Raj Patil is present here, who happens to be son-in-law of our city. But this city is in such a bad condition that it can not be described in words. Spinning and weaving Mill at Sholapur that was going well, is closed. Even the land belonging to the Mill has been sold. The case of Laxmi-Vishnu mill is still pending with B.I.F.R. You should think a little bit about that. The owners of the Mill and the officials of B.I.F.R. are in collusion, so you should keep this point also in mind.

Sir, Laxmi-Vishnu Mill which was one of the best-mills has been closed and as a result of it about four thousand mill-workers have been rendered jobless. They have no means to earn thick livelihood. They have no food to eat. I would like to appeal the hon'ble Minister to take over those mills through N.T.C. The discussion for providing assistance to N.T.C. is going on in the House. It will be made available to you. I think, the programme that has been prepared by Mr. Vankatswamy will be given to you. I am sure that the whole House will support you in this fight.

You will also get money. You will get the same amount of money by selling land in Mumbai and Ahmedabad as you will get in Sholapur for selling the land there, because the rate of land is attractive in Sholapur. The Mill-owner is selling the land of Mill, you should stop him. Issue orders them to stop what is going on. Take out the ordinance and keep it in your possession. Four thousand families will bless you.

The other thing that I want to say is that the census that is going on about handloom, should be expedited and it should be found out as to how many handlooms are working in this country and how much yarn is required for them. I had also talked to you unofficially that there should be a textile unit in Sholapur. A training Centre should also be established there to stop the deteriorating condition of handloom industry in Sholapur city.

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (BANKURA): Mr. Chairman, Sir, let me at the outset thank the hon. Speaker for admitting a very important and national issue, that is, the crisis in the textile industry.

Textile industry is one of the important and vital industries of our country. This industry is vital and important not because that it has a number of units, not because it alone employes more than 20 million workers, not because one-fifth of our total exports is from the textile sector but because this industry, in the past, had helped to make our country self-sufficient.

Sir, when we were not independent, Dhaka's musleem was famous. In order to destroy that industry and to capture our market, the Britishers conspired. But, Sir, this industry which had grown in the past is facing crisis not from 1980s. Shri Sanat Mehta has very elaborately, very eloquently and very emotionally dealt with all aspects of the problems of the textile industry from 1982 including the public sector undertakings and the National Textile Corporation. The sickness was started from 1951. A statement on Textile Policy was announced on the floor of this House on the 26th July, 1985.

17.00 hrs.

While dealing with the problems of textile industry, the reasons behind the sickness, the crisis, have been stated. There is not one factor. There are a number of factors. The factors for growing sickness have been stated in the National Textile Policy Statement. I quote:

"Growing sickness is not of the recent origin as seen from the fact that there were 151 uneconomic units as early as 1951. The various factors that had contributed to the sickness but the obligation of the composite mills to supply a certain percentage of their production at controlled flow, at concessional prices as a social obligation, a prolonged period, long, high cost of cotton man-made fibres at stores, higher electricity charges, the mounting wage bills, surplus labour, high incidence of excise duties, periodic recession in demand, the shift in consumer preference from cotton to blended and man-made fabrics, outmoded machinery, unhealthy competition from mushrooming growth of the power-loom due to excise duty concession given to them and its evasion and management of these mills in general."

These are the factors, the reasons which are elaborated while dealing with the crisis in the textile industry. In order to tackle that, a fund of Rs. 750 crore was created for the modernisation of sick textile mills because it was felt and the main reason was that the machinery was outmoded. Modernisation was not done and in order to make those sick mills viable, modernisation was needed. For modernisation, a fund was created. But what was the result of the efforts of the modernisation? The fund was created. That was not properly utilised. As a result of that, after 1985, when the policy statement was made on the Floor of the House, instead of making some of these sick mills viable, more and more textile mills became sick.

After BIFR was constituted under the Sick Act, more than 300 mills were referred to the BIFR. It is rather surprising when this is such a vital industry which is employing more than 20 million workers, why it is being neglected for years together.

When the National Renewal Fund as announced in 1992, the objective was laudable. We expressed our apprehension that although the objectives were laudable, although the BIFR was created for modernisation, for revival, for retraining and for redeployment, the main purpose of creating the National Renewal Fund was to provide funds for Voluntary Retirement Scheme.

The re-training programme was neglected. A small portion of this Fund was utilised for re-training and re-deployment.

Sir, because of our outdated technology, we are facing problems and crisis. There is a need to update our technology because the modernisation is a continuous process. The National Textile Corporation was formed in the year 1968. Since 1968, 120 mills came under the National Textile Corporation. Almost all the mills belonging to the National Textile Corporation were taken over and subsequently nationalised. Nationalisation was not the only panacea. After nationalisation what was needed was infusion of funds for replacement of overaged, old and outdated machinery.

Since 1968, we will find that for modernisation nothing has been done. It is a track record of the Government of India. The mills were taken over and nationalised. The objective was to run the mills efficiently. That was the prime objective when the mills were taken over. How the mills could be run efficiently? The mills could be run efficiently only by providing the funds, by modernising the old-aged, out-dated and out-modelled machinery. But the mills were closed and abandoned. This was not only to save the workers but also to run the mills. The rehabilitation means rehabilitation of the sick mills. How can it be done? It can be done through modernisation.

The textile workers have a history of struggle. Before Independence, they fought for the Independence. They joined in the Independence struggle. After Independence, these textile workers had to struggle.

We have the history of Mumbai Textile workers struggling. How many mills were closed in one year? A number of mills were closed, but the workers did not end their struggle. Now, all the textile workers, all the Central trade unions from C.I.T.U. to B.M.S.—five of six Central trade unions—have joined together and have formed a Joint Action Committee. After a prolonged struggle, a demand was made on the floor of this House. There are a number of Textile Research Associations.

These four Textile Research Associations—SITRA, BTRA, NITRA and ATIRA—were entrusted the job to examine the sickness and to suggest measures as to how to improve the situation and as to how all these sick mills can be revived. They submitted their report to the Government after two years. It is a very voluminous report. All the Research Associations made a unit-to-unit study and not a general examination or study. I have a copy of the report of the Textile Research Association. They made unit-to-unit study about the viability and how it can be achieved. One year after the submission of the report a Committee was formed.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please wind up.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, we were told by the former chairperson that there will be no restriction. Shri Chitta Basu is here.

MR. CHAIRMAN: There is no restriction. The only restriction is that two hours are permitted for this under Rule 193.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: The debate will not be conclude today.

SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR (MUMBAI NORTH-WEST): Sir, the time is four hours and not two hours.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The direction given to me is for two hours. I have got to go by the direction given to me.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: The debate will not be concluded today. It will spill over to tomorrow.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The two hours' time will end at 5.30 p.m.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: The House will not sit beyond 6 p.m. The debate will not be concluded today. There are a number of speakers.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The two hours' time will end at 5.30 p.m. The debate started at 15.35 hours.

SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR: Sir, it was discussed in the meeting of the Business Advisory Committee. At that time, the time of four hours was fixed. I do not know how the timing has been changed. This is a very important matter concerning the entire working class of this country.

SHRI RAM NAIK: Sir, this discussion is there under Rule 193. But when it was discussed in the Business Advisory Committee it was decided that a full-fledged debate should take place and four hours was the limit which was put. But the discussion has been put so far as the rule is concerned, under Rule 193.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The discussion is under Rule 193. It says that: "Notice shall be supported by the signatures of at least two Members." It further states and I quote:

"The Speaker may allot two sittings in a week on which such matters may be taken up for discussion and allow such time for discussion not exceeding two hours at or before the end of the sitting."

SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR: Sir, in order to bring the subject matter this was put within the purview of Rule 193.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE: Sir, the discussion under Rule 193 are never finished in two hours. This is the reality. You know it very much.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Yes.

SHRI RAM NAIK: We were there when the matter was decided in the Business Advisory Committee.

MR. CHAIRMAN: That is the rule. That is the direction given by the hon. Speaker that two hours have been allotted. If the House wants the time to be extended, I can only represent it to the hon. Speaker for his final

SHRI RAM NAIK: Sir, that can be done. In the meanwhile the debate can continue.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, it will not be concluded today. In order to conclude my speech, I need another 15 to 20 minutes.

MR. CHAIRMAN: There are a number of speakers. I request you to kindly conclude. The only restriction is that we have got to give time to all the other Members. We have to make our points very briefly.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, the Members should be allowed to express their views. I think too much restriction should not be imposed.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I entirely agree with you that too much restriction should not be there. The only restriction is that if you take too much time you are taking away the time from the other hon. Members.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: I have my concern about that.

SHRI SANAT MEHTA (SURENDRA NAGAR): Sir, I am very much inspired because the Members of the Panel of Chairman are asking for more time and when we speak and when they are in the Chair they restrict us. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am sure that you have raised a very vital point. I am told that there are 120 mills which are sick at the moment.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: A committee was constituted under the chairmanship of ...*(Interruptions)*.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I request you kindly to think of winding up now.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: The Textile Ministry constituted a committee with five major central trade unions, INTUC, CITU, HMS, AITUC and BMS to discuss the revival of NTC mills. Then, after a thorough discussion for two years, there was a unanimous agreement in the special tripartite committee on 9.4.94 for the revival of NTC mills as per the scheme prepared by the Textiles Research Association. All the national central trade unions agreed to the voluntary retirement scheme that 36,000 workers would have to opt for voluntary retirement. Then, the Government took one year to approve it. A number of times, we raised the issue on the floor of the House as to why the revival package was not being approved by the Cabinet when there was an agreement. We do not know the reasons behind this. The four textile research associations were appointed by the Government of India. They made a unit to unit study and submitted a report. Then, a committee was constituted. Then, in the meeting of the special tripartite committee, there was a unanimous agreement. The unions, the management and the Government agreed to it. After that, why did the Government of India take one year to approve it?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Basu Deb Acharia. I request you

to kindly think of winding up because you have already taken 25 minutes.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: I will conclude within 10 minutes.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am sorry to say that 10 minutes is too long a period. It is unfair to the other Members. They will not be able to speak. The debate has to be completed today.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: I have certain important points. I will finish by 5.30 p.m. ...*(Interruptions)*.

SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR: It can continue tomorrow also.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Madhukar Sarpotdar, the direction from the Speaker is to complete it today.

SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR: Eventually, we are mentioning it in the House. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Basu Deb Acharia, I am not in a position to say how much business remains for completion in the House in the next two days. Therefore, *suo motu* I am sorry to say that I am unable to extend the time.

SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR: All the subject matters have been taken specially because there was no business. We have taken up all the subject matters in order to fill up the gap. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Then, a clearcut decision should have been arrived at in the meeting of the Business Advisory Committee that the time is extended to four hours. I am sorry that there is no such clearcut direction.

SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR: It was decided. If it is not there on the paper, it is not my mistake.

I will say this much that all these subjects have been taken up specially to fill up the time gap and this being a very burning issue in the country, this should be given top priority.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am sure all the subjects which have come up before this august House are important.

*[Translation]*

SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN (INDORE): This is a very serious matter involving so many workers, therefore, it would not be justified, if we finish it within one and half hours.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Madam, it is not a question of one and a half hour, it is a question of full two hours.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: We people and the entire House want you to extend the time.

*[English]*

MR. CHAIRMAN: According to Rule 193, the time limit

is two hours. Until I get the Speaker's direction, I do not know the position. Tomorrow, there may be something which is equally important. I know that this is an important subject. But tomorrow there may be something which is equally important.

*[Translation]*

Tomorrow, there may be another subject having equal importance. It is upto the Business Advisory Committee to decide whether or not to extend the House after 16th.

*[English]*

I am not in a position to say that. Therefore, *suo motu*, I am in no position to extend the time.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, the Government could not find any fund for the revival of 79 N.T.C. mills. Then, there was a proposal that the fund would come from the sale proceeds of the surplus land of all these mills. That package was approved. At that point of time, I presume that the Government of Maharashtra agreed to that proposal. The consent of the Government of Maharashtra was taken at that time. Then, one year after that, when the United Front Government came into office at the Centre, the Government of Maharashtra changed their view and they refused to allow the surplus land to be sold. The land belongs to the mills. If the Government is serious enough to revive and to modernise the 79 mills, as proposed ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I want to make a clarification here.

MR. CHAIRMAN: If Shri Basu Deb Acharia is yielding, you can do that.

SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR: The Government of Maharashtra is not selling the land because all the textile workers in Mumbai are opposing the selling of the land tooth and nail. That is the reason for not selling the land.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: All the unions of textile workers in Mumbai have also agreed to the selling of the land. So, some methodology has to be worked out. The Central Government can acquire the land by amending the Urban Land Ceiling Act, because after the approval of the Cabinet they cannot change the revival package.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, I am informed that *suo motu* I am not in a position to extend the time and the debate is due to end at 5.35 p.m. I think, the hon. Minister would like to take 15 or 20 minutes to reply to the debate. That is the position. So, what is the view of the House? I will be directed by the wishes of the House. I am informed that according to the rules I am in no position to extend the time of the debate beyond two hours which ends at 5.35 p.m. and before that the Minister has to make a reply. So, I would now request some hon. Members to guide me on this issue.

SHRI RAM NAIK: Sir, I would like to say something on this.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Just before you speak, I would like to say that in Kaul and Shakdar a number of instances are quoted. But I would not like to go into all of them. I am sure the House is in a position to guide me correctly on this issue. A number of very senior Members are sitting here.

SHRI RAM NAIK: Sir, I will share my information. In the Business Advisory Committee it was agreed that this discussion will take place, at least, for four hours.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am amazed if it was agreed how is it that it is not recorded in the report of the Business Advisory Committee which was presented to the House? Was it mentioned that four hours will be taken for this?

SHRI RAM NAIK: Sir, it is not mentioned in the report.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Then Shri Ram Naik. I have to be guided by the rules and conventions.

SHRI RAM NAIK: Sir, I am trying to persuade you that as Members, we feel that the discussion should be continued. Now in the informal discussion, it was agreed that before the Minister replies to the debate tomorrow, there will be a meeting of the concerned MPs with the Speaker to sort out the problem. That is all informal and not formal.

MR. CHAIRMAN: May I say one thing? I would like your guidance on the specific question, whether the Chairman is in a position to overrule a well established convention and rule. Is he in a position to overrule?

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM NAIK: Sir, on a number of occasions the discussion under Rule 193 has been extended for one day.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL (LATUR): Sir, you are very right when you say that according to the rule the time is fixed. The word 'shall' that is used in the rule is for having two occasions in a week's time for discussions of this nature.

MR. CHAIRMAN: It says that twice in a week a discussion under Rule 193 can be taken up at the end of the sitting allotting two hours. So, how do we go beyond that?

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: The word 'shall' is not applicable to two hours. The word 'shall' is applicable to two occasions. That is not binding on us. If it is the desire of the House and if the Members are willing to sit in the House—as the subject is very important—and if you think that it is proper, the time can be extended and the Members can be given the time.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I will entirely be guided by whatever is the sense of the House.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: Sir, I agree with what Shri Shivraj Patil has said. As he has very rightly said, it is the House that can request you to extend the time.

I think, it will be quite within your powers to accept it.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, you extend the time from two to six hours.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Basu Deb Acharia, I request you to kindly not treat it so lightly. Please do not treat it as a joke.

So, what I am in a position to do is to extend the time till 6.00 P.M. After that it will be up to the Speaker to decide as to what he does. As it stands now, there are four more speakers are therefore I will request Shri Basu Deb Acharia—who has already taken 35 minutes—to conclude.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, they should not change the package which was approved by the Cabinet and they should not close down any of the mills. A sub-committee of some Secretaries was constituted and they submitted a report. Then, another report was submitted by the Ministry of Finance to revive only 13 mills and they recommended to throw out 1,04,000 workers to the streets. They should implement the package which was approved by the earlier Government by amending the Land Ceiling Act. Till they implement it, a fund or a loan or a bridge loan can be provided and sanctioned by the Ministry of Finance.

We urge upon the Minister of Finance and the Government of India also that till such a fund is created from the sale of surplus land, loan should be provided for the revival of 79 sick mills of NTC.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I think, ladies have to be given a chance. Geetaji, I would request you to make it very brief.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE: Sir, before I talk about NTC mills, I will talk about NJMC, that is, the jute industry.

Sir, you know the situation that millions of people are connected with this jute industry. If the jute mills become sick, be they private or public, then it is a very serious situation. As far as NJMC is concerned, a revival scheme has been prepared, and it has been agreed upon by the Government of India. But unfortunately, the necessary money is not being given as the working capital. It is essential that this be done.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Can you talk about jute mills under this subject?

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE: Sir, these jute mills also come under the same Ministry. I got it clarified in the BAC. The Minister has agreed upon it, but that money has not yet come.

SHRI CHITTA BASU (BARASAT): Sir, the discussion is regarding the problems of textile industry. So, it includes jute also.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE: In this connection, I want to draw the attention of the Government towards

the cement industry's consistent violation of the Government's mandatory order for compulsory buying of 50 per cent jute bags for packaging their products. They went to the court against the Government order and lost their case. Even then, they are not abiding by this mandatory order. The Government must take stern measures so that the cement industry moves according to the Government orders. If they do that, then the jute industry, both private and public, can be saved from sickness as one of their big products are jute bags.

Lastly, JCI's role must be activated by giving it necessary help from the Government. As far as the NTC is concerned—already much has been said, and I am not going to repeat anyone of them—I am suggesting that a task force or a study group be appointed, consisting of technical experts, Government representatives, labour representatives and employers' representatives. They should go into the pros and cons of the matter, that is, the sickness in the textiles industry, and to submit its report within six months proposing detailed revival plans including diversification so as to retain the effective workforce and releasing others with adequate compensation and other related benefits. These benefits should be given to them. Pending the finalisation of the proposed revival scheme, budgetary support should be continued. Of course, payment of idle salaries and wages without any productive operation should be discouraged in a phased manner.

The administration of the viable units should be done by professional management with the active cooperation of the workforce. The other private textile units should be encouraged for adopting limited modernisation plan and also viability of those units.

Let these few things be done at least. Once again, I particularly insist on the jute bag purchase by cement industry so that the jute industry can be saved.

SHRI CHITTA BASU: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister to the problems of the jute industry. My honourable and esteemed friend Shri Sanat Mehta did not look into this subject comprehensively. Textile Ministry also includes the jute textile.

Some of the textile mills are very important in the economy of the region or State. So far as the Eastern part of the country is concerned, jute constitutes the lifeline of economy in West Bengal, Bihar, Orissa and Tripura.

About four crores of people, particularly growers, are dependent on the jute industry. The main problem of the jute industry is that the growers are not being dealt with fairly. They are always subjected to deprivation and exploitation and they require justice from the Government.

I do not want to describe the jute economy of our country for want of time. JCI was established right in the year 1971 and the object was very clear when you see that the Jute Corporation of India is the only procurement agency of the Government to provide not remunerative,

but minimum support price operation in our country. If you are coming from Punjab, if wheat is not bought by the Government and also at reasonable and remunerative price, you can very well understand what would be the impact of that distress sale on wheat for Punjab and Haryana. Similarly, if they are deprived of remunerative prices, not only the economy of the growers, but the economy of the States is shattered. So, the economy at the national level cannot survive.

The Jute Corporation of India was set up in India in 1971 and it was passed by a law of this House and I had the opportunity of taking part of that debate also. JCI was also established by a statute of this House. The main objective of this statute was to procure raw jute direct from the growers at a remunerative price, to serve as a stabilising agency in the raw jute sector through its market intervention operation and holding and releasing stocks whenever necessary to remove imbalances in supply and demand and to function as an official agency for implementing the policy of providing minimum support price to the jute growers. As I have mentioned, MSP is not being operated today in the current months. However, JCI is in deep red and unless the JCI is allowed to survive, there is no possibility for the lakhs and crores of our jute growers to get justice.

Therefore, we want the JCI because when the price falls, the JCI can purchase jute at the minimum support price. This way, peasants will not be forced to resort to distress sale.

I want to be very frank with you in saying that this JCI is not operating on the MSP because of lack of funds. This lack of fund has been created because of the faulty policy of the Government of India and particularly of the Ministry of Textiles. I would say that the Government have not re-imbursed Rs. 58 crore on account of loss due to the MSP operation, as on 31st March last and also Rs. 69 crore due to outstanding payment for supply of jute to the NJMC. This NJMC is a public sector corporation. A lot of jute has been supplied by the JCI but the price has not been paid by the NJMC to the JCI. Therefore, on the whole, more than Rs. 130 crore is due from the Government.

I had the privilege of serving the unions of JCI. They say that they are prepared to revive the mills but the JCI is not prepared to protect, preserve and promote the interests of the growers as well as of mills. More than Rs. 2.5 lakhs is washed out in West Bengal alone in jute mills. Many of the jute mills are closed and many of the jute mills are under lock-outs. I do not want to go into the details of suffering and the plight of the workers of these jute mills. It is in the interests of the mill workers, it is in the interests of the jute growers and it is in the interests of our foreign trade to earn foreign exchange. This sector of our economy is not to be neglected. If this sector is neglected, it is neglected at our national peril. This is my simple demand.

One demand has been that the JCI should be allowed to operate commercially, that is, they should be provided

[Sh. Chitta Basu]

with seed money so that they can purchase jute from the market at a reasonable price and sell it to the NJMC because they also require about 15 lakhs of bales in a year. I am thankful to the Government and particularly to the hon. Minister Shri Jalappa for having agreed to giving them an opportunity of purchasing 60,000 bales for the NJMC. When the requirement is five lakh bales, they have permitted them to purchase jute from the market to the extent of 60,000 bales. The jute workers, the employees of the JCI and I myself want that they should be provided with more seed money for commercial operations to cater to the needs of the NJMC.

My last point is that a high-powered committee has been set up to go into the problems of jute industry and particularly the JCI. The high-powered committee had submitted its report in July 1994. Some recommendations had been made and those recommendations have been kept on shelf. I think, by that way, you are killing the JCI. You are not only killing the JCI, you are killing the economy of the country and inviting disaster to it. I want the hon. Minister to look into this matter.

One very important point has been raised by Shrimati Geeta Mukherjee.

A law is there. This Parliament has made the law and the cement industrialists—I am constrained to say—have pressurised upon some sections of the Ruling parties and they are allowing the cement industry not to compulsorily use the jute bags. Only to protect the interests of the cement industry, they are killing the jute industry. Only to preserve the interests of some multinationals, they are killing hundreds of thousands of our growers in Andhra Pradesh, Orissa, Assam, West Bengal and Bihar.

Therefore, Sir, I want that the policy should be revised and it should be seen that the cement industry is compelled to obey the law. I think, nobody is above the law. We are all within the law. We are to abide by the law. But a particular section of our society is violating the law with impunity.

About the NTC, I have got some demands. So, I just hurriedly read out and complete.

Modernisation and nationalisation should be carried out in consultation with the unions; there should be no retrenchment; there should be no privatisation; taken-over mills should be nationalised and surplus land may be disposed of and the proceeds should be utilised by the management for modernisation, working capital, etc.

The rest I leave it to the Government.

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR: If it goes to the BIFR...

SHRI CHITTA BASU: That is your business. My business is to see that the industrialists grow, the workers grow and the country progresses ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Before I ask Shri Ram Naik to speak, I would inform you that the hon. Speaker has indicated

that he is having a meeting—I think, Shri Ram Naik also pointed out—on 15th of May and the final decision will be taken at that meeting.

Shri Ram Naik, are you yielding to Shri Madhukar Sarpotdar?

SHRI RAM NAIK: Yes, I am yielding to him because he represents our supporting party.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes, Shri Madhukar Sarpotdar.

SHRI PRAMOTES MUKHERJEE: My name is also there.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am trying my best to accommodate as many speakers as possible.

SHRI PRAMOTES MUKHERJEE: Sir, I would request you to look at the small parties also to see that they should not be victimised of the time constraint.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am always in favour that the back benchers should get more and more time rather than all the big leaders who are speaking all the time. But I again entirely cannot ignore senior people like Shri Madhukar Sarpotdar and Shri Ram Naik.

SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR: I am a new Member, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, no. You are a very senior Member.

SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman, Sir. Today, the House is discussing about the plight of the labourers in the textile industry and the problems of textile mills in this country under Rule 193.

This problem has become a burning problem in this country today. Why has it become a burning problem, that is an important thing to know. When it has become a burning problem as such, what steps have been adopted by the Central Government to get over this problem and redress the grievances of the labourers? By virtue of questions, this problem was raised in this House on a number of occasions and the concerned Minister, hon. Shri R.L. Jalappa, has tried to give his replies to the queries raised.

My problem is that by merely discussing this problem in the House, whether we will be in a position to find out some remedy and give some relief to the textile mill labourers.

Shri Sanat Mehta, the hon. Member has mentioned the plight of the life of the textile labourers in Ahmedabad. He has gone to the stages of independence as to how the textile workmen had sacrificed their lives and their wages also for achieving the independence in this country. When it has happened in Ahmedabad, it has also happened equally in Mumbai. The mill labourers in Mumbai have struggled for independence. On a number of occasions, the mills were closed. A number of mill workers had gone to



jails and a number of labourers had sacrificed their lives during the struggle for independence. This being the case, why today this industry is totally neglected by the Central Government? That is the first question that I am going to ask the hon. Minister and the Government.

As you know, in Mumbai, the late Dr. Datta Samant had initiated the strike in 1981 and that strike even today continues. Dr. Datta Samant is no more. But he had not mentioned any time when he withdrew the strike. The strike is still continuing. It has made a pride of life of the labourers and they are facing tremendous amount of problems in our city. There were about 60 textile mills employing 2.85 lakh employees.

Once upon a time, the textile industry continued to be the largest industry in the country accounting for about a fifth of the total industrial output and around one-third of the total export earnings and providing employment to not less than 20 million labourers. This was the picture. What is today's position? Out of 60 textile mills, according to my information, around 25 to 30 mills are working and out of these, only ten to 12 mills are making some profits; the rest of the mills are suffering and sick. The NTC has taken over these mills. My straight question to the Government is: Have you at any time surveyed the working of these NTC mills? How many workers are working? What is the productivity? What wages are you paying? How many workers are actually doing the work? If there is no work, why there is no work? How much work of NTC mills goes outside at Biwandi and other places? All this information one has to collect. Then only, people will come to know as to why NTC mills are incurring losses.

Actually, the other day, as per the information furnished by the Central Government—Shri Jalappa is still here—he said that out of 36 mills, 65000 employees are working and they are getting only wages and they are not doing any job. No job has been provided to them. This information was given to this august House six months before.

My simple question to the Government is that if you go on paying the wages to the workers and labourers without doing any job, how long are you going to pay the public money to the people without output, without returns? Why are you providing all these jobs to all other sundry powerloom workers. You are providing these only because you can get the job done at cheaper rates, because you cannot afford to pay the wages which are now high. And because of that you are playing a double role. Are the officers who are working in such mills really honest to the purpose? Are they really honest to the organisation and the Government?

What are they doing? Why are they paying like that?

Now the intra trade union rivalry has been mentioned. Mr. Basu Deb Acharia is not here. He has mentioned that the Government of Maharashtra is not allowing them to sell the land. What is the reason? Would the Central Government guarantee us that even after selling the land, the mills will work very smoothly and all the employees

will get their regular job and they will not be jobless; and mills will not be closed? Is there any guarantee? Today the approach is like this. Whatever land is there at their disposal, they sell it up. One-third is sold to the housing scheme, one-third to the mills and one-third for re-developing the entire mills. By this method, are you going to really work on a proper basis? Do you really think that if you sell away the land, whatever money you get, you will utilise that money properly? If you are under that impression, my question is, why have these textile mills gone sick. What has the Government done to see that the mills are not getting sick by ensuring whether the machinery which was required was timely put? No development has taken place in the mills. Has any automatic machine been inducted into the industry? If it is not so, why they have not done it?

It is just like taking out juice from sugarcane. Whenever we need the juice, we put the sugarcane into the machine. At the first stage, you get maximum juice from it. Then, again, you put it into the machine and get some juice. Thereafter again, you do the same exercise by putting it in two-fold. Thereafter you fold the sugarcane four times and put into the machine and you get some juice. Thereafter what happens, when there is no possibility of juice coming out, you collect the entire crushed sugarcane and make it in a round shape and put it into the machine by applying maximum strength. Whatever drop of juice one gets, he tries to collect it. Thereafter, what is the exercise? The entire crushed sugarcane is thrown out. As far as the employees of the country are concerned, as far as the employees of the entire world are concerned, this is the universal truth. The employees are utilised in this particular manner. So long as they get anything out of that employee, they go on exploiting him. The moment the employer feels that out of this particular employee, the chances are very remote to get anything, in that case, he has been thrown out.

Now new scheme has come called VRS. Under VRS, not only textile mills but a number of other factories are also getting closed. What is this VRS? Make the workers redundant, make them surplus, keep them idle for two months, three months, six months and one year. Thereafter tell them, see our industry has become sick. Now globalisation and liberalisation has come; we are required to be competitive quantity-wise and quality-wise. Unless we introduce automation, which is not likely to come, we will not be in a position to face world competition, as far as the product is concerned. This is how the entire scenario in this country is getting changed. What is the remedy for that? My question is addressed to Shri Jalappa. Whatever replies you have given here, I have gone through those replies. They are very complex and very controversial ones. I really fail to understand the approach proposed to this problem. By this method, what returns we are likely to get and what relief we are going to render to those workmen who are sufferers today? This is how I look at the problem today. I quote one of the newspapers which was mentioned in the House.

[Sh. Madhukar Sarpotdar]

18.00 hrs.

It says:

"The Union Cabinet is considering a radical proposal by the Finance Ministry to shut down 120 mills of the National Textile Corporation. If accepted, the proposals would render nearly a lakh workers unemployed."

This was the version given to them.

What is the aim? The aim is to make the labourers unemployed first. Whatever money is to be paid, pay them and let them go out of the industry. Then, bring new machines, hire all new labourers, give minimum wage and start the industry.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please wait for a minute.

If the House agrees, we can extend the sitting of the House today till the conclusion of the speech of Shri Madhukar Sarpotdar.

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAMOTHES MUKHERJEE (BERHAMPORE) (WB): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I request you to extend the sitting of the House by one hour. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: I think, it is agreed. After that, the directions of the hon. Speaker may be taken as to whether how much time he wishes to extend and whether the Minister is to reply tomorrow morning.

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA (KANPUR): Mr. Chairman, Sir, let him continue his speech tomorrow. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: He has already taken 15 minutes. So, let him conclude his speech today.

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAMOTHES MUKHERJEE: Sir, will this discussion be continued tomorrow? ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: As I said, the directions of the hon. Speaker should be obtained as to whether he wishes to extend the sitting of the House. I think, he is favourably inclined to do so.

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR: Sir, I will continue my speech tomorrow. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA: Sir, he can continue his speech tomorrow. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAMOTHES MUKHERJEE: Sir, I request the Chair to convey the wishes of the House to the hon. Speaker. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have already done that by a written note.

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANADI CHARAN SAHU (CUTTACK): Sir, he can continue his speech tomorrow. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Sarpotdar, you have already taken 15 minutes. Kindly conclude your speech.

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR: Sir, I have taken only seven minutes. I had seen the watch before I started my speech. I will continue my speech tomorrow. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now I leave it to the desire of the House.

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA: Sir, let him continue his speech tomorrow.

SHRI RAM NAIK: Sir, let him continue his speech tomorrow. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: All right. The hon. Member from Mumbai North-West is on his feet.

SHRI RAM NAIK: Supported by the Member from Mumbai North ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House stands adjourned to meet at 11 a.m. tomorrow.

18.02 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Thursday, May 15, 1997/Vaisakha 25, 1919 (Saka).*